

Policy: Responsible Conduct of Research

Purpose

The Responsible Conduct of Research policy outlines the expectations on all persons carrying out research at, or in the name of ANU. ANU seeks to foster and maintain a research environment of intellectual strength, safeguarding academic freedom and acting with honesty, integrity, and scholarly and scientific rigour.

Overview

This policy promotes responsible conduct of research and outlines high-level principles all ANU researchers are expected to adhere to. The policy is supplemented by a series of procedures that provide detailed instruction as to what the expectations of ANU are. These procedures will be amended from time to time in line with requirements issued by the Commonwealth Government. This policy should be read in conjunction with the Guideline on the Conduct of Research.

Scope

This policy applies to all ANU Researchers.

Policy statement

ANU Researchers are to:

1. Conduct research through the lifecycle from conception through delivery to reporting, dissemination and impact with:
 - a. Honesty, presenting information truthfully and accurately;
 - b. Rigour, underpinning research with attention to detail and robust methodology;
 - c. Transparency, declaring interests and effectively reporting research methodology, data and findings;
 - d. Fairness and Respect, for research participants, co-workers, research students, the wider community, animals and the environment;
 - e. Recognition, for the rights of communities, in particular Aboriginal and

Torres Strait Islander peoples, to be engaged in research that affects or is of particular significance to them; and

- f. Accountability, both financial and otherwise.
2. Promote and support a culture of responsible conduct of research at ANU and in their field of practice.
3. Provide guidance and mentorship on the responsible conduct of research to other researchers and research trainees under their supervision and, where relevant or required, monitor their conduct.
4. Undertake and promote education and training in the responsible conduct of research.
5. Comply with all relevant laws, regulations, disciplinary standards, ethics guidelines, funding agreements and institutional policies related to the responsible conduct of research, including but not limited to:
 - a. Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2018);
 - b. National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research 2007 (updated 2018);
 - c. Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes 8th Edition;
 - d. Ethical Conduct in Research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and Communities: Guidelines for Researchers and Stakeholders; and
 - e. AIATSIS Guidelines for Ethical Research in Australian Indigenous Studies.
6. Ensure that appropriate approvals are in place prior to the commencement of research, and that conditions of any approvals are adhered to during the course of research. When working internationally, comply with other countries' regulations relating to research and respect local laws, customs and protocols.
7. Ensure that the ethical principles of research merit and integrity, justice, doing good and respect are applied to human research.
8. Appropriately engage and consult with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and respect their legal rights and local laws, customs and protocols.
9. Ensure that the 3Rs (Replacement, Reduction and Refinement) are considered at all stages of research involving animals, seeking to minimise the impact on animals used in research and in so doing support the welfare and wellbeing of these animals.
10. Fulfil all contractual responsibilities entered into by the University on their behalf, providing reports and information as required and managing such projects

effectively.

11. Adopt effective research design and methods appropriate to the aims of the research and ensure that conclusions drawn are justified by the results with due concern for reproducibility wherever possible.
12. Retain clear, accurate, secure and complete records of all research including research data and primary materials for an appropriate period of time. Where possible and appropriate, allow access and reference to these by interested parties.
13. Use resources efficiently, ensuring best value for money for the funders of research and the University.
14. Report concerns over the conduct of research by other researchers.
15. Disseminate research findings responsibly, accurately and broadly. Where necessary, take action to correct the record in a timely manner.
16. Seek to deploy the outcomes of their research for the benefit of society.
17. Disclose actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest and ensure these are managed effectively.
18. Ensure that authors of research outputs are all those, and only those, who have made a significant intellectual or scholarly contribution to the research and its output, and that they agree to be listed as an author.
19. Acknowledge those who have contributed to and supported the research appropriately.
20. Cite and acknowledge other relevant work appropriately and accurately in line with academic practice, including when producing reports for the funders of research.
21. Participate in peer review in a way that is fair, rigorous and timely and maintains the confidentiality of the content.
22. Follow all ANU approved procedures related to this policy.
23. Report suspected breaches of this policy to ANU through appropriate channels and support ANU in any subsequent investigations.
24. Undertake a risk assessment of the potential risks of undertaking the research to the University, the health, safety and well-being of those involved in undertaking the research and of research participants ensuring compliance with all applicable health and safety requirements.

Failure to comply with this policy is grounds for disciplinary action. Guidance on interpreting and complying with this policy can be obtained from College Research

Integrity Advisors and from Research Services Division.

The ANU procedure – [Research Misconduct and Serious Research Misconduct](#) sets out the process for handling complaints or allegations of research misconduct.

The University has appointed the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Innovation) as the Designated Person to receive initial complaints or allegations of research misconduct under the procedure.

Document information

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