

## PgCert Academic Practice in Art, Design and Communication

### Action Research Project Ethical Enquiry Form

**Participant name:** Sean-Henry Fitzsimons

**Cohort:** 2

**Tutor name:** John O'Reilly / Mallika Kanyal

<p><b>1. What is your research question?</b> What and where is technical pedagogy in creative institutions?</p>
<p><b>2. Who will be providing you with information to help you answer your question, and how will you approach and/or select them?</b></p> <p>Students at UAL Staff at UAL Staff at another institution (please specify institution): Tim Savage (Director of Technical Learning at University of Creative Arts).</p> <p>How will you approach and/or select from each category?</p> <p>Students will be a focus group, outlining the reflective views on what they consider technical staff to be. Staff will be split in the format of focus group for technical staff members, and also some 1-2-1 interviews from Deans, Associates and leaders. Who have experience in research, curriculum and knowledge exchange. Tim savage, will be in a format of a interview based on his written papers and my questions around my future in technical learning.</p>
<p><b>3. What will you be asking participants to do?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Take part in a focus group on 14<sup>th</sup> 11 2023.</li><li>• Respond to an e-mail with a series of questions (6).</li><li>• Take part in a 1-2-1 informal interview around career perspectives and opportunities.</li></ul>
<p><b>4. How will you get informed consent from these participants?</b></p> <p>A consent forum will be given to each participant prior to engagement, this will document an insight detail of my interest area and provide enough information to allow the participants to take part.</p> <p>Within the consent forum, participants can opt out of the research at any time, allowing a sense of freedom and not to be tied to the research. With this there is also anonymity for participants that will characterise speakers/interviewees with anonymous headings e.g., Tutor A....</p> <p>With my methods of gathering information, participants will be informed prior to engagement the use of voice recordings, may be used to help transcribe the information at a later date.</p>
<p><b>5. What potential risks to the interests of participants do you foresee and what steps will you take to minimise those risks?</b> A participant's interests include their physical and psychological wellbeing; their commercial interests; and their rights of privacy and reputation.</p>

Job security might be a risk, both for myself and technical participants, also with the idea of opening up possibly more work for them in the future (with the correct grade/spine point of course).

The other risk, could be opening up a wider discord around the imbalance in job satisfaction and career potential for academic staff compared to technical staff. The conversations in the focus group, could reveal some levels of frustration and anger, and understanding conflict management skills I am hoping I have the skillset to ease this into encouragement and foresight for the technical future.

**6. What potential risks to yourself as the practitioner do you foresee and what steps will you take to minimise those risks?**

Risk management, has been key to the success of these questions, sharing my frustration has been emotional, but in hindsight it is for the betterment of the university at large. It will allow a whole pool of staff to engage more meaningful towards their careers and futures.

I have been selective on who I have approached, and openly shared my engagement with the topic with certain managers and tcos and deans, who have all encouraged my engagement.

I do believe that my project might be emotionally demanding, as I am struggling to see a future in a technical career without going into management.  
(I also might need more guidance in this question).

**7. Does your project involve children or vulnerable adults e.g. a person with a learning disability?**

NO

**8. How will you store the information you gather from participants?**

- Interviewees will be given names and subcategorised into specific career path areas. (Research, Teaching and learning and Knowledge exchange). Stored digitally with in my personal one drive.
- Focus Group attendees will be categorised under 'technical staff' and stored digitally within one drive.
- Entries and enquiries will be kept, for a period of 2 years, to see if I embark on my Masters project and might need use of this information. Participants will be updated if this period changes.
- I will destroy those data sets, that no longer seem fit for evidence in answering my questions, removing them from any physical note taking or digital tracking.

**I confirm my responsibility to deliver the project in accordance with the Code of Practice on Research Ethics of the University of the Arts London (the University). In signing this form I am also confirming that:**

- a) The form is accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.**
- b) I understand and accept that the ethical propriety of this project may be monitored by the relevant College Research body and/or the University's Research Ethics Sub-Committee.**

Signed: Sean Henry Fitzsimons Date: 07/10/23

**I support this project and have reviewed it with the participant:**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_