

<b>Institution: Norwich University of the Arts (UKRPN 10004775)</b>
<b>Unit of Assessment: 32</b>
<p><b>1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</b></p> <p>Since 2014 Norwich University of the Arts (NUA) has expanded and consolidated its research base in both the number of individuals engaged in productive research and the range of practices. The University returned 18% of eligible staff to REF 2014 and has returned 28% of eligible (Category A staff) to REF 2021, with 17.4% of these being early career researchers. While high quality research has been sustained in History of Art and Design, Film, and Exhibition Curation, the period since 2014 has notably seen NUA's practitioners in Design, Digital Media and Fine Art presenting their research on national and international platforms. Supporting and developing staff at each stage of their research careers has been central to our mission.</p> <p>The University's Research Strategy was approved in 2015 and is monitored through Research Committee reporting to University Senate. The strategy identifies three Research Themes, each with a Research Group, that reflect cross-course and cross-faculty communities of practice:</p> <p><b>Created and Contested Territories (CaCTus):</b> questioning the interpretation and representation of contested material practices; focusing on the cultural and political networks in which art, design and media are produced, valued and consumed (14 members, including Gavril, Bousfield, Brewerton, Hanna, Maffei, Pointon, Rowe, Wilsher). <a href="https://createdcontestedterritories.net">https://createdcontestedterritories.net</a></p> <p><b>Human Interfaces (HI):</b> exploring the slipperiness of human interfaces and how these shift across cultures, time and art/design forms. (19 members, including Sawdon Smith, Barber, Benington, Bryon, Dunleavy Gledhill, E.Horton, Krishnamma) <a href="https://humaninterfacesuk.com">https://humaninterfacesuk.com</a></p> <p><b>Pattern and Chaos (P&amp;C):</b> dedicated to the practice and theory of pattern, chaos and the spaces in between (17 members, including S.Horton, Bicknell, Farley, Fijalkowski, Goodrum, Longworth-West, Pointon, Simpson) <a href="https://www.nuapatternandchaos.com">https://www.nuapatternandchaos.com</a></p> <p>Each group is led by a theme champion (Gavril, Sawdon Smith, S.Horton) and reports to Research Committee. All academic staff and research students are encouraged to join one of these groups, including staff not on the NUA Research Pathway; some participate in more than one group. Each group comprises staff at different stages of research development and is focused on collaborative and interdisciplinary research, where this is appropriate. The groups meet three times a term for discussion, presentations and to plan projects and events.</p> <p>The aims of the groups are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) to encourage the development of partnerships and projects within the University, including cross-disciplinary and Faculty collaborations, in areas of research that the University has identified as strategically important.</li> </ol> <p><i>and</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b) to publicly and cogently articulate for a range of audiences the purpose, outcomes and support that constitute research at NUA; these audiences include academic and postgraduate research students but importantly, creative industry partners, external agencies and potential funders.</li> </ol>

Examples of how these aims have been achieved since 2014 include:

*Territory: The Exhibition in a box*, an interdisciplinary project of prints (edition of ten) developed by members of the CaCTus Research Group, with work by Bennington, Bousfield, Gavril, Maffei, Rowe and a research student, Vousden. The work has been exhibited in Midlothian, Scotland (Lust and the Apple, March - May 2019); Berlin (CLB Berlin, April -May 2019), London (Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies- RUSI Library, January 2020); Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (University of Addis Ababa, February 2020), with associated symposia in Norwich (April 2019), Berlin (April 2019) and a conference presentation in Nottingham (November 2019). The exhibition continues to tour beyond the REF 2021 period.

<https://createdcontestedterritories.net/wright-gallery-texas/>

*Territory* followed a series of CaCTus print portfolio projects led by Carl Rowe, including *Ballot*, a collaboration between staff, alumni and students from Norwich University of the Arts (including Barber, Benington, Bousfield, Fijalkowski, Hillier, Rowe), and Crawford College of Art & Design, Cork, Ireland with invited partners Print to the People in Norwich, Cork Printmakers and Limerick School of Art & Design. *Ballot* was exhibited at the FIRST **EDITION** print symposium (Cork, Ireland, June 2017), subsequently at Nunns Yard gallery in Norwich, alongside printmaking events and exhibitions at the Castle Museum and Art Gallery, Norwich (October 2017), at Belltable Arts Hub, Limerick (May-June 2018) and in Santander, Spain (IMPACT 10 printmaking conference, September 2018). The project was also presented in a conference paper in Casoria, Italy (Powell at CAM Survival Festival September 2017).

<https://nua.repository.guildhe.ac.uk/id/eprint/15988/>

The Pattern and Chaos Research Group (Carlisle, Fijalkowski, S.Horton), organised the interdisciplinary *Beyond Pattern and Chaos* Symposium, at NUA on 5 September 2018 with a programme of external speakers and a 'marketplace' exhibition of featured researchers, including NUA staff, a research fellow and a research degree student (Longworth-West, Lowndes, Ismail-Epps). <https://www.nuapatternandchaos.com/pattern-chaos-symposium-2018/>

The single-issue volume of *Drawing Research Theory and Practice* journal 'Drawing Pattern and Chaos', 2019, edited by Dr Sarah Horton, developed directly from the P&C Research Group and included contributions from three members of the group. <https://doi.org/10.1386/dntp.4.1.3.2>

