

## Glasgow School of Art: Annual Statement on Research Integrity

Academic Year 2023-24 in Review

### Section 1: Key contact information

<b>1a. Name of organisation</b>	Glasgow School of Art
<b>1b. Type of organisation:</b>	Higher Education Institution
<b>1c. Date statement approved by governing body (DD/MM/YY)</b>	<i>(approved by Research Committee 23.10.24, presented to Academic Council 27.11.24, presented to Board of Governors 10.12.24)</i>
<b>1d. Web address of organisation's research integrity page (if applicable)</b>	<a href="https://gsadocuments.kinsta.cloud/">https://gsadocuments.kinsta.cloud/</a>
<b>1e. Named senior member of staff to oversee research integrity</b>	Name: Prof. Sarah Smith
	Email address: <a href="mailto:sa.smith@gsa.ac.uk">sa.smith@gsa.ac.uk</a>
<b>1f. Named member of staff who will act as a first point of contact for anyone wanting more information on matters of research integrity</b>	Name: Colin Kirkpatrick
	Email address: <a href="mailto:c.kirkpatrick@gsa.ac.uk">c.kirkpatrick@gsa.ac.uk</a> / <a href="mailto:integrity@gsa.ac.uk">integrity@gsa.ac.uk</a>

### Section 2: Promoting high standards of research integrity and positive research culture. Description of actions and activities undertaken

<b>2a. Description of current systems and culture</b>
<p>Standards of integrity at Glasgow School of Art (GSA) are governed by the <b>Research Integrity Policy</b>, supported by the <b>Code of Good Conduct in Research</b> and <b>Research Misconduct Policy and Procedure</b>, the current iterations of which were developed during academic years 2022-23 and 2023-24 and approved by the institutional Research Committee (March 2024) and Academic Council (May 2024). The policies were developed with close reference to guidance on good practice provided by the UK Research Integrity Organisation (which provided advice) and benchmarked against the equivalent policies of a number of Scottish higher education providers and UK creative arts institutions. Our central Research Department team manages and coordinates processes, activities and communications relating to research integrity, supported by Research Leads in each of our academic Schools. Our research integrity policies are complemented by other institutional regulations, including the <b>Research and Knowledge Exchange Ethics Policy</b> and <b>Code of Practice</b>, and Open Access, Research Data Management, Staff Disciplinary, Student Misconduct and Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblowing) Policies.</p> <p>Integrity is one of three core values defined in GSA's Research Strategy, within which 'Enhancing Research Integrity' is a key strategic objective, presented as an essential component of research excellence. Information and guidance about research integrity are provided for staff through the Research section of the staff intranet, including details of our Code of Good Conduct and signposting to external resources, such as information about the Concordat to Support Research Integrity and materials provided by UKRIO or shared by members of the Scottish Research Integrity Network (SRIN).</p> <p>Research Integrity training modules (developed by and licensed from a more research-intensive Scottish HE institution) are provided and promoted to staff and postgraduate research students on</p>

the virtual learning environment, covering topics including ethical practice and approval, authorship, plagiarism, data management/integrity, collaborative research, peer review and publication ethics. Training on research ethics and integrity is included in the mandatory Research Degrees Training Programme for 1st year PhD and MPhil students and, following the appointment of a new Researcher Developer post, we will be creating further in-person and online training resources for staff and postgraduate researchers.

Our policies and training emphasise the need for all researchers to take personal responsibility for acting with integrity and meeting standards of good conduct, while explicitly requiring supervisors, managers and leaders of researchers to ensure that those for whom they are responsible are supported and encouraged to develop the knowledge, skills and values to conduct themselves according to ethical, professional and legal expectations – helping to embed good practice and attitudes within our research culture.

With our updated range of policies in place, research integrity matters will now be reported regularly to the institutional Research Committee and Research Committees in each of our Schools, all of which meet at least three times per year. The Research Misconduct Policy and Procedure sets out reporting requirements relating to allegations of and investigations into research misconduct.

**2b Changes and developments during the period under review**

Completion of our new suite of research integrity policies was the most significant development during AY2023-24, bringing GSA’s regulations up to sector standards and providing confidence in our level of compliance and alignment with the Concordat to Support Research Integrity. The Code of Good Conduct in Research also provided an opportunity to introduce guidance and recommendations on aspects of research which were not explicitly addressed in previous materials, such as Trusted Research and the use of AI in research.

**2c Reflections on Progress and Plans for Future Development**

As a research active but not research intensive small specialist institution, with limited resources and a close-knit community of researchers, one of the challenges encountered in updating our procedures for investigating allegations of research misconduct was to identify a model that could be effectively implemented, with the necessary levels of confidentiality, despite having a relatively small cohort of suitably experienced staff to act as investigators. This is yet to be tested in practice, but will be closely monitored should an allegation requiring a full investigation arise, in case a more streamlined and less labour-intensive model proves necessary in practice.

A key priority for 2024-25 (and thereafter) will be developing and rolling out enhanced training and awareness-raising materials, to ensure that all staff fully understand contemporary expectations for behaviour and conduct among researchers. We will also be working to build the capacity of potential investigators of misconduct, and to identify external contacts who could potentially be invited to support investigations should the need arise.

**Section 3: Addressing research misconduct**

**3a. Statement on processes that the organisation has in place for dealing with allegations of misconduct**

Our Research Misconduct Policy and Procedure was developed during academic years 2022-23 and 2023-24 and approved by GSA Academic Council in May 2024. That committee recommended that

the policy should be monitored during its first year of operation, allowing for minor amendments to be made as necessary; thereafter the policy is due for review by 2029.

The Research Misconduct Policy and Procedure is closely based on the UKRIO template Procedure for the Investigation of Misconduct in Research (2023) and follows a very similar approach, with some adjustments to account for our size and capacity as a small specialist institution.

The process for raising issues of potential misconduct is clearly set out in the policy, which includes a flowchart illustrating the process, a pro-forma for raising allegations and a dedicated generic email address to contact. Confidentiality is guaranteed during initial stages of investigations, but complainants are advised to make allegations via GSA's whistleblowing policy if they are particularly concerned about revealing their identity.

The standard process involves up to 6 stages, proceeding from receipt of allegations and screening stages to (as required) initial investigation, full investigation, outcomes and reporting and appeals stages. These follow the UKRIO model in terms of selection of investigators and panels at each stage, while advocating use of a single investigator at initial investigation stage in most instances. It is an investigatory process only but allows for referral to other GSA policies at Outcomes stage if required, including those governing staff or student misconduct.

No investigations have yet been undertaken following this substantially revised model, and as such there are no lessons learned to report.

**3b. Information on investigations of research misconduct that have been undertaken**

Please complete the table on the number of **formal investigations completed during the period under review** (including investigations which completed during this period but started in a previous academic year). Information from ongoing investigations should not be submitted.

Type of allegation	Number of allegations			
	Number of allegations reported to the organisation	Number of formal investigations	Number upheld in part after formal investigation	Number upheld in full after formal investigation
Fabrication	0	0	0	0
Falsification	0	0	0	0
Plagiarism	0	0	0	0
Failure to meet legal, ethical and professional obligations	0	0	0	0
Misrepresentation (e.g. data; involvement; interests; qualification; and/or publication history)	0	0	0	0
Improper dealing with allegations of misconduct	0	0	0	0

Multiple areas of concern (when received in a single allegation)	0	0	0	0
<i>Other*</i>	0	0	0	0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<p><b>*If you listed any allegations under the 'Other' category, please give a brief, high-level summary of their type here. Do not give any identifying or confidential information when responding.</b></p>				
<p><i>[Please insert response if applicable]</i></p>				