

Statement on Research Integrity, 2024–25

Key Contact Information

Name of organisation	The Courtauld Institute of Art
Type of organisation	Higher Education Institute
Date statement approved by governing body	24 November 2025
Research integrity webpage	Research Integrity - The Courtauld
Named senior member of staff to oversee research integrity	Name: Dr Lucy Bradnock, Dean for Research
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Named member of staff who will act as a first point of contact for anyone wanting more information on matters of research integrity	Name: Dr Naomi Billingsley, Research Manager
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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, 2025) 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, 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

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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 of 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 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. 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, and attended the annual conference in June 2025, supporting them in maintaining networks and staying up to date with best practice across all areas of research management and administration in the sector. Our Research Manager also joined EARMA in 2025, and attended the EARMA/INORMS conference, broadening our institutional engagement with international practices and standards across all areas of research management and administration.
9. 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.
This team grew from three to four persons in 2025, with the addition of a new Event Producer role for the Manton Centre for British Art, funded by the Manton Foundation. A member of Courtauld Faculty, Professor Stephen Whiteman, serves as a Trustee of our national subject association, the Association for Art History.

Reflection on Current Policies and Ambitions for 2025–26

10. As a small, specialist institution, capacity and expertise are a perennial challenge to providing comprehensive research support and governance. Our research office team comprises a Research Manager with oversight of all research management and administration functions, and

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a Research Impact and Evaluation Manager, supporting approximately 50 research-active staff. We 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.

11. The Courtauld became a subscriber to UKRIO in May 2025, and is implementing UKRIO's introductory training module as mandatory induction and refresher training for all research and research-enabling staff and postgraduate researchers from autumn 2025. Tailored training on ethics and integrity has been designed and delivered in-house for our postgraduate taught students.
12. As noted in our previous statement, the Research Manager identified a number of policies and procedures in need of renewal as well as gaps in provision. Prioritisation of this list was supported by a broader institutional policy audit that commenced in autumn 2024, with the work package on research processes taking place in summer 2025, conducted by KCG. The report confirmed that processes for research grants and ethics approval are priorities for review, and highlighted that the capacity constraints of the research office team present a barrier to delivery.
13. The Research Manager reviewed our compliance with the revised Concordat following its publication in spring 2025, and we are working on implementing necessary changes to meet these expectations by April 2026.
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 2023–24 statement we noted that a focus for 2024–25 would be revising and developing processes related to our 2023 Research Ethics Policy and communicating new policies and processes to staff and students. Some scoping work was undertaken in spring 2025 as part of a broader institutional policy review, but the research office has lacked capacity to continue this work in the context of more immediate institutional needs and risks. We will continue this work in 2025–26.
16. We began working on an implementation plan for our 2024–29 research strategy as part of broader institutional business planning in spring 2025; further developing this plan will be a continued focus in 2025–26.

Formal Investigations of Research Misconduct

17. No formal investigations of research misconduct have been carried out in 2024–25.

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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 recurrence 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.