The Human Interfaces Research Group was instrumental in the theme of the 2017 conference of the Association for Photography in Higher Education (APHE), hosted by NUA in July 2017. Sawdon Smith delivered a paper at the conference and a publication of the work of NUA staff and research students, *We are: Human Interfaces*, was distributed at the conference (Barber, Benington, Dunleavy, Quinn, Sawdon Smith). <https://aphe.ac.uk/photography/aphe-summer-conference-2017-review/> From 2018 to 2020 the HI Research group undertook editorship of the quarterly arts magazine *Uncertain States* which publishes work by a diverse range of artists and reaches a wide audience. The cover for its tenth anniversary edition is the work of NUA typography researcher Hiller. [Uncertain States \(@uncertainstates\)](https://www.uncertainstates.com/)

As well as continuing strengths in art, design and media history (Fijalkowski, Gavril, Goodrum, E. Horton, Maffei, Pointon) and fine art, film and design practice and curation (Barber, Bousfield, Benington, Bicknell, Farley, Gledhill, Hanna, S.Horton, Krishnamma, Longworth-West, Sawdon Smith, Simpson, Wilsher), as well as interdisciplinary research in performance theory and practice (Bryon), two key themes of NUA research in this REF period have been Arts, Health and Wellbeing; Landscape and the Environment.

The University has a longstanding engagement with arts research to support health and wellbeing, including working with the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital Arts project from 2003, and it has become a dimension of NUA's fine art programme, responding to staff research (Rowe and Sawdon Smith). In 2014 a research and knowledge exchange project with Norfolk Care homes developed the 'engagement quilt' for visitors to use with dementia sufferers as a focus for conversation and interaction (Rodgers, Bicknell). An ongoing partnership between NUA, Hospital Rooms and Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust has developed two projects in mental health units since 2018 to transform the environment of the units for staff and patients: Woodlands in Ipswich (Rowe) and Northside House in Norwich (Rowe, Simpson). A number of other research projects focus on wellbeing, including ongoing research on a typeface for the adult dyslexic reader, *Sylexiad* (Hillier), a project researching the effectiveness of Autonomous Sensory Meridian Response (ASMR) videos (Dunleavy), a Covid-19 'lockdown' project with healthcare staff to creatively express their experience of the pandemic *A Centenary of Caring*, in partnership with Norfolk and Waveney Health and Care Partnership and University of East Anglia's School of Health Sciences (Rowe). Other research has concentrated on raising public awareness of health issues, including a project, *Print to promote Health and Wellbeing*, in partnership with the University of Addis Ababa to develop sustainable and community-based print using agri-waste by-products to communicate sexual health campaigns in rural Ethiopia (Benington, Rowe). Sawdon Smith's research highlights the complex and conflicted experience of a patient understanding and accepting ill health and disease, particularly countering HIV/AIDs stigma, in exhibitions, presentations of his work and in a wide range of publications.

Research related to Landscape and the Environment has been principally focused on our partnership with the Broads Authority. *Mapping the Broads* was a research and community engagement project within the Broads Landscape Partnership Scheme's *Water, Mills and Marshes*. Research developed by staff in the NUA Illustration team (Brewerton, Bousfield and Nencini), resulted in bodies of work that responded to the experience of the landscape of the Norfolk Broads, disseminated in an exhibition in the EAST Gallery<sup>NUA</sup> and presented in the NUA online research symposium *New Perspectives on the Rural: Landscape, Community and Creativity*, with papers by Brewerton, Bousfield and Nencini. *Mapping the Broads* included a number of student engagement projects including Sophie Cane's *Create Together* project (supervised by Brewerton) that won the RSA Student Design Award in 2019 <https://www.sophiecaneillustration.com/#/rsa-student-design-awards-winner/>. There is also a wellbeing dimension to Brewerton's and Bousfield's work with community groups within the project, to increase engagement with the natural environment and decrease 'nature deficit'. Another research and knowledge exchange project within *Water, Mills and Marshes* considered how to enhance engagement with the Norfolk Broads through digital media (Gledhill), resulting in a prototype web app for use walking the Angles Way.

### Research focus for the next period

The NUA Research Strategy 2021-24 is focused on the themes of the University's Strategic Plan: Transforming Lives; Sustainable Futures; Inclusive Community.

NUA Research Themes will be linked to the following global challenges:

Health and Wellbeing; Sustainable development; Culture, Community & Inclusion

The strategy aims

1. To enhance the environment and impact of NUA Research
2. To develop the research capacity and capability of staff

3. To develop the capacity of the Doctoral programme and enhance support for postgraduate research students
4. To establish effective external engagement and productive National and International Collaborative Partnerships

In this period NUA will:

- Establish two NUA Institutes for research, knowledge exchange and student engagement: Sustainability, Health and Wellbeing; Creative Digital and Technology Futures
- Develop clear career pathways for research, knowledge exchange and teaching & student engagement (Early Career Academic/Researcher status; Fellowships; Reader status; Associate Professor; Professor) and increase the diversity of NUA staff engaged in research at all levels of career development
- Establish a Doctoral College of research degree supervisors and increase the diversity of the University's PGR supervisor pool and research student community
- Enhance the University's infrastructure to support Research and Knowledge Exchange
- Implement an Impact Strategy to ensure and effectively record the impact of NUA research
- Collaborate across disciplines to create new knowledge and attract external funding for research
- Support and build upon the New Anglia Economic and Industrial Strategies, particularly in relation to sustainability, communication and digital futures
- Empower local and regional communities through creative engagement, co-creation and participatory research

### Research Impact

NUA has encouraged collaborative research projects with external partners as a key approach to ensuring research impact, including how partners can help to identify and record the impact of our research, wherever appropriate. The focus has been on the impact of creative arts research on health and wellbeing (Brewerton, Rowe, etc.), on public engagement, expanding awareness and understanding to engender community cohesion and inclusivity (Benington, Brewerton, Bousfield, Sawdon Smith), and on creativity, culture and society (Fijalkowski, Hanna, Krishnamma, Pointon, Rowe, Wilsher). The submitted NUA impact case studies identify working with Health Care Trusts, The Broads Authority, Schools, Charities, and arts organisations to plan and deliver projects to ensure the value of the research to individual lives and to influence policy, particularly related to mental health and to environmental issues.

