

## *Research Integrity Policy*

### Purpose and Scope

The highest standard of integrity is expected in research conducted at Murdoch University. As such, research conduct should be infused with personal accountability rather than mere compliance with minimum standards.

This *Research Integrity Policy* replaces the *Responsible Conduct of Research Policy* and *Research Misconduct Policy*. It promotes the principles of research integrity in the revised *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research 2018* (the Code).

In conjunction with this policy, researchers must also refer to other relevant policies, procedures and external requirements as listed in this policy.

Murdoch University researchers are held accountable for their research conduct. Researchers should seek advice from a Research Integrity Advisor if uncertain about an aspect of research conduct.

Eligibility for ARC and NHMRC grants requires compliance with this policy.

This policy applies to staff and research students undertaking research under the auspices of Murdoch University.

#### Objectives

- To ensure all research conducted under the auspices of Murdoch University is undertaken with integrity.

### Policy

1. In this policy, the following words have the following meanings:
  - 1.1. “Breach” means research conduct that does not meet the principles and responsibilities of the Code and/or Murdoch University’s research policies and procedures. It may refer to a single breach or multiple breaches in research conduct. Examples are attached to this policy (see Attachment 1).
  - 1.2. “Conflict of interest” is as defined in the [Conflict of Interest Policy](#).
  - 1.3. “Peer review” is the impartial and independent assessment of research by others working in the same or related field. It may include the assessment of grant applications, selection of material for publication, and review of performance of researchers and teams.

- 1.4. "Research misconduct" is a possible outcome of an Investigation conducted under this policy and its accompanying procedure.
- 1.5. "Respondent" is a researcher subject to an allegation of a research integrity breach.

### **Responsibilities of the University**

2. Murdoch University, through the DVCRI, provides a framework that supports and encourages a culture of research integrity by:
  - 2.1. ensuring research is conducted according to appropriate ethical, legal and professional frameworks, obligations and standards, including compliance with the Code, through good governance;
  - 2.2. ensuring its governance supports standards of best practice and systems to promote research integrity;
  - 2.3. providing ongoing training and education on responsible research conduct for all researchers and those in other relevant roles;
  - 2.4. ensuring research supervisors have the appropriate skills, qualifications and resources for effective supervision;
  - 2.5. ensuring those involved in the management and investigation of research integrity have the requisite skills and expertise, and are appropriately resourced;
  - 2.6. facilitating the prevention and detection of potential research integrity breaches, providing robust and transparent processes to investigate alleged breaches, and addressing any systemic issues identified;
  - 2.7. facilitating proper resources to ensure responsible management of research data; and
  - 2.8. ensuring the responsible dissemination of research outputs.
3. The DVCRI appoints Research Integrity Advisors (RIAs) who are experienced senior researchers with knowledge of research governance, including the Code, and institutional processes to:
  - 3.1. promote and foster responsible research conduct;
  - 3.2. provide advice on responsible research conduct; and
  - 3.3. provide advice to those with concerns about research integrity.
4. RIAs must declare any conflict of interest and may act as a witness or provide testimony but they do not:
  - 4.1. assess or investigate any research integrity allegation;
  - 4.2. contact the Respondent to a research integrity allegation;
  - 4.3. get involved in any subsequent assessment or investigation unless requested to by the investigators; or
  - 4.4. provide advice on a case if they have a conflict of interest.
5. The PVCRI ensures that:
  - 5.1. RIAs have ongoing training to maintain their skills and knowledge base;
  - 5.2. consistent research integrity processes are developed and managed;

- 5.3. there is a robust mechanism for receiving and managing research integrity allegations; and
- 5.4. the conduct of preliminary assessments and investigations of research integrity allegations is supported.
- 6. Colleges, research institutes and centres are responsible for the effective mentoring and supervision of researchers including:
  - 6.1. providing advice on research ethics, research design and methods, responsible conduct of research, and encouraging a culture of research integrity;
  - 6.2. providing training on research integrity to staff, especially those new to supervisory roles, and all research students, preferably before the recruitment of human participants and use of animals in research; and
  - 6.3. ensuring that all research students are mentored and supervised according to the highest standards of integrity.

### **Responsibilities of Researchers**

- 7. Researchers must support a culture of responsible research conduct at Murdoch University and in their discipline, in accordance with this policy.
- 8. Researchers must undertake education and training in research integrity and promote responsible research conduct.
- 9. Researchers must provide guidance and mentorship on responsible research conduct to others under their supervision and, where appropriate, monitor their conduct.
- 10. Researchers should seek advice from RIAs, as necessary, on:
  - 10.1. research integrity matters;
  - 10.2. an appropriate course of action in relation to research integrity; and/or
  - 10.3. the provisions of this policy.
- 11. Researchers must comply with Murdoch University policies and legislative requirements, funding body agreements and/or contracts, collaborative research agreements, and research approvals or permits that apply to all aspects of their research.
- 12. Researchers should participate responsibly in peer review in their area of expertise.
- 13. Researchers must acknowledge all relevant parties including collaborating institutions and sponsors in all research outputs.
- 14. Researchers must accurately cite research activity such as publications, funding and awards in curriculum vitae, grant applications, job applications or public statements.

