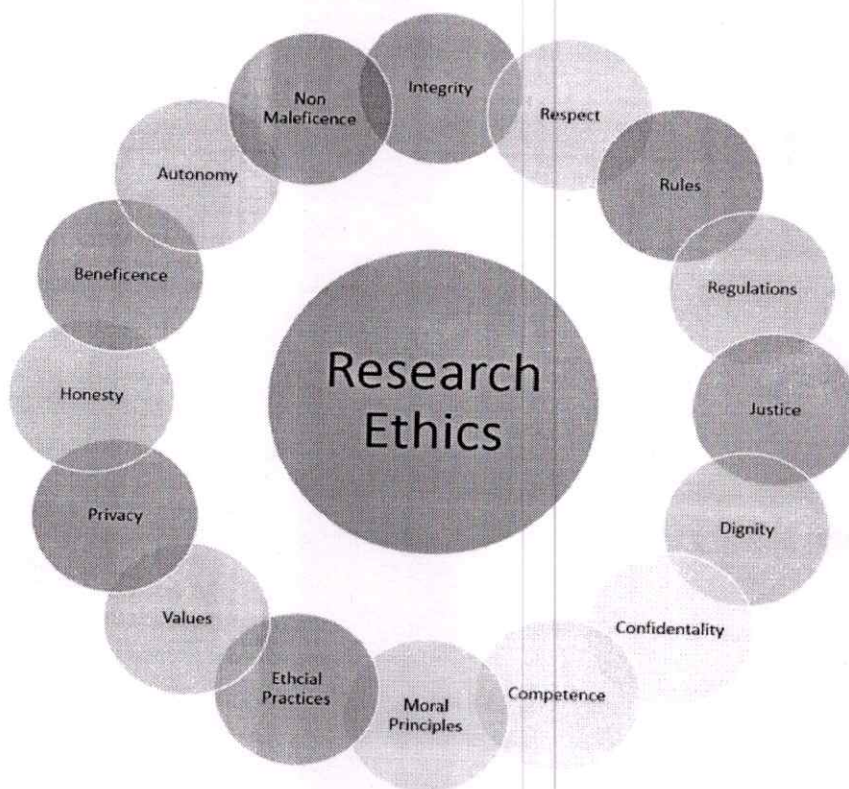


# CODE OF ETHICS IN ACADEMIC RESEARCH



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## PREAMBLE

The upholding of high ethical standards of responsibility, and accountability in the research it promotes and conducts is of the utmost importance to IIMT University.

Conflicts of interest and competing commitments may cause the IIMT University and its researchers to face ethical and occasionally legal moral dilemmas. As a result, a set of ethical guidelines has developed to serve as a framework for directing research practice.

A essential and desirable step in such a process is the establishment of appropriate research guidelines and the formulation of ethical standards. This document includes ethical rules and guidelines that IIMT University has developed and adopted.

## INTRODUCTION

The term "research ethics" as a concept refers to a complicated combination of principles, norms, and institutional frameworks that help define and control research activities. In a vacuum, ethics cannot exist. In a social setting, ethics exist. All scientific endeavours, including those of social scientists, include humans or have some impact on them, on larger societal groups, or on the environment. Thus, it is crucial for scientists and researchers to comprehend ethical concerns as well as the repercussions of their scientific activity and to act accordingly. A variety of ethical standards, which may be universal or particular to a culture or region, are used by scientists and researchers to help them make moral decisions.

The importance of ethical concerns has risen recently within the research community across the globe. The ongoing conversations about ethical problems within the research community emphasize the need for specific attention to ethical conflicts and dilemmas considering the formative, creative, and interpretative nature of research. In many situations, agreement from persons who actively participate in a study endeavour will also be legally required; this is another crucial ethical factor. Researchers may face penalties and other sanctions if they don't follow the rules laid established by the legislation. However, it is crucial to emphasize that the

  
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penalties are imposed because researchers disobey the law, not because their actions conflict with the guidelines for research ethics.

The IIMTU demands that the research it sponsors be conducted to a high ethical level in order to facilitate innovative and high-quality research. IIMTU Research Ethical Committee is established in recognition that research and development do not take place in a vacuum but rather interact with pre-existing norms and values in our society. The university's Research Ethical Committee plays a significant part in promoting ethical research by contributing their knowledge. The main goal of the ethical approval is to protect all parties participating in the research, including participants, schools, sponsors, and researchers, for as long as possible, as well as during the dissemination process.