The potential for, and pathway to, impact has been a criterion for a research project receiving funding from the University. Staff have been supported and encouraged to plan impact as a key aspect at the start of a project using impact tools, such as the NUA *Pathways to Impact introduction* and the *Research Impact Planning template*. Individual support from the Director of Research, the Senior Research Professor, and the Senior Research Manager has focused on identifying potential beneficiaries, types of impact appropriate to the research, recording impact, as well as how to communicate the research and its findings to stakeholders and the public. Research students have been introduced to pathways to impact as part of the PGR training programme. In 2019/20 NUA appointed a Research Fellow to support the development and impact of practice-based research at the University. This fellow (Simpson) contributed to staff

and research student training and to the development of the impact dimension of the Research Strategy 2021-2024.

NUA is committed to building its resources to enhance the impact of its research as an objective of the NUA Research Strategy 2021-24. The draft Impact Strategy includes identifying Impact champions, enhanced training and support for staff and research students, and an expanded online impact toolkit. From 2020/21 NUA has partnered with Vertigo Ventures to use its Impact Tracker, resources and support for an initial period of three years to enhance impact and improve recording of research impact.

### **Open Research environment**

NUA's Open Access policy was introduced in 2015-16 to ensure compliance with funder OA requirements and those for REF 2021 submission. It identified the processes and support for NUA staff to meet OA conditions and raised staff and research student awareness of the models of open access. Staff are supported by the repository (NUA Research Online), the research office and by regular updates and training on the emerging OA agenda. This was first presented and discussed as part of the Research and Knowledge Exchange (R&KE) day in November 2015. Subsequently, there have been five presentations and training sessions on open access at NUA R&KE days. The policy also identifies that staff can apply for funding from the University's Research Support Fund where Gold OA is a requirement of grant conditions and not provided by the grant or if publication of a research output carries particular copyright costs.

NUA Research Online is part of GuildHE Research Repositories, a shared service for research outputs of institutions who are members of the GuildHE Research consortium. In 2019 NUA prompted a project to re-design the repository to be more effective in presenting practice-based research outputs and to be more engaging for users and depositors, resulting in a relaunch of NUA Research Online in November 2019. The repository Submissions Policy and Procedure was reviewed and updated in October 2019.

NUA's support for open access and management of the repository is shared between the library and the research office, with NUA's Head of Library and Learning Support being the senior manager responsible for NUA Research Online, reporting to Research Committee, liaising with the Director of Research and the Research Administrator. The NUA Head of Library and Learning Support co-led a workshop at an ARLIS UK & Ireland event 'Arts research in open access repositories: sharing practice about practice' (30 August 2019).

<https://ualresearchonline.arts.ac.uk/id/eprint/13779/2/Arts%20research%20in%20Open%20Access%20repositories%20event%20-%20notes%20from%20day%20August%202019.pdf>

In 2019 the University appointed an additional Research and Repository Administrator to support open access and the repository, managed by the Senior Research Manager with a reporting line to the Head of Library and Learning Resources. The administrator has worked with staff individually to deposit research outputs in the repository and presented on open access issues to staff and research student groups. NUA doctoral theses are submitted with a digital copy and are available through the British Library EThOS e-theses service, on UAL Research Online and on NUA Research Online. NUA researcher Rob Hiller has made the typeface for the adult dyslexic reader, that resulted from his research and doctorate, available as open access to download online. <https://www.sylexiad.com/fonts/purchase/sylexiad-sans>

**Support for a culture of Research Integrity**

The University's Research Committee oversees the integrity of staff and student research and reports to Senate, with an annual report to University Council on actions and activities that have been undertaken to support and strengthen understanding and application of research integrity issues. This report also analyses whether Norwich University of the Arts' codes, procedures and practices for research integrity continue to be appropriate to the needs of the University and meet the standards required by the Concordat to Support Research Integrity (2019).

The University's Codes, procedures and practices for research integrity are:

- Research Governance and Standards Policy
- Procedure to Investigate Allegations of Misconduct in Research
- Code of Practice on Research Ethics

These documents are regularly reviewed and updated to respond to national policy developments and standards. The *Research Governance and Standards Policy* was reviewed and updated by Research Committee in October 2019. Research Committee reviewed the University's *Procedure to Investigate Allegations of Misconduct in Research* at its meeting in January 2020. Research Committee reviewed the University's adherence to the *Concordat to support Research Integrity* in May 2019 and the Autumn 2019 update to the Concordat at its meeting in January 2020 using NUA's Concordat Implementation Framework. Research Ethics guidance was updated in March 2020 to respond to the legal and ethical considerations required during the Covid-19 pandemic. This included a review of necessary modifications to existing approved research projects and guidance for all new ethics applications. In October 2020 Research Committee decided that all research ethics applications would only be granted approval for the current academic year and would need formal review each year until the conditions related to the pandemic no longer apply. This guidance was informed by University of the Arts London (our research degrees programme partner) guidance for research students and by the UKRIO 'Recommended checklist for Research Communities during the Covid-19 pandemic' (October 2020). There have been no allegations of research misconduct against NUA staff or research students in the REF 2021 period.

