

# Research & International Relations

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## Ethical Conduct in Research

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The University of Toronto is committed to the highest standard of integrity in research. In addition to ensuring that all projects requiring the use of human subjects, animals and biohazardous materials are subject to review by the appropriate University committee (see Chapter 6), the University has also instituted policies which govern the conduct of faculty, students and staff involved in research projects.

### [Policy on Ethical Conduct in Research](#)

In 1991, the Governing Council approved a Policy on Ethical Conduct in Research which stated that the University expected that all members of the University community will adhere to "the highest standards of ethical conduct in every respect of research including applications, proposals, the research itself, reports and publications."

Among other aspects of ethical conduct, the Policy identified:

1. the accurate presentation and interpretation of data and other information;
2. due acknowledgment of another's work;
3. the maintaining of confidentiality and appropriate use of information supplied by another;
4. the appropriate use and allocation of money or other resources supplied for research purposes.

### [Divisional Guidelines on Ethical Conduct](#)

Recognizing the variety of types of research carried out at the University, the Policy on Ethical Conduct in Research called for each division to develop its own guidelines. These have been created by all Faculties and by Erindale and Scarborough Colleges. While they vary in detail, all of the divisional guidelines provide detailed definitions of ethical misconduct and outline a process for dealing with allegations of misconduct. For details, consult the office of the appropriate Dean or Principal.

### [Conflict of Interest Policy - Academic Staff](#)

In 1994, the Governing Council approved a Policy on Conflict of Interest - Academic Staff.

In summary, the Policy requires that academic staff must obtain the approval of the person to whom they report before they can do the following:

1. engage in "major paid professional activities," defined as teaching for remuneration outside the University, commitment to any single paid professional activity totaling more than 20 days a year, or any combination of paid professional activities likely to exceed more than 45 days a year;
2. use University facilities, supplies, staff or students in privately undertaken work or paid professional activity;
3. influence the use of University funds to convey or deny a financial or commercial

- benefit on a member of the faculty member's immediate family or a person with whom there exists, or has recently existed, an intimate personal relationship;
4. evaluate, or confer or deny academic benefit on, a member of the faculty member's immediate family or a person with who there exists, or has recently existed, an intimate personal relationship;
  5. undertake research sponsored by a company or organization in which a significant financial interest is held by the faculty member or any member of his/her immediate family or any person with whom there exists or has existed an intimate person relationship.

The Policy also requires that, when publishing the findings of research, a faculty member must name the source of funding in the publication.

For further details, including aspects of the Policy relating to non-research activities, please consult the office of the Vice-President - Administration and Human Resources.

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