

Code of Conduct in Research

2008

1. General

The Hebrew University aspires to excellence in research. Excellence is not measured merely by results. It depends in large part on appropriate conduct in research. Appropriate conduct in research is founded on a commitment to the principles of truth, freedom, responsibility, integrity, and cooperation, as well as compliance with internationally accepted professional and ethical standards, state laws, university rules, and conditions and regulations of funding bodies.

It is expected that standards of conduct in research will be disseminated among the scientific community by senior academics and researchers who serve as role models in teaching, in supervision and in management of research projects at all levels. Nonetheless, the Hebrew University has adopted this code of conduct as an explicit statement of the common core of standards required of all Hebrew University research workers

The Hebrew University requires that its research workers adhere to the principles and rules laid out below in all aspects of their research, including: the planning and submitting of research proposals for funding; generating, documenting, analyzing and preserving data; appropriating, publishing, sharing and commercialising results.

Research workers include any of the following people involved in the design, the application for funding, the conduct or the reporting of research or in decisions affecting its commercialisation: University employees, pensioners, guests, Masters' degree students, doctoral students and anyone else using University resources and/or involved in research together with any of the above.

2. Principles

2.1 Truth

Research workers should be committed to the search for truth and guided by the goal of increasing human knowledge and understanding.

2.2 Freedom

Research workers should pursue their research free of extraneous influences, but subject to ethical, professional, legal, social, environmental and financial constraints.

2.3 Responsibility

Research workers are responsible for all aspects of research they perform. In particular, they are responsible for the health, safety and dignity of anyone who might be affected by their research (whether or not they are directly involved in it) for minimizing the use and suffering of animals in research, and for protecting the environment.

2.4 Professionalism

Research workers must maintain the highest professional standards of their discipline.

2.5 Integrity

Research workers must evaluate data and material (of their own and of others) in an unbiased manner; they must present their research and results fairly, fully and accurately, in such a way as to permit scrutiny and debate, and giving due credit to others.

2.6 Cooperation

Research should be carried out in a spirit of cooperation in the pursuit of knowledge. Senior research workers should encourage the development of professional skills and standards and should take a leading role in developing an atmosphere of openness, trust, and willingness to help, among colleagues, assistants and students, whether involved in a common research project or not. They must respect the contribution and intellectual property of others and are entitled to appropriate recognition and protection of their own contribution to scientific discoveries, ideas and developments.

3. Rules

3.1 Research Funding

Research workers applying for funding are required to take all reasonable measures to ensure that all information contained in their applications is accurate and complete, and that the proposed research is scientifically sound and properly budgeted.

Research workers who receive funding are required to take all reasonable measures to ensure that the funds allocated are used for their designated purpose, and that all reporting requirements are truthfully and fully complied with.

Research receiving funding must comply with all requirements of the funding bodies and with all University Regulations concerning internal and external financing of research.

In the case of joint or group research, the responsibility for ensuring compliance with these requirements falls on the Principal Investigator(s),

3.2 Conflict of Interest

Research workers are required to conduct their research in an unbiased manner. Their professional judgment should at all times be exercised independently, and extraneous interests should never be permitted to influence them in any aspect of their research.

Research workers are required to disclose all interests that are, or might appear, likely to bias their research or improperly to influence decisions which can affect its progress.

Research workers are required to comply with the University Conflict of Interest Code and with decisions of the University Conflict of Interest Committee established thereunder.

3.3 Ethical Constraints

Research workers are required to respect the dignity, the autonomy, the safety and the welfare of anyone who might be affected by their research (whether or not they are directly involved in it).

Research involving human participation, whether clinical or non-clinical, must comply with legal requirements, with internationally accepted principles, and University rules regarding ethical standards in scientific research involving human subjects, and with decisions of the University Ethics Committees established thereunder.

Research workers considering the use of animals in research are required to comply with the internationally accepted principles of replacement, reduction and refinement.

Research involving animals must comply with legal requirements, with University rules regarding the use of animals in research, including decisions of the University Ethics Committees established thereunder, and with University rules concerning care of animals used in research.

3.4 Documenting results and storing data

Research workers are required to keep clear, accurate and complete records of the procedures followed and of the results obtained in their research, including interim results. Such records must be securely held for a period of ten years after the completion of a research project, unless a longer period is specified by law or by the research funder or sponsor.

Research workers are required to disclose such records upon reasonable request by referees, colleagues and University authorities. In so doing, they must observe legal and professional rules of confidentiality and privacy.

3.5 Publishing results

Research workers are required to take full responsibility for work published under their name and to take all reasonable measures to ensure:

- a. that the research was performed as described, the results reported were obtained and that their publications include no falsification or fabrication of any kind;
- b. that the conception and design of the research, the generation, analysis and interpretation of data, the results reported, the ideas expressed and the published text are all attributable to the authors listed and were not copied from any source without permission or without explicit acknowledgment in the publication, and that their publication is free of plagiarism and piracy;
- c. that all contributions to their research (whether academic, research, financial or otherwise) have been fully acknowledged;
- d. that the authors listed all contributed actively to the research or the publication, that they are all familiar with its contents, that they can each identify their contributions to it, that they each accept personal responsibility for its accuracy, and that no research is attributed to people who did not participate in it.

3.6 Intellectual Property and Commercialisation

Researchers must respect the intellectual property of others in the course of their research.

Researchers seeking to develop, exploit or commercialise their research must comply with University rules and regulations, including rules concerning the exploitation of inventions and patents, and rules concerning connections between academic employees and commercial enterprises.

4. Research Misconduct

Any breach of the standards or rules set out above may be considered research misconduct.

Research misconduct is a disciplinary offence governed by the University Disciplinary Code for Academic Employees, the University Disciplinary Code for Students and the University Disciplinary Code for Administrative Employees.