## Research Integrity Allegations

15. The PVCRI ensures that research integrity allegations are assessed, investigated where necessary, and addressed.
16. Anyone with a concern about research integrity at Murdoch University must act, in accordance with the Research Integrity Procedure.
17. All records of proceedings relating to research integrity allegations must be maintained in accordance with Murdoch University's [Recordkeeping Policy](#).

## Roles and Responsibilities

Different levels of University staff have different levels of responsibility in relation to this policy as outlined below:

- The Deputy Vice Chancellor Research & Innovation (DVCRI) is responsible for standards of integrity in research conducted under the auspices of Murdoch University, and for fostering a responsible research culture.
- All individuals identified in the scope of this policy are responsible for ensuring the highest standards of integrity in their research conduct and full compliance with this policy and the Code.
- Research Integrity Advisors (RIAs) have responsibilities, as outlined in this policy.

### Non-Compliance:

- Non-compliance with this policy is a breach of expected research conduct and will be managed as outlined in the Research Integrity Procedure and/or referred as necessary.

## Governance

<b>Approval Authority</b>	Academic Council
<b>Owner</b>	President Academic Council
<b>Legislation mandating compliance</b>	<a href="#">Animal Welfare Act 2002 (WA)</a> <a href="#">Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research 2018</a> <a href="#">Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes 2013</a> <a href="#">Australian Research Council Research Integrity Policy 2019</a> <a href="#">Ethical conduct in research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and communities: Guidelines for researchers and stakeholders 2018</a> <a href="#">National Health and Medical Research Council Act 1992</a> <a href="#">National Health and Medical Research Council Research Integrity and Misconduct Policy 2019</a>

	<i>National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research 2007 (updated 2018)</i> <i>Occupational Health and Safety Act 1984 (WA)</i>
<b>Category</b>	Primarily academic
<b>Related University Legislation and Policy Documents</b>	<a href="#">Animal Ethics Policy</a> <a href="#">Authorship Attribution Policy</a> <a href="#">Budgeting for Research Projects Guidelines (302)</a> <a href="#">Conflict of Interest Policy</a> <a href="#">Conscientious Objection Procedure</a> <a href="#">Graduate Research Degrees Regulations</a> <a href="#">Graduate Research Degrees Procedure</a> <a href="#">Honorary Titles and Appointments Policy</a> <a href="#">Honours Policy</a> <a href="#">Human Biospecimens and Biobanks Policy</a> <a href="#">Human Research Ethics Policy</a> <a href="#">Intellectual Property Regulations</a> <a href="#">Recordkeeping Policy</a> <a href="#">Research Integrity Procedure</a> <a href="#">Research Studies Program Policy</a> <a href="#">Health and Safety Policy</a>
<b>Date effective</b>	08/08/2023
<b>Review date</b>	21/10/2023

## Revision History

Approved/Amended	Date Approved	Resolution No. (if applicable)
Administrative Amendment	08/05/2024	
Administrative Amendment	08/08/2023	
Approved	21/10/2020	S/34/2020(i)
Recommended for approval	07/10/2020	AC/92/2020(i)

# Attachments

## Attachment 1

Examples of research integrity breaches include, but are not limited to, the following:

**i. Not meeting required research standards**

- Conducting research without ethics approval as required by the [National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research](#) and the [Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes](#).
- Failing to conduct research as approved by an appropriate ethics review body.
- Conducting research without all requisite approvals, permits or licences.
- Misuse of research funds.
- Deviating from this policy and/or the Code through gross or persistent negligence.
- Concealment or facilitation of breaches (or potential breaches) of the Code and/or this policy by others.

**ii. Fabrication, falsification, misrepresentation**

- Fabrication of research data or source material.
- Falsification of the research data or source material.
- Misrepresentation of research data or source material.
- Falsification and/or misrepresentation to obtain funding.

**iii. Plagiarism**

- Plagiarism of someone else's work, including theories, concepts, research data and source material.
- Duplicate publication (also known as redundant or multiple publication, or self-plagiarism) without acknowledgement of the source.

**iv. Research data management**

- Failure to appropriately maintain research records.
- Inappropriate destruction of research records, research data and/or source material.
- Inappropriate disclosure of, or access to, research records, research data and/or source material.

**v. Supervision**

- Failure to provide adequate guidance or mentorship on responsible research conduct to researchers or research trainees under their supervision.

**vi. Authorship**

- Failure to acknowledge the contributions of others fairly.
- Misleading ascription of authorship including failing to offer authorship to those who qualify or awarding authorship to those who do not meet the requirements.

**vii. Conflicts of interest**

- Failure to disclose and manage conflicts of interest.

**viii. Peer review**

Failure to conduct peer review responsibly

*Please refer to the electronic copy in the Policy and Procedure Manager to ensure you are referring to the latest version.*