Policy on Research Ethics

Preamble

This policy aims to ensure that University research projects involving human participants, their tissues or their data are carried out safely, with their informed and voluntary consent and with due respect to confidentiality and privacy.

Policy Guidelines

Below are the guiding principles that the University expects its researchers to abide by:

- Except where the nature of the research makes this impossible, research staff and participants must be fully informed about the purpose, methods, and intended possible uses of the research. On the basis of this information, they must give their voluntary consent to take part in the project, free from coercion.

- The confidentiality of the information supplied by research participants and the anonymity of respondents must be respected. Wherever possible data should be anonymised and there should be full compliance with the principles within the Personal Data Protection Bill 2019. Personal data can only be disclosed when permission to disclose is part of the consent procedure.

- Risks to those involved in the research must be minimised, and harm to research participants and researchers must be avoided. Participants must be warned in advance about any potential risks of harm.

- The independence of the research must be clear, and any conflict of interest or partiality must be explicit.

- The research must conform to all relevant statutory requirements and to the requirements of the institution in which the research is undertaken.

- The research publications must be in consonance with the ethical practices and protocols and free from plagiarism, malpractices, fraud and other unethical practices.

Responsibilities

The Committee on Research Ethics, and its subcommittees, are responsible to the University Council for ensuring that research is conducted in accordance with these principles.

Staff members undertaking research falling within this policy are responsible for:

- consideration of the ethical implications of any research project which involves human participants, human tissue, or personal data.
- obtaining formal ethical approval from the University before the research commences.
- Conducting the research in accordance with these principles.
- Publishing plagiarism free research articles
- Ensuring the research publications free from any issues concerning conflict of interest.

In the case of research undertaken by undergraduate or postgraduate students, the Supervisor is responsible for ensuring that the above responsibilities are met.

The University regards a failure to meet these responsibilities as a serious matter, which may constitute research misconduct.

Membership Composition

The Ethical committee constitute 8 membered multi-disciplinary experts, namely

1. Chairman (Vice Chancellor)

2. Coordinator (Director-CRD)

3. Members

i. Representatives from Schools of arts and science, Engineering, Management and Commerce (3 Nos)

ii. Legal Advisory member (Dean, School of Law) (1 No)

iii. External Members (Distinguished researchers from other institutions/organizations) (2 Nos)

Periodicity of meeting

This policy will be regularly reviewed once in six months in the light of experience and revisions to codes of practice laid down by any relevant professional or learned society. Interim meetings may also be carried out as and when required.

Training

All students and staff involved in research are required to undertake appropriate training on research ethics before embarking on an evaluation of the ethical implications of their research.

Facilities

Plagiarism software (Ouriginal) provided by Inflibnet is being used by the University for the use of students and staff for verification of their manuscripts and thesis/ dissertations. All the research scholars before the submission of their thesis as well as the researchers wishing to avail the facility need to submit the document whose plagiarism check is to be carried out, to Director-CRD for accessing the plagiarism report of their document.

Contacts

This policy will be regularly reviewed in the light of experience and revisions to codes of practice laid down by any relevant professional or learned society. Any comments should be sent to ethics@prist.ac.in