

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF PUNJAB

Policy for Research Ethics

Preamble

The university is committed to promote ethical research, scientific temper and trust. Research ethics implies ingraining ethical values among the researchers in conducting and reporting the research. Taking into consideration the diversity of research projects, the principles and guidelines stipulated in this policy are meant for researchers to equip with self-correcting and self-regulatory ethical obligations while carrying out research in their respective fields. The policy shall be a guiding document for researchers. The researchers are expected to follow the ethical values, policies and samples/ing protocols developed by professional/regulatory bodies from time to time in their respective areas of research. The researchers may also tailor their specific protocols keeping in view the ethical issues, specified objectives and methodology of the research. The policy hereby specifies concerns and responsibilities of the researcher towards their fellow researchers, institution/s, subjects and public at large.

A research ethics statement or protocol is an essential part of every proposal for research involving human, plants and animal subjects, and must be submitted to the University Ethics Committees for review and approval.

Responsibilities of Researcher

The credibility of the scientific enterprise with the research community and the public depends on the maintenance of significant ethical standards in carrying out the research. This includes general principles regarding ownership, authorship, sharing of data and results, acknowledgements, citation, and avoiding misconduct.

Sharing of Research Results

Every investigator shall publish/patent and share research findings. The publication/patenting of research results is a means to show case the findings at the global level and strengthening the quality of research outputs. However, the following points have to be taken into consideration:

The researchers working with human subjects bear an ethical obligation to keep in mind the potential impact of the publication, or dissemination of their results involved indirectly or directly. The researchers involving human subjects have an ethical commitment to protect confidentiality and anonymity of the research participants. The researchers shall share the findings with those who contribute to data set.

Research Misconduct

Research misconduct includes falsification and fabrication of data, misrepresentation, plagiarism and intellectual theft. It is also unethical to communicate the findings of an accepted manuscript to the media before its publication.

Authorship

If the work is carried out by more than one investigator, the contribution of each author shall be mentioned at various stages of research such as conceptualization, methodology, software, validation, formal analysis, investigation, resources, data curation, writing, review, editing, visualization, supervision, administration and funding. Co-authors shall be named in oral presentations also specifically when abstracts or proceedings of a conference are published. Those who have contributed in the manner other than specified above may be acknowledged.

Due credit and plagiarism: The authors shall cite or give credit to published or unpublished work as well as material on a website. The plagiarism shall be checked very precisely using different softwares before submitting a manuscript for publication. The same check for plagiarism shall be followed for student submissions for dissertations/doctoral thesis (Annexure). The University is also offering a course on Research Ethics as prescribed by UGC under its Regulations on Academic Integrity in Higher Educational Institutions, 2018.

Maintaining Records: The accurate documentation of observed facts must be maintained. Every researcher is also bound to maintain complete record of the acquired or generated data.

Ethics Protocol Clearance

All the research proposals prepared for submission to funding agencies or to the University for Ph.D. registration including experiments on human and/or animal subjects must include an ethics statement after taking ethical clearance from Institutional Ethics Committee/ Biosafety committee. The ethics protocol must refer to the methods to be followed including the information as to how the written informed consent will be obtained.