Discussion of standards of research integrity and issues related to particular projects, as well as training, takes place at Research and Knowledge Exchange days, in Research Group Meetings, in Research Pathway group meetings and as part of the research student training programme. Research Integrity is a key element of the development programme for staff awarded NUA Early Career Researcher status. The Senior Research Manager delivers an annual seminar and provides individual support on Research Ethics and Integrity to staff on NUA's 'Learning and Teaching in Higher Education' programme (PG Cert). NUA staff receive individual support on research ethics applications and in relation to external contracts from the Director of Research and Senior Research Manager. Staff and research student training is augmented using online resources and tools on the UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO) website. Legal support is provided to NUA research by externally contracted experts and firms as necessary and when appropriate.

Research Integrity and Ethics briefings and training for staff and research students have featured in one NUA Research and Knowledge Exchange day each academic year since 2015-16, including workshops by external speakers: Dr Andrew Rawnsley (Teesside University, Associate Editor of Research integrity and Peer Review journal) in June 2016, Matthew Guest, Senior Policy Advisor (Research & Innovation), GuildHE, in December 2016 and Dr Geoff Hill,

Birmingham City University in November 2018. Other presentations were delivered by NUA staff: Director of Research and Academic Registrar (November 2017) and the Senior Research Manager (November 2019).

Research degree students are trained in research ethics and integrity standards as part of NUA's Postgraduate Research training, University of the Arts London's RNUAL programme (our PhD awarding partner), and through access to University of East Anglia's online PGR training, available through our membership of GuildHE Research shared services. Research student ethics applications are supported by their Director of Studies and applications deemed to be minimal ethical risk are approved by NUA Research Degrees Committee, with delegated authority of UAL's Research Ethics Sub-Committee. PGR ethics applications assessed as more than minimal risk by NUA Research Degrees Committee are forwarded to UAL's Research Ethics Sub-Committee with recommendations for review.

## 2. People

The NUA Research Pathway is for staff who are independent researchers and have a significant responsibility for research (SRR), according to specific contractual and research experience criteria, identified in the NUA REF Code of Practice, including qualifying as an early career researcher. From September 2019 Research Pathway group meetings have been held twice a term.

The University's adherence to the principles and sub-principles of the *Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers* was regularly reviewed by Research Committee in the period using NUA's Concordat Implementation Framework. This has informed staff induction, support and training. During the period NUA has enhanced the support and potential for research career development, including appointments with Professor, Associate Professor, Research Fellow and Early Career Researchers status.

The Professoriate, which meets four times a year, is a forum for academic debate and intellectual leadership to enhance the research, teaching and learning, and enterprise cultures of the University. In November 2014 the University appointed the first Director of Research with Professorial title to lead NUA research. The number of Professors in Research and Teaching appointed and awarded increased from three in the last REF period to nine by the REF 2021 census date, five of whom are on the Research Pathway. In 2017 the University introduced Associate Professor status and appointed six of these by July 2020, also not all research awards, of whom two are on the Research Pathway. NUA has appointed three Research Fellows in the period. Two of these are non-stipendiary posts (Mitchell and Lowndes), although both are active members of the Pattern and Chaos Research Group and are research degree supervisors (paid as HPLs). In 2020 NUA appointed a Postdoctoral Research Fellow to support the development and impact of practice-based research, who is on the Research Pathway. The University has supported an application from the fellow for a UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship.

In 2020 the University introduced a NUA Early Career Researcher status, awarded on application for two years. Five staff have been designated as NUA ECRs to date. NUA ECRs receive staff development on research structures, research ethics and integrity, research funding, developing the research dimension of their career, research degree supervision, research into teaching. They are also mentored by an experienced researcher (Fijalkowski, Goodrum, Pointon). As part of the Academic Pathways, from 2020/21 NUA has introduced an

Emerging Researcher status for staff not on the Research Pathway but who wish to develop this dimension of their career to plan for significant responsibility for research. All new category A eligible staff receive an induction to research at NUA with the Director of Research or Senior Research Manager to introduce them to NUA research structures (Research Committees, Research Groups, Research Office, Research Events, Research on the NUA Intranet), the Academic Pathways, Research funding support and includes discussion of their research experience and aspirations.

Staff research is supported by three funding streams to enable individual research and research dissemination, collaborative research projects and partnership development. Funding from these schemes is available to all academic staff, not only those on the Research Pathway.

The Research Sabbatical leave scheme (formerly the Research Fellowship scheme) is to support and facilitate academic staff in the production and delivery of internationally excellent research, with priority given to early and mid-career researchers. The scheme funds the replacement of teaching duties for up to twelve weeks. Applications are assessed by Research Committee according to three principal criteria: Excellence, Originality and Rigour; Value for Money; Outputs, Dissemination and Impact. In the period ten staff have received this support (Benington, Bloom, Cant, Farley, Fijalkowski, Gavril, S.Horton, Maffei, Nencini, Robinson), including one to complete an output towards submitting a practice-based PhD thesis, representing an investment of over £80,000 QR funding. Two staff who received this support subsequently became NUA Research Group Champions and lead activity in the Created and Contested Territories and Pattern and Chaos groups (Gavril and S.Horton).

The Research Support Funding scheme is for individual staff to apply for costs up to £500 related to travel and subsistence for research and conference attendance, conference fees, photography and copyright clearance for articles and books, costs relating to Open Access publishing and, exceptionally, for materials. Over the period, the University has committed £35,000 QR funding to this scheme.