The IIMTU emphasizes that research needs to be original and comprehensive in order to focus on the parameters of quality. The university has developed a Code of Ethics applicable to research in order to promote quality and necessary standards in academic research and to create a culture of integrity in the same. This code is also applicable to students in those schools where some kind of project work, presentation, or dissertation is required. Every constituent organization, institution, and department has a Research Advisory Committee that is in charge of monitoring all research-related aspects of that institution, college, or department.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The following objectives guided the creation of the ethical principles and standards for research presented in this document:

- 1) To raise awareness of and provide protection for researchers who frequently come under pressure from a variety of sources/forces while conducting research.
- 2) To protect and promote the independence of research by upholding moral principles, professional ethics, and ethical self-regulation.
- 3) To defend and develop participants' human rights and to educate, inspire, and motivate organisations and researchers to do the same.


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- 4) To raise the excellence, reliability, and credibility of the research in the internal security.
- 5) To incorporate ethics into the design and methodology of research and to give individuals and organizations the resources they need to create effective systems for ethical self-regulation.
- 6) To overseeing research involving human clinical samples and data.
- 6) To observe the research involving human participants, animals, hazardous chemicals, radiations and bio-contaminants.

### **APPARENT ETHICAL VIOLATIONS**

1. Plagiarism is defined as the following: (a) Unacknowledged copying of, or nearly identical copying of, individual elements from other papers; (b) Unacknowledged paraphrasing of content from other papers; and (c) Acknowledged copying of, or nearly identical copying of, a manuscript without proper citations or indentation; this should be considered research malpractice.
2. Any deliberate manipulation, misrepresentation, or distortion of data for the purpose of obtaining desired conclusions will be regarded as unethical conduct.
3. The original authors must be properly cited in the research paper. Neglecting this requirement will be regarded as unethical conduct.
4. Duplicate submission shall be considered an act of research misconduct
5. It is considered misrepresentation to submit research articles to several publishers without receiving consent from all parties involved and without citing older versions of previously scientific literature.
6. Students and faculty who have included these unethical behaviours in their research will be required to rewrite their research papers, assignments, and presentations until the acceptable limit is reached. Only then will their work be accepted or approved for submission to the relevant agencies.

### **ETHICAL GUIDELINES**

  
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Researchers should fully understand the ethical concerns associated with their research and maintain the ethical standards. The main investigators are in responsible of all proposal protocols and moral dilemmas. Research should be carried out in a way that preserves the

integrity of the research enterprise and avoids undesirable consequences that could limit the possibility for future research.

**BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH ON HUMAN PARTICIPANTS:** The first worldwide declaration on the morality of medical research involving human subjects was the Nuremberg Code, which was developed in 1947. Throughout the years, a number of national and international advisory groups have updated and established guidelines for human subject's scientific research. For the purpose of improving scientific knowledge and development of drugs, vaccines, diagnostic tools, equipment, and materials that can improve human health, clinical research is necessary. People that volunteer to take part in biological research should be acknowledged. Ethical regulations have been developed to safeguard the interests of those participating in research in biomedical fields. The Indian government's Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) establishes moral standards for biomedical research involving human subjects in India. The following guidelines apply to research involving human subjects: necessity of the investigation, voluntariness, informed consent, non-exploitation, confidentiality, accountability, and transparency. The guidelines are available at:

[https://ethics.ncdirindia.org//asset/pdf/ICMR\\_CHIS\\_Policy\\_Document.pdf](https://ethics.ncdirindia.org//asset/pdf/ICMR_CHIS_Policy_Document.pdf)

**USING ANIMALS IN RESEARCH:** The Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision on Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA) in India has established protocols to ensure proper care and high-quality maintenance of laboratory animals' throughout scientific research. These recommendations also specify how experimental animals should be gathered, kept in quarantine, and reared. An Animal Ethics Committee at the IIMTU will review and approve any research proposals involving small experimental animals. The guidelines are available at: [Home :Committee for the Purpose of Control And Supervision of Experiments on Animals \(ccsea.gov.in\)](http://Home :Committee for the Purpose of Control And Supervision of Experiments on Animals (ccsea.gov.in))

**WORKING ON CHEMICALS:** The Indian Government's Bureau of Indian Standards suggests a code of safety for all chemical laboratories in the country. It includes instructions on how to identify possible chemical hazards and quickly minimize mishaps by implementing

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corrective measures. It is expected of all IIMTU researchers to abide by the requirements, particularly when handling dangerous materials. Details can be found at-

<https://images10.newegg.com/UploadFilesForNewegg/itemintelligence/Pacon/is.4209.19871453376681588.pdf>

**RADIATION SAFETY:** The Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India, has established rules that are applicable to procedures followed and measures taken when handling radiation sources in Indian laboratories. They guarantee that neither the environment nor the health of researchers are endangered by ionizing radiation or nuclear energy. Monitoring closely aids in guaranteeing adherence to these recommendations, which state that exposure to all ionizing radiation sources should be "as low as reasonably achievable."

