

Code of Good Research Practice

Central to the broad principles that guide research activity at Macquarie University is the maintenance, at all times, of the highest ethical standards and practices, and validity and accuracy in the collection and reporting of all data associated with research projects.

As such, the University has formulated its own Code of Good Research Practice, on the basis of the AV-CC and NH&MRC Guidelines, with the intention of promoting good research practice, of encouraging integrity in research, and of providing workable guidelines for dealing with allegations or apparent instances of research misconduct within the University.

Code of Conduct for Responsible Research Practice

a) Retention of Data.

All original data generated in research projects undertaken by staff members should be retained in the Department/Centre in which it was generated for a period of at least five years. Where original data from such projects is not held in the Department/Centre, full information on the location of the relevant data or database should be maintained therein. Those individuals involved in the research should also hold copies for their own use. All data should be recorded in a durable and appropriately referenced form.

b) Authorship and Publication.

The university follows the requirements on authorship set out in the Code of Good Research Practice, defined in the Vancouver Protocol. A copy of this Protocol can be found on the University Website at:

<http://www.ro.mq.edu.au/policy/procedures/>

Where there is more than one author of a publication, one particular author (by agreement among the others) should accept overall responsibility for the entire publication. Such formal acceptance must be in the form of a written statement, and be kept on file in the Department/Centre of that author together with the names of all the other co-authors.

The minimum requirement for authorship of a publication should be participation in conceiving, executing or interpreting at least part of the research reported ("Honorary authorship" is unacceptable). Due recognition should also be given to the work of research students/ trainees, research assistants and technical officers.

Publication of multiple papers based on the same set(s) or sub-sets(s) of data is improper unless there is full cross-referencing.

c) Research Students and Postdoctoral Fellows

Research students and junior postdoctoral scholars should be provided with effective supervision from fully qualified research personnel. This includes advice and instruction in the matter of sound responsible practice in research, as well as advice and assistance in cases where the research requires approval by an Ethics Committee (eg. where human, animal subjects or potentially biohazardous materials are used).

d) Disclosure of Potential Conflict of Interest

Researchers must disclose any affiliation with, or financial involvement in, any organisation or entity with a direct interest in the subject matter, or in the provision of materials for the research.

University Procedures for Dealing with Misconduct in Research

'Misconduct in Research' or 'Scientific Misconduct' means fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, or other practices that seriously deviate from those commonly accepted within the academic or research community for proposing, conducting or reporting research.

Misconduct in Research includes:

- the fabrication of data: claiming results where none has been obtained;
- the falsification of data including changing records;
- plagiarism, including the direct copying of textual material, the use of other people's data without acknowledgment and the use of ideas from other people without adequate attribution;
- misleading ascription of authorship;
- misleading or inaccurate data provide in research grant applications
- human or animal experimentation departing from NH&MRC and University approved Ethical Guidelines (see Sections on Ethics Committees for further information);
- other practices that seriously deviate from those commonly accepted within the research community for proposing, conducting or reporting research;
- intentional infringement of the University's Code of Good Research Practices.

It does not include honest errors or honest differences in interpretation of data.

The Code of Conduct for the Responsible Practice of Research aims to ensure a research environment that minimises the incidence of misconduct in research. It is inevitable, however, that occasionally there will be some allegations of misconduct. Therefore it is essential that procedures for dealing with such allegations be in place.

The University has such procedures which are set out in detail in the University's current Enterprise Agreement (2003 - 2006), Clause 13.06. The relevant sections can be found on the Website at:

<http://www.pers.mq.edu.au/enterprise/ea0306/html/1306.html>

Allegations of misconduct in research will be received and appraised by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) to whom the Vice-Chancellor has formally delegated the responsibility.