The Collaborative Research Funding scheme supports research initiatives linked to the University Research Themes, involving academic staff and research students from across the University. Criteria for funding in this scheme includes involvement of research students, Early Career Researchers and practitioners new to academic research in project applications. The scheme is designed to support initial stages of research projects but these must be outward looking and engage with external partners. The funding has been particularly valuable in supporting projects generated within and across NUA Research Groups. The University has committed £165,000 of QR funding over the period within this scheme.

### **Research students**

NUA research students are an important element and make a valuable contribution to the vitality of the University's research environment. They are thoroughly integrated into the research community through active engagement in NUA Research Groups and with the research events programme. Research students have contributed to research group projects, such as the HI 'Multiplicity/Individual' (Quinn, Morohashi), the P&C conference 'Beyond Pattern and Chaos' (Horton), and CaCTus' Ballot project (Vousden). They have regularly presented their work in the NUA research seminar programme and at NUA Research and Knowledge Exchange Days. Research students have curated exhibitions, including in the EAST Gallery<sup>NUA</sup> and are a group presence within the University by exhibiting their work and holding discussions with undergraduate and postgraduate taught students, for example the group exhibition *Multiple*



*Lines of Communication* (31 October – 12 November 2019). The Research Student group, convened by the Senior Research Manager, meets twice a term to present work in progress and discuss issues raised by students and in the national research agenda. All supervisors are invited to the meetings. The group has been particularly valuable during the Covid-19 pandemic for group support online and to discuss the challenges faced by researchers in this period.

The research degrees programme is advertised online and is promoted to the NUA Masters programme, with current research students presenting their work within the postgraduate taught *Research into Practice* unit. The Director of Research or Senior Research Manager also present on PhD level study annually to the MA Enterprise day. Enquiries about the research degree programme are offered the option to speak to a research supervisor to inform and review initial proposals. Applications are reviewed by members of Research Degrees Committee (RDC) to decide whether to proceed to interview by panel. All offers of a place on the programme and offers of NUA bursaries are approved by Research Degrees Committee. In this period, there has been an increased interest in NUA's research degree programme, with initial enquiries increasing by 40% over the previous REF period, applications increasing by 83%, offers increasing by 46% (from 14 to 19) and first enrolments increasing by 14% (from 12 to 14). 78.5% of students enrolling for the first time within the period have graduated from the NUA MA programme, often returning to study after a period of professional practice.

Recruitment has been focused on a limited intake of high-quality candidates who can be fully supported to completion and are able to contribute to NUA's research culture. The student group has remained between 10 and 14 each year in the period. All students have progressed through the Registration and Confirmation stages, although a number have taken time out from study and some have withdrawn from study due to financial and/or personal reasons. The number of doctoral completions in this period increased by 225% (from 4 to 9), with all NUA students submitting theses for examination in the period successfully completing their doctorates.

Research Degrees Committee has a research student representative and considers equality, diversity and inclusivity issues associated with the admission, training, monitoring and examination of research students. A research student questionnaire, based on AdvanceHE's Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES), is distributed every year, with compiled feedback received and acted upon by Research Degrees Committee. NUA has further developed the profile and progression routes of research students within the University by supporting staff undertaking research degrees, employing research students to teach on undergraduate programmes and appointing a NUA doctoral graduate as a Research Fellow.

#### Profile of NUA research students: 2013-2020

FT/PT	Gender Identity	Age at first enrolment	Ethnic origin	Declared disability
At enrolment: FT 50% PT 50%	Male: 57%/ Female: 43%	24-29 Years: 28.6%	White British: 85.5%	7.2%
By year 2: FT 25% PT 75%		30-39 years: 21.4%	Other Asian background: 14.5%	
		40-49 years: 28.6%		
		50-59 years: 21.4%		

NUA does not have PhD studentships to award through the UKRI Collaborative Doctoral Partnership scheme or as one of the Centres for Doctoral Training. The University has awarded six fees-only bursaries to research students since 2013-14. Students have also received support for their research from charitable trusts, such as the Yorkshire Foundation of Craftsmanship and the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust. PGR students are able to pay their tuition fees in three instalments and those nearing completion are eligible to apply for writing up status for up to a maximum of 12 months, with a reduced fee of £800. Only one student has applied to the Government's Doctoral Loan Scheme since its inception in 2018-19.

Research students are supported by teams of experienced and expert supervisors. In the period 15 NUA staff were on supervisory teams, with additional subject expertise provided by external supervisors from a number of UK universities, including Royal College of Art, The Slade School of Fine Art (UCL), Manchester University, Middlesex University, Sheffield Hallam University. All new supervisors are required to undertake supervisory training, including the Introduction to research degree supervision workshop and the SEDA-accredited *Supervising Research Degrees* programme delivered by University of the Arts London, NUA's research degree validating partner. NUA has supported 12 staff to undertake this training in the period by paying the course fees, travel and subsistence costs and, in some instances, replacement teaching costs. NUA also held a workshop for staff aspiring to supervise research degree and one for current supervisors at the Research and Knowledge Exchange Day in November 2018.

NUA research students' training and skills development is supported by a portfolio of mandatory training and voluntary opportunities. NUA provides induction, research training for the registration, confirmation and examination stages, on Research Integrity and Ethics, Research data management and in presentation skills. Students complete and review training needs analyses and skills audits, linked to the UK Vitae Researcher Development Framework, as part of the Annual Monitoring process with their supervisors, monitored by Research Degrees Committee. All students undertake University of the Arts London's extensive research degree training programme, RNUAL (<https://www.arts.ac.uk/research/phd-and-mphil-degrees/research-training-and-support>). This also enables NUA students to network with a community of over 250 PGR students in art, design and media subjects who are studying at UAL and its research degree partner universities. NUA research students are able to undertake a programme of online training delivered by University of East Anglia as part of our membership of GuildHE Research shared services, and to take part in the Doctoral Summer Schools arranged for research students of Guild HE partners.

