

## DAU 10-3 DAU's Research Ethics

Policy Code	Policy Name		
DAU 10-3	DAU's Research Ethics Policy		
Responsible Executive	Current Revision Date	Next Revision Date	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The IRB Committee</li> <li>- The General Directorate of Scientific Research and Innovation</li> <li>- The Research Support Unit</li> <li>- Scientific Research and Innovation Committees at the College level</li> </ul>	10/2023	10/2027	

### 1. Purpose of Policy

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all faculty members, students, and staff are aware of the ethical research code and that they act accordingly. DAU has established the Institutional Review Board (IRB) in accordance with Saudi's rules and regulations. Its purpose is to ensure that research work involving human, or animal objects follows specific ethical guidelines consistent with national and international standards.

### 2. Policy Scope

This policy applies to:

- All DAU faculty members, students, and researchers who are involved in research at the DAU.
- All administrative and technical staff who participate in any research activity within or under the auspices of DAU.

### 3. Policy Statement

DAU and its researchers are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards and foster values of honesty, rigor, openness, care, and respect. DAU is concerned with protecting the health, rights, and safety of researchers, and the reputation of the university itself. This policy provides guidance on ways of dealing with situations involving research ethics issues.

The guiding principles of ethical research include the following:

- Beneficence
- Confidentiality/Anonymity
- Non-Maleficance
- Honesty and Integrity
- Informed Consent
- Rigor

The following requirements must be met by all research:

- *Beneficence and non-maleficance*
  - Any possible risks to the participants must be conveyed and the importance of achieving the research objectives should be proportionate to the risk levels.
  - Research is not supposed to be undertaken in cases where the hazards are unpredictable. Adequate facilities and procedures should be put in place to deal with any potential hazards.
- *Honesty and Integrity*

Authenticity and absolute honesty are expected throughout the research especially in crucial elements of the research like procedures, intentions, fact-finding, data gathering, interpretation of results,

acknowledging others for their contribution, and claims that are based on the results and findings of the research.

- Researchers are expected to show absolute honesty throughout the research.
  - Any conflicts of interest should be fully declared and documented.
  - The researchers are expected to contribute to their specific field of knowledge through scientifically sound research.
  - Researchers are expected to report all positive research findings vividly along with any negative results.
  - Only qualified and appropriately experienced members of the university must be allowed to carry out and supervise research.
  - The accountability of any research is supposed to be shared by both the researchers and the supervisors as well.
  - All research supervisors are expected to take the necessary appropriate steps to make sure that research is honest and meets the highest standards of integrity.
- *Taking Appropriate Consent*
    - It is the duty of the supervisors and the researchers to ensure that the details of the crucial elements of the research like the methods, aims, and the expected results along with any potential hazards have been clearly explained to all participants.
    - All participants must be provided with adequate opportunity to raise any form of concerns before the research commences.
    - All documentation provided to the participants must be clear and understandable.
    - In cases where consent is required, written consent should be given, and records of consent must be maintained.
    - Participants should be aware when any form of inducement is administered to them, and all the relevant rules and regulations must be adhered to.
    - In research where participants may include minors or individuals who do not have the legal or medical competence to give their formal informed consent, it is obligatory for the legal guardian of the individual to provide the consent before the research commences.
  - *Research Misconduct*

Numerous Actions can be coined as research misconduct. Below is a list of actions that can be termed as research misconduct, but misconduct is not limited to the following:

    - Authority: when the appropriate permission to carry out research is not obtained.
    - Collusion: when the research or the project was carried out with the help of unauthorized shared authorship.
    - Confidentiality: when information is confidentially obtained from unauthorized means
    - Conspiring: when the researchers conspire or plan to carry out a deed of research misconduct.
    - Deception: when any aspect or element of the research is deceiving.
    - Deviation: any deviation from the general best practices in the field or risk to the wellbeing of the participants (animals, humans, environment)
    - Dishonesty: publication of results and data even after knowing it is dishonest or misinterpreted
    - Fabrication: fabricating, concoction, or inventing desired results
    - Failure in meeting professional, legal, and ethical obligations: when crucial elements of research like authorship, confidentiality, lack of appropriate consent misuse of personal data, and abuse of subjects, materials, or funds are not dealt with within the professional, legal, and ethical parameters.
    - Falsification: when data or the research processes are manipulated, modified, or omitted without the formal permission of the supervisor or the research head to portray the desired results.
    - Fraud: when there is fraudulent usage of the equipment or funds sanctioned for research.
    - Incitement: Encouraging research misconduct.
    - Plagiarism: using others' work without giving proper credit or acknowledgment.

#### 4. Related Policies/ Documents/ Forms

NA

#### 5. Document History

Version	Issue/ Rev. Date	Updated Information/ Summary of Changes
1	2018	1 <sup>st</sup> issue of the policy
2	10/2023	New Ethical Guidelines for research have been added.