THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART

Annual Statement on Research Integrity in 2019-20

The Glasgow School of Art is not currently a formal signatory to the Concordat to Support Research Integrity, but we seek to align our policies, procedures and practices with its principles, with a view to potentially becoming a signatory in due course. The revised, second edition of the Concordat was published in October 2019, and includes a number of requirements that signatories should meet by October 2020, including the publication of an annual statement on how they are meeting their responsibilities to maintain rigorous, high standards in research. This statement is a summary of how GSA has maintained an environment to support research integrity in 2019-20.

1. Actions and Activities Undertaken to Support Research Integrity

1.1. The existing GSA Research and KE Ethics Policy and Research Ethics Code of Practice continued to apply, requiring all academic researchers to obtain ethical approval for their projects, including those funded by GSA or by external grants. The Research and Enterprise research ethics 'toolkit' was updated and moved from the old Blackboard VLE to the new Sharepoint intranet, providing guidance to staff on undertaking research ethically and with integrity. The Research and Enterprise team continued to provide relevant advice to researchers when requested, as did senior researchers in Schools. The forthcoming internal research mentoring scheme will provide another way in which participating staff may seek advice on matters relating to research integrity.

1.2. Access to the online Research Integrity course (provided by University of Dundee) was maintained on Canvas and promoted to academic research staff and postgraduate research students.

1.3. Access to Vitae researcher development online guidance and training resources was maintained for academic staff, including guidance on research integrity and ethical practice.

1.4. Research ethics training was included in the mandatory research degrees training programme for postgraduate researchers. Additional optional ethical training was available via the Scottish Graduate School for Arts and Humanities Summer School. PhD, MPhil and MRes students were required to obtain ethical approval for their projects at the appropriate stage, and were mentored through the process by supervisors and members of the ethics committee when required.

1.5. Following the outbreak of Covid-19, researchers were required to pause their research and/or employ remote research methods in order to prevent risk of harm to themselves, their participants or others. Adjusted research plans were subject to revised ethical approval where applicable.

2. Process for Managing Allegations of Research Misconduct

2.1. Should they arise, any allegations of research misconduct will be managed according to the Disciplinary Policy and Procedure.

2.2.   We will review our procedures for managing allegations of research misconduct in the forthcoming year, and consider whether additional procedures or amendments to the Disciplinary Policy and Procedure would enhance our capacity to manage research misconduct allegations appropriately and effectively. Any resulting recommendations will be presented to Research and Enterprise Committee.

3.   Named Points of Contact

3.1.   The Head of Research and Enterprise, Colin Kirkpatrick, is the main point of contact for anyone anyone seeking more information on matters of research integrity at GSA.

3.2.   Whistleblowers, or anyone seeking to raise concerns about the integrity of research being conducted by GSA staff, should follow the procedures set out in the Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblowing) Policy.

4.   Formal Investigations of Misconduct

4.1.   No allegations of research misconduct at GSA were made in 2019-20, and no formal investigations into research misconduct took place. The absence of any incidence of misconduct means there are no resulting lessons to be drawn for the institution this year.

Head of Research and Enterprise