The University's Research Student Funding scheme supports research activity undertaken in pursuit of a student's studies. This includes conference attendance, specialist training, exhibiting work, research outside Norwich and covers travel, accommodation and fees. Each student is allowed to claim for an average of £500 a year over the course of their studies. In addition to this, each student is supported to attend the three mandatory RNUAL Training sessions in the first year (up to £750 per student), to present to RNUAL as part of the Confirmation stage (up to £150) and to attend tutorials with external supervisors (up to £150 a year). As students did not travel for these events during the Covid-19 pandemic, the research-related expenses were expanded to include working materials and equipment to reflect the exceptional circumstances.

This support has enabled research students to present and disseminate their work outside NUA in professional contexts and to the public, in conferences, exhibitions, publications, teaching, presentations and workshops. Examples include conference papers delivered to the Association

of Art Historians, April 2015 (Ismail-Epps & Simpson), the Royal Geographic Society's annual conference August 2017 (Morohashi), the 'Museum in Context and Partnership' Conference, National Railway Museum York, April 2018 (Morohashi), the London Conference in Critical Thought, University of Westminster, June 2018 (Quinn), the Experimental and Expanded Animation Conference, UCA February 2019 (Saunders); work in group exhibitions, *Divergent*, Anteros Arts Foundation Norwich, October 2019 (Vousden); curated exhibitions, 'Performing No Thingness: The Kinetic Poetry of Dom Sylvester Houédard, Ken Cox and Li Yuan-chia', EAST Gallery<sup>NUA</sup>, Norwich Sept-Oct 2016 (Simpson), Museum of Human Kindness, Anteros Art Foundation, Norwich in November 2019 (Morohashi); articles in *Visual Resources*, volume 32, numbers 3-4, 2016 (Ismail-Epps) and the *Journal of Illustration*, issue 6.1 2019 (Goodwin); a book chapter in 'Dom Sylvester Houédard', Richard Saltoun Gallery & Ridinghouse 2017 (Simpson); a book 'Richard Seifert, Brutalist architect', Lund Humphries 2020 (Bradbury); teaching presentations and workshops, including 'Modernist Pioneers', part of the V&A Learning Academy programme in 2019 (Bradbury), 'Voices of the Home Front', National Archives, London, October 2018 (Goodwin) Women, Work & Commerce' V&A, London (February 2019, Goodwin), *Edges and Frontiers workshop*, GroundWork gallery, Kings Lynn, December 2019 (Atkinson), Chiba Municipal Art Museum, Japan & MOA Museum, Japan, May 2018 (Morohashi). Amy Goodwin was elected as the first female Trustee of the Fairground Heritage Trust in 2019 as a direct result of her PhD research.

### 3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

The University's research income increased by a modest 8.1% (to £497,000) in a difficult funding environment and when there were a number of changes in NUA research leadership over the period. Funding continued to be received from a diverse range of sources including the Heritage Lottery Fund (New Geographies, Water, Mills and Marshes, Mapping the Broads), British Council (Sparks Armenia), EU government bodies (ConCEPT), Nippon Foundation (Japanese Chapbooks). Funding received from our collaboration with the Broads Landscape Partnership Scheme for the 'Mapping the Broads' project (Brewerton, Bousfield, Nencini) helped to ensure ongoing impact on public engagement with the natural environment. Additionally, NUA researchers received funding from a wide range of publicly funded and commercial organisations to support research projects, including Arts Council England (Gledhill, *Talking Trees*; Bicknell, *FutureScan*; Benington, *Unstable Monuments*), BBC (Krishnamma, *The Way Out*), ESRC (Bicknell, *unfolding thinking*); Norfolk County Council (Rowe & Benington, *We Came Here to Conquer*); Hospital Rooms (Rowe, *Have Strength, Find Peace/ BE*); The Barbican Centre (Farley, *Rhythms*).

In the period the income derived from business and community engagement work increased by 95% over the previous period (from £895,000 to £1,749,00), working with a wide range of partners, including Aviva (Schooley), Mirus Aircraft seating (Salter, Farley), Flexifoil games design (Beard), British Council (Sinola, Farley), Broads Authority (Gledhill), NANSAs (Schooley), NORLSAR (Wells). This reflects the University's investment in the Ideas Factory<sup>NUA</sup> Incubation Centre for Creative Business from 2016, which has so far created 68 new businesses in areas ranging from Architecture to Games Design. Studio Goblin, an animation company of NUA graduates that is part of the Ideas Factory has developed ASMR videos that are central to the current research project *Testing the effects of ASMR on wellbeing* with NUA Research (Dunleavy) and University of Essex.

Staff are supported in the generation of external income by the Director of Research and the Director of Innovation and Engagement (appointed 2016). However, the somewhat interrupted leadership of NUA research by changes and absence of Directors of Research affected the number of research funding applications submitted within the period. From February 2019 NUA research has been led by the Pro Vice-Chancellor, Academic, the Senior Research Professor and the Senior Research Manager. The University subsequently appointed an additional research administrator to support open access (0.6 fte) and a Research Fellow to enhance the development of research impact (0.2fte). This team will be further strengthened by the Director of Research Development and appointments to support external funding applications and project management across Research and Knowledge Exchange from 2021/22.

