

Leeds Arts University: Annual statement on research integrity

If you have any questions about this template, please contact: riconcordat@ukcori.org.

Section 1: Key contact information

Question	Response
1A. Name of organisation	Leeds Arts University
1B. Type of organisation: higher education institution/industry/independent research performing organisation/other (please state)	Higher Education
1C. Date statement approved by governing body (DD/MM/YY)	28/01/26
1D. Web address of organisation's research integrity page (if applicable)	https://www.leeds-art.ac.uk/research
1E. Named senior member of staff to oversee research integrity	<i>Professor Samantha Broadhead (Head of Research)</i> Email address: sam.broadhead@leeds-art.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	<i>Henry Gonnet (Research Co-ordinator)</i> Email address: henry.gonnet@leeds-art.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

Please describe how the organisation maintains high standards of research integrity and promotes positive research culture. It should include information on the support provided to researchers to understand standards, values and behaviours, such as training, support and guidance for researchers at different career stages/ disciplines. You may find it helpful to consider the following broad headings:

- Policies and systems
- Communications and engagement
- Culture, development and leadership
- Monitoring and reporting

The University is values-based as described in the Strategic Plan 2023-2030 and is careful to ensure that research carried out considers ethical implications and has a high degree of integrity.

Policies and systems that support and promote research integrity and consideration of ethics include the following (this is not a definitive list):

- Ethics Policy
- Ethics App.
- Research Misconduct Policy and Procedure
- Open Research Policy
- Open Research Guidance

- Whistleblowing Policy
- Counter-Fraud and Irregularities Policy
- Disciplinary Procedure
- Code of Conduct (professional behaviour and relationships)
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy
- Process for Declarations of Interest
- Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech and Expression
- Data Protection Policy
- Records Management Policy
- Record of Processing Activities
- Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy

These policies and procedures are reviewed on a regular basis by the University's deliberative structure, where appropriate, according to the policy review schedule, normally every three years or earlier if there are legislative or other changes.

The Ethics and Integrity Committee has delegated responsibility for considering ethical matters and over-seeing research integrity. Any allegation of research misconduct is investigated in accordance with the current version of the University's Research Misconduct Policy and Procedure, and depending on the nature of the allegations may involve disciplinary, fraud and whistle blowing policies and procedures where deliberate breaches of research integrity are identified. In some cases, this may be dealt with as a performance capability issue where an initial investigation identifies the breach was not deliberate and falls into UKRIO's definition of Questionable Research Practices. (QRP). In the Concordat refresh (2025), "QRPs refer to minor infractions or research practices, including avoidable errors, which fall short of the definition of intentional research misconduct. They may arise due to a lack of knowledge or attention to detail, negligence, or deliberate action, and may occur where there is no evident intention to deceive".

Communications and engagement

Research forms part of the induction process for all new HE academic staff and in addition the Head of Research and Research Fellow mentor new and established researchers in research ethics and research integrity.

Additional support has been developed through the Ethics App; this guides researchers to reflect on Research Integrity when they seek ethical approval for their projects.

In-person researcher development sessions are delivered annually on Research Integrity, these are recorded and made available for researchers at any time. Training and one-to-one support is also given in open research and reproducibility and resources are available on the Research section of the University's virtual learning platform. There is a programme of sharing research through planned sessions through the year to promote a collaborative and inclusive culture.

Culture, development and leadership

The University's Strategic Plan 2023-2030 sets the direction for its research activity and outlines the main themes and values of the University. Our policies and procedures are written with these values in mind.

All higher education academic staff may apply to join a Research Pathway annually and are required to submit a 3-year research plan, on which they are given feedback by the Head of Research and the review panel. All research staff are required to follow the Ethics Policy which is guided by the principles:

- Maximise benefits and minimise harm (e.g. in relation to living subjects, institutions,

communities, the environment).

- Respect for the person, living or deceased (e.g. in relation to researchers, colleagues, managers, students, participants, communities, general public).
- Academic and research integrity (e.g. in relation to acknowledging the work of others and being honest when reporting research findings).

All staff receive an annual appraisal and any development needs are identified through this, with records of development undertaken kept centrally. In addition, the University has mandatory centralised development which includes equality diversity and inclusion, risk and safety and data protection, including a data protection induction for all new starters and mandatory training for all staff conducted on a rolling 2-year basis. Participation in this development is managed centrally and records kept.

