



25. RESEARCH ETHICS POLICY

Introduction

Ethics in research is very important as adhering to certain norms promotes the aims inherent in research. The Research Ethics Policy provides broad guidelines for individual behaviour in matters of research conduct:

Objective

- 1. Ensure all research in the college follows universally approved protocols of ethics and laws of the land
- 2. To provide guidelines to ensure that collaborative work can be carried out without conflict of interests.
- 3. To safeguard the rights of animals, humans or communities' if part of research.
- 4. To outline the role expected from mentors (guides) and mentees (scholars)

Regulatory Body

All matters of Ethics in Research are managed by the College Research Ethics committee which will hereafter be known as the Research Ethics and Academic Integrity Panel (RE-AIP).

- The RE-AIP consists of the following permanent members
 1. The Principal
 2. The Dean of Research
 3. The IQAC coordinator
 4. The Dean of Sciences
 5. The Dean of Languages and Social Sciences
 6. The Joint Coordinator of the Research Council
 7. The Librarian
- In case of a hearing regarding ethical misconduct from any faculty a Department Staff Representative will be present for the proceedings to ensure that institutional victimization does not happen.
- In case of a hearing regarding ethical misconduct from any scholar a Department Scholar Representative will be present for the proceedings to ensure that institutional victimization does not happen.

Role expected from mentors

- Constantly update knowledge
- Be open-minded and supportive
- Facilitate research activities
- Be firm but fair
- Assign clear roles for Mentees without ambiguity
- Lead by example
- Avoid burdening mentees with personal work



Role expected from scholars

- Sincerity and Dedication
- Honesty and Transparency
- Rigour
- Respect to co-workers and mentors
- Responsibility and Legality

All researchers are expected to be aware of and respect the laws of the land regarding

1. IPR (patents, trademarks, copyrights, plagiarism) and publication
 2. Testing on animals
 3. Testing or Information collection from human beings
 4. Privacy and Confidentiality
 5. Transfer and Handling of Bioresources and/or hazardous material
- Ignorance of these laws cannot be cited as an excuse and therefore all researchers are expected to be aware of the latest status of all research ethics related laws relevant to their research.

Norms of Publications and Collaborations

- All publications should confirm to discipline-specific good practices:
 - The authors must be able to identify their contribution to a research output (article/patent/book/product).
 - The authors should accept personal responsibility for their research outputs
 - Contributions of collaborators should be properly acknowledged with their permission
 - Honorary authorships are strongly discouraged.

Misconduct in research

- The following practices are deemed misconduct in research and those practising these will be subject to disciplinary action
 1. Piracy
 2. Abuse of Intellectual Property Rights
 3. Abuse of Research Resources
 4. Substance Abuse
 5. Defamation/ Harassment/ Bullying
 6. Impersonation and/or Fraud
 7. Sabotage
 8. Denying access to resources/information
 9. Wrongly claiming/appropriating others achievements as own

Sanctions in Research

- Based on the level of misconduct, the ethics committee may suggest the following:
 1. Written Warning
 2. Loss of privileges
 3. Fines



4. Compensation for loss
5. Public Apology in addition to any of the above
6. Suspension
7. Dismissal (Only in the most serious cases and after repeated warnings following due procedures laid down by university)
8. Punitive measures for plagiarism will be as prescribed by the Plagiarism Policy of the College and University of Calicut.

Implementation of the Policy

- The Research Ethics and Academic Integrity Panel is expected to revise and update the above guidelines to ensure that ethical research is carried out in the institution. Any report of ethical report is first examined by the RE AIP before suggesting sanctions to the Dean of Research and Principal.