

Glasgow School of Art: Annual Statement on Research Integrity

Academic Year 2024-25 in Review

Section 1: Key contact information

1a. Name of organisation	Glasgow School of Art
1b. Type of organisation:	Higher Education Institution
1c. Date statement approved by governing body (DD/MM/YY)	<i>(approved by Research Committee: 05.11.25; approved by Academic Council: 26.11.25; approved by Board of Governors: 11.12.25)</i>
1d. Web address of organisation's research integrity page (if applicable)	https://gsadocuments.kinsta.cloud/
1e. Named senior member of staff to oversee research integrity	Name: Prof. Sarah Smith
	Email address: sa.smith@gsa.ac.uk
1f. Named member of staff who will act as a first point of contact for anyone wanting more information on matters of research integrity	Name: Colin Kirkpatrick
	Email address: c.kirkpatrick@gsa.ac.uk / integrity@gsa.ac.uk

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

2a. Description of current systems and culture
Standards of integrity at Glasgow School of Art (GSA) are governed by the Research Integrity Policy, supported by the Code of Good Conduct in Research and Research Misconduct Policy and Procedure, the current iterations of which were 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 Research and Knowledge Exchange Ethics Policy and Code of Practice, and Open Access, Research Data Management, Staff Disciplinary, Student Misconduct and Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblowing) Policies. 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).

Research Integrity training modules are provided and promoted to staff and postgraduate research students on 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 postgraduate research students.

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.

Research integrity matters are reported 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

AY2024-25 was the first full year of implementation of our current Research Integrity and Misconduct policies and procedures, which were approved during the previous year. Our focus during the year was mainly on embedding and promoting the policies, and there were no major changes or developments.

2c Reflections on Progress and Plans for Future Development

Academic Council recommended that use of our research integrity policies and procedures in practice should be monitored during the first full year of operation, to identify any necessary adjustments or revisions to their operation. No allegations of research misconduct requiring investigation were raised during the year, however, so monitoring has not been completed and may be extended for an additional year. There is no indication that allegations were not made due to lack of awareness of the process, however.

With up-to-date integrity policies in place, attention turned to reviewing and updating research ethics approval policies, guidance and procedures. A revised ethics policy was provisionally approved at Research Committee in April 2025, with the full suite of materials due for review later in the year.

Priorities for 2025-26 include approval and implementation of the revised research ethics policies and procedures, and developing 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 research ethics panel members and 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 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 allegations of misconduct were submitted and no investigations have yet been undertaken following this current procedure, and as such there are no lessons learned to report.

There was one instance of a PhD student discussing a concern about plagiarism with their supervisor, but it transpired this related to work that had not yet been undertaken by any party, and that there was no potential misconduct to investigate. This did, however, indicate awareness of forms of misconduct among PGRs, and provide an opportunity to provide guidance to the students concerned.

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
Total:	0	0	0	0
*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.				
<i>[Please insert response if applicable]</i>				