CODE OF RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH CONDUCT

Section	Research Management
Contact	Office of the Provost
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Purpose

Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa Massey University requires that all research undertaken in its name is conducted with integrity. Research integrity is fundamental to the quality, credibility and trustworthiness of research, and to the University's responsibilities to its staff, students, research participants, communities, partners and wider society.

The Code of Responsible Research Conduct establishes the standards of responsible research behaviour expected of all Massey researchers. It provides a shared framework for understanding, promoting, and upholding research integrity, and for ensuring that research is conducted ethically, rigorously and transparently across all disciplines.

The Code exists to:

- Articulate clear expectations for responsible research conduct and the principles that underpin it.
- Support researchers and the University to prevent, identify, and address poor research practice, breaches of research conduct, and research misconduct.
- Ensure that concerns about research conduct are managed consistently, fairly, and proportionately, in accordance with the principles of research integrity.

Policy

Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa Massey University has responsibility for ensuring its researchers are able to undertake research upholding the principles of honesty, trustworthiness, accountability, clarity and transparency.

The University is responsible for:

- Providing research integrity information, guidance, training and advice for staff, students, and supervisors.
- Providing clear policies and procedures for researchers to obtain necessary guidance and ethics or other regulatory approvals where required.
- Providing supervisory guidance and support for research students to ensure their researcher knowledge and skills development enables research integrity, including awareness and application of relevant policies and guidance related to research, publication and authorship practices.
- Maintaining principles and practices to enable the approval and functioning of the University's institutional human ethics committees according to the requirements of the Health Research Council and National Ethics Advisory Committee.
- Maintaining principles and practices aligned with the Animal Welfare Act (1999), the Openness Agreement on Animal Research and Teaching in New Zealand and Massey's Code of Ethical Conduct for the Use of Animals for Research, Testing and Teaching.
- Supporting the responsible and timely dissemination of research, including student theses and other research publications and, where necessary, taking prompt action to correct or remove any research output from accessible locations where its integrity is questioned and found to be deficient.
- Supporting the Government's commitment of Open Access publication, including Massey Research Online, and suitably acknowledging funding and other significant support provided to the research.

- Providing mechanisms for receiving, investigating, and resolving concerns or complaints about potential breaches of this Policy.
- Providing mechanisms and protecting those who disclose concerns or allegation of research misconduct.
- Where an investigation is necessary to act on a complaint about research integrity, Massey University will initiate such an investigation if it is the publication or hosting site, or assist external hosting entities with any such investigation that they undertake.
- Where unethical research is determined to have occurred, assist research output publication or hosting sites to suitably manage those instances including assisting to ensure that retractions or other management mechanisms are clear, accurate and justified.
- Report any instances where an investigation concludes an ethics breach has occurred, as may be required, and ensure any necessary changes to the University's policies or practices to minimise or prevent future instances of unethical research.

When undertaking research, Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa Massey University researchers are expected to uphold the principles of research integrity through their responsibilities as researchers. The following principles apply whether undertaking research within, or beyond, Massey University, as a staff member or student of the University.

Research Integrity Principle 1: Honesty

Researchers at Massey University will engage in all aspects of research with honesty by being responsible for:

- Demonstrating intellectual and moral honesty in planning, undertaking, reviewing, reporting, and communicating research.
- Ensuring honesty in proposals, methods, data, analyses, reporting and interpretation.
- Undertaking all aspects of research in a transparent, fair, full and unbiased way.
- Assessing and managing risks associated with the conduct of research.
- Providing fair, prompt and rigorous evaluations of peer review publications and presentations, while keeping peer review comments confidential.
- Communicating research openly, honestly, and respectfully to all relevant audiences, including the public.
- Adhering to University policies and guidance pertaining to the use of artificial intelligence (including Generative Artificial Intelligence) in any part of the research, including generating research data, and disclosing the use of such tools in research outputs and funding applications.
- Ensuring research that is undertaken with other organisations accords with their research integrity requirements, whilst ensuring Massey University's principles are not compromised.
- Ensuring all research subject to an ethics approval conforms with that approval.

Research Integrity Principle 2: Trustworthiness

Researchers at Massey University will produce research that is trustworthy and reliable by being responsible for:

- Ensuring credibility, authenticity, dependability and confirmability of the research through transparent and well-considered research design, appropriate research methods for the aims and conclusions supported by results.
- Performing research meticulously, carefully, and with attention to detail.
- Valuing and respecting the diversity, heritage, knowledge, language and cultural property of mana whenua, tangata whenua, iwi, hapū or other communities, including Pacific peoples and those with disabilities.
- Maintaining full and accurate records of research activities to enable transparency and reproducibility in research outputs, including of data, metadata, protocols, code, software and other research data and primary materials.
- Ensuring justifiable claims about the potential applications of research results.
- Avoiding any form of fabrication, falsification or manipulation of data, including selective reporting, misrepresentation of data, image manipulation, inadequate reporting and plagiarism.
- Providing supervisory guidance and support to students and their research projects, including research data management, research record keeping, and supporting students to undertake appropriate learning and development where required.