The Head of Research engages with the UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO) as part of their Advisory Community and receives their newsletter and webinar series. UKRIO events are shared with members of the Research Team and with established and early career researchers. The University is a member of GuildHE Research (a signatory of the RI Concordat, 2025) and the Head of Research attends regular meetings with peers and disseminates information to researchers. The Research Coordinator engages with the Association of Research Managers and Administrators, and in particular the UK's Reproducibility Network (UKRN) to discuss and promote open research and reproducibility.

Monitoring and reporting

All research active staff review their progress annually, feedback is given and a summary of this is received by the Research Committee. Any systemic issues relating to ethics and research integrity that arise from this process will be considered at the Ethics and Integrity Committee. Any individual misconduct identified would be dealt with through the Research Misconduct Policy and Procedure. At the annual review QRPs can be identified. In this case researchers would be given one-to-one feedback and guidance.

Progress on Research Integrity is reported in the Annual Research Integrity Statement to the Ethics and Integrity Committee. This is reviewed by the Committee and then recommended to the Academic Board which in turn recommends it for approval by the Board of Governors. The statement is published on the University website on an annual basis.

Ethics and research integrity activities are reported in the Annual Research Report which is considered at the Research Committee and approved by the Academic Board. The Board of Governors also receive the Annual Research Report.

2B. Changes and developments during the period under review

Please provide an update on any changes made during the period, such as new initiatives, training, developments, also ongoing changes that are still underway. Drawing on Commitment 3 of the Concordat, please note any new or revised policies, practices and procedures to support researchers; training on research ethics and research integrity; training and mentoring opportunities to support the development of researchers' skills throughout their careers.

During 2024-25 the research environment at the University has operated in line with the research-focused policies and procedures that were introduced the previous year:

- A training half-day was scheduled on the 16 December 2024. A case study 'Camp Dash' was analysed and discussed by the researchers.

- A series of scenarios have been created illustrating examples of questionable research practices that will be used as resources for future training.
- A training half-day took place on the 02 July 2025 that considered the 'research work flow', driven by ethics and integrity.
- Feedback from researchers on sessions was collected via an annual review process, comments were made on the timing of the sessions.

2C. Reflections on progress and plans for future developments

This should include a reflection on the previous year's activity including a review of progress and impact of initiatives if known relating to activities referenced in the previous year's statement. Note any issues that have hindered progress, e.g. resourcing or other issues.

The Research Integrity webpages on the University website have been redesigned so they sit with other research commitments driven by the Research Strategy (2023-2030).

The University took part in the REF 2029 People, Culture and Environment pilot exercise for Unit of Assessment 33 Music, Drama, Dance, Performing Arts, Film and Screen Studies. The University's work on embedding research integrity into its policies and procedures was reported in the section titled 'Responsible Research'.

The Research Team have engaged with external initiatives that support research integrity either directly or indirectly. These include activities led by UKRIO and UKCORI:

- As part of the UK Research Integrity Office's Expert Community, the Head of Research reviewed the Good Practice in Research: Authorship, for Researchers, UKRIO 19 August 2024 and has assisted in one research integrity inquiry in February 2025. They have contributed to the Concordat to Support Research Integrity refresh online survey and consultation workshop on the 11 October 2024.
- The Head of Research contributed to an interview for RAND Europe's (a not-for-profit policy research organisation based in Cambridge, UK) study on addressing research misconduct in the UK, commissioned by UKRI on behalf of the UK Committee for Research Integrity (UKCORI) 13 May 2025. The Research Coordinator also contributed to the research on the 30 May 2025.
- The Research Ethics App. that was reported last year has been the basis of a UKCORI case study published in December 2024 and can be found here: <https://ukcori.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Leeds-Art-An-accessible-system-for-ethics-approval.pdf>.
- The Research Co-ordinator presented on Creative dilemmas: Balancing access and integrity. International Research Culture Conference 2024. University of Warwick 16 September 2024.
- The Research Fellow and the Research Co-ordinator have become Local Network Leads for UKRN and have set up a special interest group about arts research for those who either undertake arts research, collaborate with arts researchers in interdisciplinary projects, or support arts research as research enablers.
- The Head of Research attended the following webinars from UKRIO:
 - 09 October 2024 AI in research: supporting research integrity through governance and ethics
 - 03 December 2025: Research integrity and research culture in the third sector
 - 05 February 2025: Expert webinar, Embedding equity in research integrity.
 - 24 April 2025 - 'Strengthening research integrity in the arts and humanities' webinar.
 - 25 June 2025 - 'Research culture: practical initiatives for measurement and improvement' webinar.