The University's EAST Gallery was moved into a refurbished and remodelled space in 2016 with a public programme of exhibitions and events focused on international contemporary art and design. The refurbishment represented an investment of £830,000 in this resource. The gallery has a full-time experienced curator (Fisher, then Allerton) reporting to the Pro Vice-Chancellor, Academic, and a team of part-time assistants and technician.

The gallery programme has included exhibitions and events directly related to NUA staff and student research (S. Horton, *Disruptive Decoration*; Hanna et al, *Fierce Light*; Simpson, *Performing No Thingness*; Brewerton, Bousfield & Nencini, *Mapping the Broads*). Exhibitions included shows on the work of Tess Jaray & Alison Wilding (Extra Terrestrial), Cornelia Parker, Orla Kiely, Paul Digby, Eduardo Paolozzi, Antony Caro, as well as the Jerwood Painting Fellowships (2017) and the Jerwood Drawing prize (2017). NUA led the presentation of the *British Art Show 8* in Norwich in 2016. From November 2016 to January 2017, EAST Gallery<sup>NUA</sup> was the first gallery worldwide to exhibit *Mutator VR*, curated by Fisher, a Virtual Reality installation using original software modelled on the processes of evolution (Latham, Goldsmiths, University of London). The University held a symposium on the research and innovation themes related to the work, including contributions from the artist and his collaborators, as well as from NUA staff (Wells, Grandison). NUA was also a partner in the *New Geographies* project 2017-20, working with Cooking Sections on a commission for the project. The gallery also originated two exhibitions of the work of NUA alumnus Sir Alfred Munnings with fourteen drawings on public display for the first time (2018) and after conservation, including paintings from the Munnings Museum in Essex (2019). The drawings were from the NUA Collection, the exhibitions were part of an ongoing project to make the Collection and the University's archives available to researchers and the public.

The NUA Collection and archives contain 930 artworks and include materials relating to over 700 contemporary artists, curators and dealers. The archives contain thousands of items related to the University's established history of gallery exhibitions, EAST international projects and international animation and moving image festivals from 1980 to 2010. The Collection and archives project will ensure that detailed and searchable information on the NUA Collection and the archives will be available online as part of the University's digital asset management from 2021. <https://collection.nua.ac.uk>

Through our membership of GuildHE Research the University has increased the use of its shared services in this REF period, including the NUA research repository, online PGR training and PGR Summer Schools, access to the Vitae RDF planner and, from 2020/21, the Vertigo Ventures Impact Tracker. The GuildHE Research Leads network is valuable for sharing information and advice, working together and accessing national research organisations who regularly present to the meetings. The NUA research repository has been operational since

2012. However, in March 2016 we joined the GuildHE joint research repository, although retaining an individual NUA repository identity. In 2019, working with GuildHE Research, we prompted work to redesign the landing page and some functionality so that the repository is more attractive and operationally suited to art, design and media research. A full review of the research and research data repository provision for GuildHE members is planned for 2021/22. Since March 2016 (data from the repository is not available before this) 3,964 items have been downloaded from the repository, 54% of which are journal articles and 16% books/ book chapters. The most downloaded items are authored by Rowe, Fijalkowski, Maffei and Goodrum.

#### **4. Collaboration and contribution to the research base, economy and society**

The University is located in the centre of a culturally vibrant and thriving city, and contributes significantly to its strategic, economic and creative development and that of the region. As a small specialist university, collaboration and partnership are central to the success of our research and knowledge exchange activities. In this period NUA has continued to develop collaboration with academic, creative and culture industry, and business partners through sustainable projects and individual academic research. We have further expanded our work with audiences and communities to ensure public engagement with NUA research through exhibitions, events and workshops, while maintaining a significant contribution to the research base and involvement with national and international organisations.

From 2019 NUA established a Strategic Research Fund (SRF, £15,000 per annum QR) to support meetings and pilot projects with external organisations who are new research partners, as an investment in future collaboration. This is additional to the support available from the business and knowledge exchange team to develop and foster partnerships for enterprise and student engagement projects. The SRF scheme has funded a pilot with *Collusion Cambridge (Art, Tech, Play)*, the *Centenary of Caring* project, initial planning for the *Testing the effects of ASMR on well-being* project with University of Essex and planning with Norfolk County Council Children's and Young People's Mental Health Services.

The University's EAST Gallery is an important contribution to the cultural life of Norwich and the region with a public programme of exhibitions and events organized with external partners, such as Karsten Schubert, London, Barford Sculptures Ltd, Hayward touring, Jerwood Arts, Arts Council England. The gallery hosted 26 exhibitions from November 2015 to 15 March 2020 (when the gallery closed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic), attracting over 40,000 visitors. In that period the gallery organised 76 events related to exhibitions, including private views, artists' public lectures and talks in the gallery, and workshops for schools.

From June to September 2016 the *British Art Show* toured to East Anglia for the first time in its 40-year history and was exhibited across two venues in Norwich: Norwich University of the Arts and the Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery. NUA's Neil Powell was involved the selection of the Hayward Open Curatorial 2014-15 and was part of the team to facilitate the national organisation and delivery of the show with Hayward Touring. 37 artists exhibited over 100 works at NUA (EAST Gallery and St George Street building) and at Norwich Castle Museum. NUA and the Castle Museum hosted a summer of over 50 free events, including tours, workshops, talks, lectures, takeovers, as well as a float in the Lord Mayor's procession. 9,494 people visited the exhibition at NUA and over 600 people attended NUA hosted events for the show. The evaluation of BAS8 for Hayward Touring by Annabel Jackson Associates (February 2017)

highlighted the Norwich part of the tour: 'Overall, the evaluation suggests that Norwich is of a perfect size and structure to be impacted by a high-status show like the British Art Show.'