Research Integrity Principle 3: Accountability

Researchers at Massey University will be accountable for the development, undertaking and reporting of research by being responsible for:

- Attaining familiarity and complying with all relevant legislation, contractual obligations, and University codes, policies, guidelines and procedures. Specifically, researchers should check those requirements and seek appropriate advice to ensure accountability.
- Ensuring research involving human and animal participants is undertaken with University approval processes, including those of the ethics committee(s), and ensuring the conditions of such approvals are adhered to during and after the research is completed.
- Committing to uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi's provisions and associated principles of data sovereignty and research practice.
- Engaging with research participants, communities and collaborators in accordance with applicable University policies and procedures, including those relating to privacy and ethics.
- Ensuring good stewardship of public resources used to conduct research.
- Ensuring proper and conscientious use of research funds in accordance with funder and University requirements.
- Fulfilling any contractual obligations associated with their research, including diligently submitting timely reports as required by funders or the University.
- Ensuring the appropriate use and storage of research data in accordance with University policies and procedures, including ethical requirements.
- Disclosing financial and other conflicts of interest or commitment, including in relation to funders and sponsors.
- Implementing active risk identification and mitigation measures relevant to the research.
- Considering and implementing suitable management mechanisms to respond to consequences and outcomes of research prior to its dissemination.
- Responding to, investigating and appropriately managing any allegations of research practices not, or potentially not, complying with the standards expressed in this Code.
- Reporting instances where the integrity of their research is the subject of a complaint to a journal or other research output hosting site, or social media, to their Head of Unit as soon as practicable.
- Responding constructively and with integrity to any journal or other research output hosting sites to assist them investigate any complaint of unethical research and to implement any findings, including retraction or review of research outputs where appropriate.
- Participating as requested by Massey University in any internal or external research reviews.
- Undertaking relevant, ongoing learning and development to obtain and maintain knowledge, skills and competencies as a researcher.

Research Integrity Principle 4: Clarity and transparency

Researchers at Massey University will communicate research processes, results and conclusions in ways that are respectful, explainable and accessible by being responsible for:

- Communicating results fairly and fully, including positive and null research findings with openness, honesty and accuracy in ways that facilitate verification and replication.
- Communicating assumptions and limitations influencing research and the robustness of evidence.
- Recognising the authorship of researchers who made a significant intellectual or scholarly contribution to a research output.
- Acknowledging the work of those who do not meet the criteria for authorship, but made contributions to the research.
- Ensuring proper identification of, and credit to, the original work and ideas of others.
- Acknowledging research funding as per funder requirements.
- Acknowledging affiliation with the University in research outputs.

Non-Compliant Research Conduct

Despite the best intentions of researchers and in an environment supporting research integrity, allegations of non-compliant research conduct may occasionally occur. Massey will respond to allegations promptly, in accordance with this Code and the Procedures for Managing Responsible Research Conduct that outline the process to be followed in respect of allegations of non-compliant research conduct.

Massey recognises three categories of research conduct which are not compliant with the standards expected of Massey researchers: Poor Research Practice; Minor Breach of Research Conduct; and Research Misconduct.

a) Poor Research Practice

Poor Research Practice involves inadvertent and minor deviations from appropriate research integrity practice or convention, and may generally include inferior research practices, such as poor data management, carelessness in observation and analysis, or poorly conceived research procedures.

b) Minor Breach of Research Integrity

A Minor Breach of Research Integrity is an inconsequential or insignificant, often unintentional, deviation from the principles of research integrity and may include (but not be limited to):

- Unintentional errors.
- Addition of non-contributing individuals as authors on publications.
- Minor adjustment or selectivity of data, where not appropriate to the discipline.
- Adaptation of a figure without acknowledgement of the original.

c) Research Misconduct

Research Misconduct is wilful deviation from the principles of research integrity and includes:

- Deliberate fabrication and/or falsification of research results.
- Destruction of key research records or research data in a way that does not comply with applicable regulation, particularly where the research has been publicly disseminated.
- Deliberate plagiarism.
- Submitting research as the researcher's own work, where the work has been done in whole or in part by someone other than the researcher or which has been created artificially, for example by a machine or through Generative Artificial Intelligence.
- Intentional omission of contributors as authors.
- Deception in proposing, carrying out or reporting the results of research.
- Failure to declare or manage a serious conflict of interest.
- Failure to follow research protocols as approved by a research ethics committee, particularly where this failure may result in unreasonable risk or harm to humans, animals or the environment.
- Wilful concealment or facilitation of research misconduct by others.

The distinction between a Minor Breach of Research Integrity and Research Misconduct is not always clear and will depend upon the experience of the researcher, the nature of the breach, and the extent or impact of the breach.