The external engagement with research commissioned by UKCORI has informed the approach to research integrity within the University. It has been helpful to understand how the Concordat was refreshed in 2025 and we will review our policies and procedures in light of any changes.

Future plans

- The Ethics Policy; the Research Misconduct Policy and Procedure and the Ethics and Integrity training will be reviewed and changed to reflect the changes in the Concordat to Support Research Integrity Refresh (2025). The deadline for this work is April 2026.
- The Ethics App. has been working well and links to it will be added into the Research SharePoint pages.
- The Research Team has engaged with external opportunities to engage with meta-research related to ethics and research integrity and is planning to publish an article and a blog post.
- The performance of the Ethics and Integrity Committee will be reviewed to ensure it is fit for purpose. The Ethics and Integrity Committee is periodically reviewed by Academic Board to ensure it remains fit for purpose.
- A PhD validating partner has been identified and the University's policies and procedures will be reviewed so they complement their procedures for research students.
- The insights gained from the People, Environment and Culture pilot exercise for Unit of Assessment 33, will inform practice going forward in relation to capturing data around ethical approvals.
- The Research Pathways Framework will be reviewed to ensure there is an opportunity to appeal against a decision recommended by the Research Pathway selection panel.
- Staff training and dissemination sessions will be recorded when permissions are given to increase accessibility to the resource.

2D. Case study on good practice (optional)

Please describe an anonymised brief, exemplar case study that can be shared as good practice with other organisations. A wide range of case studies are valuable, including small, local implementations. Case studies may also include the impact of implementations or lessons learned.

[Please insert response]

Section 3: Addressing research misconduct

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

Please provide:

- a brief summary of relevant organisation policies/ processes (e.g. research misconduct procedure, whistle-blowing policy, bullying/harassment policy; appointment of a third party to act as confidential liaison for persons wishing to raise concerns) and brief information on the periodic review of research misconduct processes (e.g. date of last review; any major changes during the period under review; date when processes will next be reviewed).
- information on how the organisation creates and embeds a research environment in which all staff, researchers and students feel comfortable to report instances of misconduct (e.g. code of practice for research, whistle-blowing, research misconduct procedure, informal liaison process, website signposting for reporting systems, training, mentoring, reflection and evaluation of policies, practices and procedures).
- anonymised key lessons learned from any investigations into allegations of misconduct which either identified opportunities for improvements in the organisation's investigation procedure and/or related policies / processes/ culture or which showed that they were working well.

The University can draw upon a range policies/processes to deal with misconduct, including the following:

- Research Misconduct Policy and Procedure - first approved 2024
- Anti - Bullying and Harassment - last reviewed 2025
- Code of Conduct - last reviewed 2025
- Disciplinary Procedure - last reviewed 2025
- Probationary Policy - last reviewed 2023
- Performance Capability Procedure - last reviewed 2025
- Grievance Procedure - last reviewed 2023

These policies and procedures are usually reviewed every three years as part of the policy schedule unless there are regulatory or other changes. All new staff have a thorough induction where they are signposted to these policies. Researchers are steered towards the procedures that are particularly related to research during their research induction.

Members of staff and external parties may raise allegations of research misconduct with the Head of Research who will consult with the Head of HR as to the best route for investigation, which normally would follow the Research Misconduct Policy and Procedure. Allegations of research misconduct made externally or internally can also be raised through the Whistleblowing Policy and the Counter Fraud and Irregularities Policy which states that the Vice-Chancellor should be contacted at the earliest opportunity in cases of Fraud with academic implications.

Allegations of misconduct would also be considered alongside other relevant University policies including the Ethics Policy (last reviewed 2023) and Open Research Policy (first approved 2024).

The Leeds Arts University website publishes institutional contact details for a named member of staff who will act as a first point of contact for anyone wanting more information on matters of

research integrity. The contact details for a named key person who has oversight of the conduct of research is also available.

In 2024-2025 there have been no allegations of misconduct.

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.

An organisation's procedure may include an initial, preliminary, or screening stage to determine whether a formal investigation needs to be completed. These allegations should be included in the first column but only those that proceeded past this stage, to formal investigations, should be included in the second column.

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 (eg 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
Other*	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.

[Please insert response if applicable]