The University has regularly contributed events, talks and presentations as part of the visual arts element of the annual Norfolk & Norwich Festival in the period, including *Jeff Koons* at Norwich Castle Museum, 2015 (S. Horton, Powell); *Fierce Light*, 2016 (Hanna), *Richard Long* at Houghton Hall, 2017 (a film of Long working and documenting the show, Wells; contribution to the educational programme, Rowe). In 2018 the University created and curates a permanent plinth outside its St George Street building to publicly exhibit major works of sculpture in central Norwich. The first work exhibited was Damian Hirst's *Hymn* (March to July 2018), to coincide with a major installation of Hirst's work in the State Rooms and in the Park at Houghton Hall, Norfolk. Anthony Caro's *Erl King* was displayed on the plinth from May to July 2019, concurrent with *Iron in the Soul*, an exhibition of over 40 of Caro's work, including 16 previously unseen drawings and prints, and one sculpture, curated by Powell in the EAST Gallery<sup>NUA</sup>. Staff contributed to the Norwich Science Festival in 2019 (Brewerton), First Light festival Lowestoft 2019 (Carlisle), Glyndebourne 2019 (Wells and Martin) and British Council UX conference tour 2019 (Gledhill).

NUA was the university sponsor of the first LoveLight Norwich festival, a three-night event of light artworks, interactive installations, performances and live music across the city attended by 15,000 people in February 2020, led by the Norwich Business Improvement District. The University hosted a number of events, with NUA staff leading one of the four streams of the symposium that launched the event – the Design Lab: *What is Design Thinking and how can we use it to support placemaking and inclusivity in urban contexts?* (Carlisle and Salter). NUA staff have also worked with businesses to transform their processes and work practices through research, for example, with the Data Analytics team at Aviva (2016, Schooley) and to transform communication between the factory staff and management at Baxter Healthcare (2016, Schooley). NUA sponsored the Norwich Games Festival from 2016 to 2019, with a number of staff actively involved in the festival (including Beard and Gledhill). In 2018 a NUA academic co-developed a version of the best-selling 'Stardew Valley' game for mobile phones, which has sold over 2.9 million copies to date (Holmwood). From 2016-2020 Professor Suri Krishnamma directed 53 episodes of two national TV series (Coronation Street & Emmerdale).

In February 2020 NUA held an *Art, Tech, Play* event to engage artists with emerging technologies attended by 58 artists from across the county, followed by a pilot project to mentor and support artists to begin working with these technologies (transferred online from April to July 2020, Gledhill). This was the start of an ongoing collaboration with Collusion (Cambridge) and the Norwich Arts Centre to develop a sustainable network of support for artists looking to expand their capacity to engage with digital technologies and accelerate practice-based innovation.

We have continued to develop our support for communities and disadvantaged groups through art and film projects, workshops and co-production activities, for example, the *Differences United* project (United in Hammersmith & Fulham, Su); projects with schoolchildren, particularly working class boys (NEACO, Norfolk Higher aspirations); people with mental health conditions (Woodlands and Northside House, Rowe); with single Homeless people (Herring House Trust, Bousfield), and refugees and asylum seekers (English+ Norwich, Brewerton and Bousfield).

NUA researchers are editorial board members for seven international journals (including Drawing: Research, Theory and Practice, S. Horton; Clothing Cultures, Goodrum; Journal for Interdisciplinary Voice Studies, Bryon; International Journal of Food Design, Maffei; International

Society for the Study of Surrealism, Fijalkowski). Gavril was a general editor for *Architectural Histories* journal from 2014 - 2018, Carlisle is book and exhibitions reviews editor for *Textile: the Journal of Cloth and Culture*. S.Horton and Goodrum have guest edited special issues of three journals in the period. Staff have organised six academic conferences and symposia (including, the *Embodied Cognition Acting and Performance Symposium 2015*, Bryon; *Portraiture and Materiality*, Pointon; *Beyond Pattern & Chaos 2018*, Carlisle), and delivered six keynote conference papers (Bryon, Fijalkowski, Goodrum, Hanna, Pointon and Sawdon Smith) in Glasgow, Brighton, Portsmouth, University of Northern Colorado, Montreal and Shenzhen China. NUA scholars have delivered papers at sixteen academic conferences and given over forty public lectures, performances and presentations of their research in the period.

Since 2014 NUA staff have examined sixteen PhDs as external examiners for Universities in Australia and the United Kingdom, for example, at the University of New South Wales, The Courtauld Institute, Universities of Edinburgh, Kent, Portsmouth, King's College and Birkbeck College University of London. Staff serve on executive and advisory boards for a number of subject and professional associations, such as NAHEMI (Hannah, Chair 2016-19), National Portrait Gallery Research Advisory Board (Pointon), UKADIA-Chair, GuildHE, HESA (Last), CHEAD (Sawdon Smith), International Arts Thread education board (Chowles), European Architectural History Network (Gavril), and on AHRC and UKRI Peer Review colleges in the period (Carlisle, Fijalkowski, Gavril, Hannah, Maffei). NUA also supports a range of organisations with staff as trustees or executive board members, for example, The Britten Sinfonia, The Art Fund, East Anglia Art Trust, Norwich Theatre Royal, The Forum, Local Enterprise Partnership, The Garage (Norwich Centre for Performing Arts), Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital. A member of staff was on the Parliamentary Advisory group for the Creative Industries (Powell, 2014-17) and an expert witness to the UK House of Lords Select Committee on Digital Skills in 2014 (Saint Walker).