

Yuan Ze University Guidelines for Research Ethics

2018/01/17 Revised and passed by the 12th Administrative Council of the Academic Year 2018

Article 1 Yuan Ze University (hereafter referred to as “the University”) is committed to pursuing research excellence. All researchers are expected to uphold the spirit of ethical self-discipline, comply with legal and regulatory standards, and adhere to the principles of honesty, responsibility, fairness, and confidentiality. Researchers shall engage in responsible conduct of research and avoid any form of research misconduct in order to preserve the integrity of research and enhance its quality. To safeguard academic reputation, promote academic self-discipline among faculty, staff, and students, and strengthen academic ethics awareness, the University hereby establishes these regulations.

Article 2 **Scope of Application**

These regulations apply to the following individuals affiliated with the University (hereafter collectively referred to as “Researchers”):

1. Full-time faculty members, professional technical personnel, and research staff under official employment;
2. Contract-based faculty members, professional technical personnel, and research staff;
3. Project-based teaching and research personnel;
4. Research personnel involved in funded projects, including but not limited to principal investigators, postdoctoral researchers, research assistants, research administrative staff, and part-time assistants;
5. Undergraduate, master’s, and doctoral students;
6. Individuals who engage in academic research in collaboration with the University under a signed agreement;

Article 3 **Responsible Conduct of Research**

The definition of responsible conduct of research under these regulations is as follows:

1. Responsible conduct of research encompasses all aspects related to research activities, including the application for research projects, execution of research procedures, and publication of research findings.
2. Researchers shall uphold the principles of rigor, honesty, fairness, accuracy, and objectivity in conducting research, and shall respect and treat human subjects and experimental animals with care.
3. During the research process, researchers shall fully disclose any information that may potentially compromise the credibility of the project or its review, in order to implement the principle of conflict of interest avoidance.

4. Researchers are obligated to properly maintain research records and carefully manage the copyright and ownership of research outcomes, to ensure the accuracy and legitimacy of data and results when reused.
5. Researchers shall comply with the “*Principles for Handling Academic Ethics Cases in Tertiary Institutions*” issued by the Ministry of Education, and refer to the “*Academic Ethics Guidelines for Researchers by the National Science and Technology Council*” and the “*Statement on Academic Ethics by the National Science and Technology Council*”, along with other applicable governmental regulations and ethical standards related to research conduct.

Article 4 **Research Misconduct**

The definition of research misconduct under these regulations is as follows:

The University strictly prohibits all forms of research misconduct, including but not limited to fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, ghostwriting, duplicate publication without proper citation, translation of works without appropriate attribution, falsified information in faculty qualification reviews, improper or illegal influence on thesis/dissertation review processes, inappropriate authorship attribution, and other violations of academic research ethics.

Individuals who violate the above provisions shall be subject to investigation, review, and disciplinary actions in accordance with the Yuan Ze University Guidelines for Handling Cases of Violations of Teacher Qualification Accreditation Regulations or Academic Misconduct and the Yuan Ze University Regulations for Handling Violations of Academic Ethics by Students.

Article 5 **Protection of Research Subjects**

For research involving human subjects, genetically modified organisms, or gene recombination in animals or plants, researchers shall proactively submit an ethics review application to uphold research ethics and protect the rights and interests of research subjects. The requirements for subject protection under these regulations are as follows:

1. For research projects involving human specimens or personal biological behavior, physiological, psychological, genetic, or medical information, and the application of new medical technologies, pharmaceuticals, food additives, or medical devices on human subjects, researchers shall comply with the Human Subjects Research Act and ensure the protection of human subjects’ rights. Any research involving human subjects must be reviewed by an ethics review board accredited by the Ministry of Health and Welfare and within its valid approval period .
2. For research projects involving the use of human specimens, personal data of natural persons, or other identifiable personal information in the fields of humanities, social and behavioral sciences, or engineering, the research plan

shall be reviewed by the Northern Taiwan Consortium for the Protection of Human Research Participants Administrative Center, or another ethics review board recognized by the National Science and Technology Council and within its valid approval period.

3. For research projects not falling under categories (1) or (2), but involving gene recombination, transgenic experiments, or animal and plant research, researchers shall comply with the Animal Protection Act and ensure the welfare of experimental animals. The research plan shall be reviewed by the working group of the school to which the project belongs.

Research activities may only commence upon obtaining official ethics approval for the respective research plans listed in the preceding paragraphs.

Article 6 Reporting and Filing of Academic Research Ethics Violations

1. In cases where fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, or other violations of academic research ethics are suspected, individuals or units may submit a written report to University's Committee for Academic Ethics and Integrity (hereinafter referred to as the "Ethics Committee") via email, letter, or in person.
2. The informant shall provide their real name and contact information, clearly identify the subject of the report, describe the alleged violation in detail, and attach supporting evidence. If the report is verified to be accurate, the case will proceed to the handling process. If the informant provides false identity information, the report will be treated as anonymous. However, if an anonymous report includes a clearly identified subject, a specific description of the violation, and sufficient supporting evidence, it may be processed in accordance with the procedures for named reports.
3. University units that discover academic research ethics violations may report such cases to the Ethics Committee in accordance with their authority.
4. If there is uncertainty as to whether a suspected misconduct constitutes an academic ethics violation, consultation may be sought from the Ethics Committee.
5. The University shall maintain confidentiality and provide protection for all informants involved in reports and consultations.

Article 7 The University is committed to fostering a culture of academic integrity and promoting responsible conduct of research and academic ethics within the institution. All faculty members, researchers, undergraduate students, and graduate students are required to complete academic research ethics education courses and obtain a certificate of completion. The University also encourages researchers to actively participate in relevant workshops and training programs to enhance their knowledge of academic ethics and to pass on such knowledge to new researchers and students. The implementation guidelines for academic research ethics education and

training shall be stipulated separately by the University.

Article 8 Matters not covered in these regulations shall be handled in accordance with the ***Principles for Handling Academic Ethics Cases in Tertiary Institutions*** issued by the Ministry of Education, the ***Academic Ethics Guidelines for Researchers by the National Science and Technology Council***, and other relevant governmental regulations.

Article 9 These Regulations shall take effect upon approval by the Administrative Council of the Academic. The same procedure shall apply to any amendments.