

Code of Conduct for Research Integrity Osaka Prefecture University Public Corporation

Academic research is reasoned empirical inquiry into truth, with the aim of producing a body of knowledge that will dispel the darkness of human ignorance and misunderstanding, further the establishment of world peace, and ensure the preservation of the global environment. As such, academic research is an essential shared human resource. Tackling the issues of the present day and giving birth to future knowledge, academic research is a ceaseless endeavor. We do not simply inherit the research achievements of the past; to ensure the advancement of human knowledge, it is essential that we subject the views of our predecessors to continual re-examination. For this reason, it is widely recognized that researchers must have the freedom to exercise critical intelligence in re-examining and reappraising current understanding.

Academic research is distinguished from mere inquisitive investigation of the unknown by the socio-historicity of the academic research enterprise and the responsibility of researchers to operate with the trust and mandate of society. To contribute to academic advancement and the intellectual enhancement of humanity, each individual involved in academic research must exercise sound judgment in conducting research with unbiased, fair, and impartial ethical integrity, grounded in an informed sense of social responsibility. This includes the responsibility to publicize research results in ways that facilitate public verification. Only if this responsibility is accepted and fulfilled can the highest standards of academic research be maintained.

However, ethical integrity in research goes beyond individual responsibility. Specialized organizations for academic research, such as universities and technical colleges, also play an important role. Osaka Prefecture University Public Corporation (hereafter, 'the Corporation'), composed of Osaka Prefecture University and Osaka Prefecture University College of Technology, must bear its own corporate responsibility in this regard, since the Corporation is financially supported through the operating budget of the Osaka Prefectural Government, as well as through funding and grants provided by the national government and other social entities. This Code has been set forth so that individual researchers operating within the Corporation will be fully aware of the specific ethical standards they are expected to meet and will therefore be able to achieve full ethical integrity.

The word "researcher" used in this Code refers to all individuals engaged in research activity at the Corporation.

1. Researcher Responsibility

It is incumbent on researchers to contribute to human knowledge in a responsible way, with due concern for the potential impact of their research on the health and well-being of present and future humanity, for the maintenance of public peace and safety, and for the preservation of the global environment.

2. Judgment and Conduct

Always mindful that the research enterprise depends for its autonomy on the trust and mandate of society, researchers should conduct their research with honesty and considered judgment. They should ensure that their research findings are rational, verifiable, accurate, and truthful.

3. Unremitting Study

Researchers should make every effort to maintain and develop their professional knowledge and skills. They should continually further their own study so that they will have a clear and current appreciation of how their research relates to society and to the global environment, and so that they will be able to exhibit the highest standards of critical judgment and professional conduct.

4. Research Integrity

Researchers must make it a principle to conduct themselves in a fair, reasonable and straightforward manner throughout the entire process of designing, planning, funding, implementing, and reporting

their research. Laws governing the handling of research data (its documentation, processing, use, disclosure, preservation, etc.) must be strictly complied with. Researchers must never engage in fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, or unfair practices of any other kind. Moreover, they must challenge any such misconduct they observe in others in the recognition that doing so is essential to their own integrity as researchers.

5. Publication and Accountability

Researchers have the responsibility to publish their research findings and to offer a public account of their meaning and importance. They must be dedicated to presenting an accurate, open, and objective evaluation of the potential impact of their research on human beings, on society, and on the environment, and continually remain aware of the need and responsibility to do so.

6. Potential for Misappropriation

The possibility may arise that, contrary to the researcher's intention, the results of research may be diverted into destructive uses that run counter to the well-being of humanity. Researchers should scrupulously take this possibility into account in designing, performing, and publicizing their research.

7. Attitude toward Criticism and Evaluation

Researchers should deal in a sincere and rational manner with pertinent criticism and evaluation of their work by the scientific community, and actively take part in systems for the mutual exchange of such criticism and evaluation.

8. Research Environment and Promotion of Research Integrity

Researchers should conscientiously strive to establish a research environment that encourages research integrity and prevents researcher misconduct. Each individual researcher should give constant attention to improving the research environment and, to discourage unfairness, should promote teaching and education that will foster research integrity.

9. Compliance with Laws and Regulations

Researchers should perform research, and expend internal and external funds, in full compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. In this regard, researchers should not take research integrity as an abstract virtue, but understand it as a concrete research practice.

10. Concern for Research Subjects

Researchers must conduct their research with meticulous regard for bioethical standards. In regard to human subjects, scrupulous attention must be paid to respecting subjects' individuality and human rights, and to the prudent handling of their personal information.

11. Concern for Safety and the Environment

Researchers must comply with all laws and ordinances, guidelines of government agencies and academic societies, and regulations of the Corporation, in dealing with substances potentially detrimental to the environment or to public safety, such as deadly poisons, radioisotopes, alien plant and animal species, and genetically modified organisms.

12. Prevention of Unfair Treatment and Harassment

Throughout the research process, researchers should avoid unfair treatment of any individual based on his/her race, ethnic group, gender, sexuality, social status, ideas, or beliefs, and show full respect for each person's personality and freedom. Researchers should make every effort to prevent harassment, whether deliberate or unintentional, and remain cognizant of the potential for harassment to occur owing to power relationships implicit in the research situation.

13. Conflicts of Interest

Researchers should carefully and appropriately deal with social and financial interests generated through their research, and avoid any conflict of interest or duty that might be subject to social disapprobation.

14. Scientific Advice

When requested to do so by organizations and companies outside the Corporation, researchers should attempt to provide rational and impartial scientific advice, with due attention to the potential social impact of the views they express, and with care not to abuse the position of authority in which their expertise places them. Inasmuch as scientific knowledge is subject to continual review and potential revision, if current scientific views on a particular matter are only tentative, or if there is disagreement among researchers, this fact should be explained when providing such external advice.

15. Responsibilities of Research Group Leaders

Research group leaders should assume responsibility for the appropriate treatment and maintenance of the group's research data and should attempt to establish a research environment that will bring out the best efforts of each individual member of the group. The leader should also see that each group member becomes familiar with the provisions of this Code and understands the importance of remaining in full compliance with the Code.

16. Obligatory Responsibility of Those Supporting Research

Those who are not themselves engaged in research but provide support for researchers and research activities at the Corporation should not act against the Code and should assume responsibility for creating a research environment conducive to research integrity and to the prevention of misconduct.

17. Obligatory Responsibilities of the Corporation

The Corporation shall take responsibility for instituting and overseeing the following activities in order that this Code may have its proper effect:

- 1) Designing and instituting an educational scheme, including a curriculum, that will foster ethical behavior among researchers
- 2) Designing and establishing a research environment conducive to research integrity and the prevention of misconduct
- 3) Providing support and administration necessary to ensure that research is conducted in compliance with applicable laws and regulations
- 4) Proper handling of research misconduct

Additional clause:

This code takes effect on March 27, 2015