

# The Cour

## Statement on Research Integrity, 2023–24

### Context

1. As an institution eligible to receive research funding administered through Research England, The Courtauld is required to have procedures governing good research practice in place that adhere to the requirements set out in the Concordat to Support Research Integrity (2019) and UKRI's relevant policies and guidance. Our policies and procedures for the investigation and reporting of unacceptable research conduct must also adhere to these standards.
2. This short annual statement has been designed to meet The Courtauld's obligations in relation to Commitment 5 of the Concordat to Support Research Integrity. It includes a summary of recent actions and activities intended to support understanding and application of research integrity issues, a reflection on existing Courtauld policies and procedures, and a report on formal investigations into research misconduct. These issues are framed within the context of The Courtauld's wider research environment.
3. The existence of this statement should not preclude anyone who wishes to seek advice or raise concerns about the integrity of research conducted by any member of The Courtauld's community from doing so. Research Ethics and Integrity at The Courtauld are overseen by the Dean for Research ([lucy.bradnock@courtauld.ac.uk](mailto:lucy.bradnock@courtauld.ac.uk)), who can be contacted in the strictest confidence. The UK Research Integrity Office is also able to provide independent, expert, and confidential advice on the conduct of academic research.

### Research Integrity and The Courtauld

4. The Courtauld's policy covering issues of research ethics and integrity applies equally to Courtauld staff and students conducting research at any level and to any other person (regardless of their status) engaged in research under the auspices of The Courtauld or on behalf of or in association with The Courtauld. The current version of the policy is available on [The Courtauld website](#).
5. Six core principles are described in the policy and expected of researchers affiliated to The Courtauld; research should: maximise knowledge benefit and minimise risk and harm; be conducted with openness and without deception, coercion or intimidation; respect the rights and dignity and individuals; be conducted with integrity, transparency, and clear lines of responsibility and accountability; ensure that participants of living subjects is voluntary and appropriately informed; maintain independence and where conflicts of interest are unavoidable they should be made explicit. This is not, however, an exhaustive list.
6. Our Research Ethics Policy is designed to complement the ethical standards or codes of practice issued by relevant professional bodies which are specific to the discipline, such as those issued

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by the Institute of Conservation and the Museums Association. Periodic review of the policy is the responsibility of the Research Committee.

7. Researchers are reminded of their responsibilities to work according to the Research Ethics policy and all related professional standards via a combination of individual and collective inductions when joining The Courtauld, the annual staff appraisal process, and regular research review meetings held between members of faculty, the Dean for Research, and the Research Manager.
8. In 2023–24, several personnel changes have renewed and enhanced our capacity to support research integrity. The post of Research Manager was effectively a one-person research office with responsibility for all aspects of research administration and governance since its creation in 2019; the current Research Manager took up post in September 2023, following the departure of the previous incumbent in April 2023. In May 2024, the Research Department was strengthened by the new role of an Impact and Evaluation Manager, providing dedicated support for research staff to maximise the benefits of their research to a range of audiences. A key institutional appointment was the new role of Director of Governance, starting in April 2024, which embeds an institutional commitment to bringing governance in all areas of the institution’s activity up to standard at the highest level.
9. A focus for the year was mapping existing research policies and procedures and identifying those in need of revision and gaps in our provision. We also developed a Research Strategy for the period 2024–29, led by the Dean for Research, in consultation with researchers and research-enabling staff, to set out a shared vision for Courtauld research. It is intended to serve both as a public declaration of intent and as a document that guides our internal decision-making.
10. The Courtauld continues to be represented at the London Research Integrity Consortium by the Research Manager. The Research Manager and the Impact & Evaluation Manager are members of the Association for Research Managers and Administrators, supporting them in maintaining networks and staying up to date with best practice across all areas of research management and administration in the sector. Both professional and research staff also participate in sector workshops informing national policy and practice developments, including: our Research Manager participated in a UK CORI workshop on Research Integrity Indicators in March 2024, and staff from several professional specialisms participated in Vitae’s People, Culture and Environment REF Indicators workshops in May–October 2024.
11. The Courtauld continues to make an important national contribution to the research culture of the fields of Art History and Conservation via its extensive Research Forum public events programme, supported by a three-person team. A new development in 2023–24 was an internal work in progress seminar for research staff to enhance our internal research culture.

Reflection on Current Policies and Ambitions for 2024–25

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12. As a small, specialist institution, capacity and expertise are a perennial challenge to providing comprehensive research support and governance. We welcome UK CORI's recognition in its 2024 report on [Indicators of Research Integrity](#) that comprehensive research integrity provision is challenging for small HEIs to deliver. We will continue to seek opportunities to do more in partnership than we can deliver on our own; for instance, via our strategic partnership with King's College London (2022–32) and with other federated colleges of the University of London.
13. Review of the current state of policies and procedures at The Courtauld in 2023–24 has identified multiple gaps in current provision, as well as policies and procedures in need of renewal. Tackling this backlog will require additional resourcing. The immediate focus for 2024–25 will be a prioritisation exercise for research governance risks, which will be supported by a broader institutional policy audit commencing in autumn 2024.
14. The close working relationship that staff and students are able to develop with the Dean for Research, Research Manager and Impact & Evaluation Manager due to our size, and our culture of regular individual meetings to discuss research, are both important factors as we endeavour to create a research environment in which all members of our community feel comfortable to report instances of potential misconduct.
15. In our 2022–23 statement we noted that a focus for 2023–24 would be revising and developing processes related to our 2023 Research Ethics Policy and communicating new policies and processes to staff and students. The new policy was circulated internally and published on our website. Further work on related policies and deeper internal communication of the new policy has been delayed owing to capacity constraints and prioritisation of more immediate institutional needs and risks. We will continue this work in 2024–25.
16. A key focus for 2024–25 will be developing an implementation plan for our 2024–29 research strategy.

## Formal Investigations of Research Misconduct

17. No formal investigations of research misconduct have been carried out in 2023–24.
18. High-level reporting on any future formal investigations of research misconduct will be included in the relevant annual statement. In the event that formal investigations are required, the statement will also provide details of lessons learned from the investigation process and any actions taken to prevent reoccurrence of similar incidents.
19. The presumption of innocence shall be maintained throughout any future formal investigations of research misconduct. Complainants and respondents will be supported through this process and will be entitled to be accompanied to any interview or hearing by a work colleague, trade union or student union representative, or an official employed by a trade union.