<https://www.aerb.gov.in/index.php/english/regulatory-facilities/radiation-facilities/application-in-medicine/nuclear-medicine1>

**BIO-CONTAMINANT AND RECOMBINANT DNA TECHNOLOGY:** The most widely used technique for introducing genes or similar material into microorganisms, plants, and animals is recombinant DNA technology. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has provided guidelines for this field of study. The information is available at:

<https://www.ibkp.dbtindia.gov.in/Content/Committee?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>

## **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RESEARCH**

1. Researchers must follow the criteria of research ethics, which include honesty, objectivity, and a commitment to acknowledge their own fallibility. Institutions have a duty to protect researchers' autonomy and should maintain an atmosphere with sufficient support mechanisms to allow researchers to adhere to ethical standards.
2. It is mandatory for faculty members and students to have their research works checked for plagiarism by the Research Ethical Committee before submitting their research proposals and project reports to the UGC and other funding organisations. They won't submit their documents to the agencies before that. 15% will be the upper plagiarism threshold for faculty members.
3. Every research scholar of IIMTU, pursuing a degree is required to evaluate their final thesis report for plagiarism before submitting it. The highest limit of plagiarism that students may submit is 15%.

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4. Faculty and students are expected to follow the instructions about online plagiarism checking software/guidelines that are regularly offered to them.
5. It is anticipated that even before presenting their material to the Research Ethical Committee, faculty members and students will independently examine it for plagiarism and only the plagiarism report given by the IIMTU will be accepted. Report brought from outside the university will not be valid.
6. The distributive justice principle states that human subjects should be chosen honestly, without discrimination on the basis of religion, age, language, status, gender, capability, territory, or other factors. This also suggests that the costs and rewards of population research are distributed fairly.
7. The volunteers must receive a sufficient briefing regarding the project's specifics before they consent to take part in the research. Both verbally and in writing, the briefing should be delivered in a manner and language that the participants are familiar with. It is the responsibility of researchers to make sure that participants understand the material better.
8. When doing research on minors (under the age of fourteen), informed consent should be obtained from both the children's parents or guardians and the children themselves.
9. The principle of non-exploitation states that no human subject shall be used during a research procedure in an abusive, harmful, or disadvantageous manner or to achieve the goals of research investigators.
10. Due to the involvement of human participants in the research project, the Principle of Provision for Maximal Safety assures that pre-calculating risk/benefit ratios (if any) are ensured.
11. The foundation of the principle of professional competence is the knowledge that each given research investigation is only undertaken after a peer review and a careful examination of the available research and previous studies.
12. All individuals and organisations involved in research should make sufficient efforts to make information about the study done, as well as the relevant results and implications of accomplished research, public in the proper manner, form, and at the proper time.

  
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13. Personal information that can be recognized and also gathered for one study project cannot automatically be used for another. Such information may not be utilised for business or administrative processes.
14. When conducting study on the deceased people or obtaining human tissue samples from such people, caution must be taken.
15. Researchers must respect the legal justifications that private companies, special interest groups, etc. may have for not wanting information about themselves, their members, or their plans to be published.
16. Supervisors must act in the best interests of their subordinates and refrain from exploiting their trust. This remains true for both personal and professional outcomes.
17. Researchers and principal investigators are accountable for safeguarding against misrepresentation of research findings. Limiting research in order to obtain particularly desired outcomes or purposefully skewing research results are unethical.
18. Care should be taken not to invade the "private space" of the subject or to interfere with the relationship between the subject and proxy when a proxy is used to answer questions on behalf of a subject, for example when access to the subject is uneconomic or because the subject is too ill or too young to participate directly.
19. Juniors, assistants, students, and trainees have a right to competent training and guidance on all facets of research, including ethical conduct, and principal researchers have a duty to give and impart that training.
20. When publishing the research in any form, the following rules for authorship attribution should be followed: Authorship should be determined by the degree of contribution made in terms of ideas, conceptualization, actual performance of the research, analysis, and writing of the report or any publication based on the research. This also applies to how the authors are listed in the case of many authors. All additional people who did not meet the requirements for authorship but whose assistance made it possible to conduct the study or finish the publication should be properly acknowledged.
21. Funders and sponsors have the right to obtain a copy of the ethical guidelines and the researchers and university must update the status of their work and produce a copy of the final report on the results of research according to the predefined plan.

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22. Faculty and students will be solely responsible for any falsified information and the university could ask for proof at any time against the data fed by the faculty and students.
23. For the protection of the participants' rights and welfare, all proposals of biomedical research involving human subjects must be approved by Research Ethical Committee.
24. The Committee offers recommendations and information on topics of bioethical significance.
25. Its responsibilities also include reviewing bioethical guidelines for requests made by university's teachers, researchers, as well as requests made by students for research projects.

NOTE: - Although all the points have been included and discussed in the guidelines, if any point is not covered, it will be subject to ethical committee jurisdiction and its decision will be the final.

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