Personal or behavioural misconduct such as intimidation, harassment, discrimination, insensitivity to social or cultural norms in doing research, misuse of funds, may not be regarded as research misconduct, but may be regarded as Non-academic Misconduct in accordance with the Student Disciplinary Regulations, or a breach of the Policy on Staff Conduct, or any other relevant law or Policy that may be applicable.

Definitions

Affected Parties means those parties, including both individuals and organisations, who may be affected by an allegation.

Allegation means a stated concern that a researcher has possibly acted in a way that is non-compliant with acceptable research practice.

Artificial intelligence: refers to the simulation of human intelligence processed by machines or computer systems. It includes the ability of a computer, or a robot or software controlled by a computer, to do tasks that are usually done by humans because they require human intelligence and discernment, such as the ability to reason, discover meaning, generalise, or learn from past experiences.

Balance of Probabilities: refers to the standard of proof used to determine whether an alleged breach of research integrity has occurred. It means that the decision-maker must be satisfied, on the evidence, that the alleged behaviour or event was more likely than not to have occurred.

Complainant means a person who has made an allegation of a Minor Breach of Research Integrity or Research Misconduct against a researcher.

Conflict of Interest is defined as a situation in which the activities of a staff member outside their employment obligations to the University lead to material personal benefit to the staff member concerned, either directly or indirectly (e.g. through a family member, associated entity, or external agency), to the detriment of the University.

Data mean any information, including facts or numbers collected to be examined, considered, analysed, or supplied to others as part of the research undertaken.

Generative artificial intelligence: a non-human adaptive tool or mechanism that can autonomously generate text, images, audio, video, or anything else that resembles human created content.

Head of Unit or line manager refers to the those responsible for supervising staff, resources, and activities within a School, Department, Institute, Section, or Research Centre within Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa.

Investigation means the process of identification, collection, and analysis of relevant evidence to assess whether a deviation from the principles of research integrity may have occurred, and to inform next steps.

Minor Breach of Research Integrity means a minor, often unintentional, deviation from the principles of research integrity by a researcher.

Poor Research Practice involves inadvertent and minor deviations from appropriate research integrity practice or convention.

Research and Development (R&D) is defined according to the OECD Frascati Manual (2002) as "creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge, including knowledge of man, culture and society, and the use of this stock of knowledge to devise new applications."

Research Misconduct means a wilful deviation from the principles of research integrity by a researcher.

Research output is any product or deliverable resulting from a research activity, including publications, datasets, presentations and other forms of dissemination.

Researcher means a staff member or student involved in conducting research.

Staff or Staff Member means a person who is engaged by Massey University as an employee or worker and/or who holds a University office or post, as well as any person to whom the University makes available any of the privileges or facilities normally afforded to its employees. This includes visiting researchers, emeritus professors and other classes of temporary, honorary and volunteer staff, and applies to graduate students, whether paid or unpaid, when researching or undertaking research-related duties at the University.

Student means a person:

a) who is enrolled in a programme of study (including courses, specialisation, qualifications, short courses and micro-credentials) at the University.
b) who was a student at the time of any alleged breach of research integrity.
c) who is seeking admission or enrolment at the University.
d) who became a student after having allegedly done so by misleading or false means.
e) who has consented in writing to be subject to the statutes, regulations and policies of the University as a student.
f) who is on suspension or leave of absence from, or who has deferred enrolment in, a programme of study (including courses, specialisation, qualifications, short courses and micro-credentials) at the University.

Supervisor means a staff member who is responsible for the supervision of a student researcher undertaking a research project towards degree completion.

University research means research undertaken within an employment or service supply agreement with the university using university resources including time, equipment, or services.

Wilful deviation means a purposeful, intentional or deliberate act or omission that departs from the research integrity principles outlined in this Policy or any other established research norms

Audience

All staff and students undertaking or supervising research.

Relevant legislation

Education and Training Act 2020
Official Information Act 1982
Privacy Act 2020
Protected Disclosures Act 2000
Public Records Act 2005

Legal compliance

None

Related procedures / documents

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity: Procedures for Managing Student Breaches

Conflict of Commitment and Interest Policy

Code of Ethical Conduct for Research, Teaching and Evaluations Involving Human Participants

Code of Ethical Conduct for the Use of Animals for Research, Testing and Teaching

Doctoral Supervision Policy

General Disposal Authority for New Zealand Universities

Growing Pearls of Wisdom: Pasifika@Massey Strategy 2020

Health and Safety Policy

Information Records Management Policy

Intellectual Property Policy

Kaupapa Here Aratohu/Code of Student Conduct

Kaupapa Here Tiriti O Waitangi - Tiriti O Waitangi Policy

Kia Mārama: Māori@Massey 2020 Strategy

Paerangi: Massey University Learning and Teaching Strategy

Procedure for Dispute Resolution at Massey University

Protected Disclosure Policy and Reporting Procedure

Research and Consultancy Contracts Policy

Student Disciplinary Regulations

Tā te Tauira Kirimana/Student Contract