



Department of Civil Engineering

CHRIST (Deemed to be University)

Code of Ethics for Research and Publication

Department of Civil Engineering, CHRIST (Deemed to be University) code of research and publications ethics applies to all areas of research including student projects and dissertations, doctoral research, research projects (Major research projects, minor research projects under RDC scheme, monographs, working papers) by all members of the department. (Staff and students).

The code of research and publications ethics applies to all faculty members, students, research scholars and visiting and emeritus researchers.

1.1 Research conduct and research ethics

The code applies to all research deliverables and output in whatever form irrespective of how it is funded.

This document will outline departmental issues related to research conduct and ethics.

1.2 Research conduct requirements

Everyone involved in research in the department owes a duty of accountability to society, to their profession, to the University, to all participants in the research and to its funders. Staff must accept full responsibility for their own conduct of their research and the activities of all staff, students and others under their direction or supervision.

Researchers must be honest and lawful in respect of their own actions in research and in their responses to the actions of other researchers. This applies to the whole range of research work, outputs and deliverables, including applying for funding, experimental design, generating and analysing data, publishing results, and acknowledging the direct and indirect contribution of colleagues, collaborators and others. Plagiarism, deception or the fabrication or falsification of results shall be regarded as research misconduct and a serious disciplinary offence. Researchers should declare and manage any real or potential conflicts of interest.

1.3 Responsibility of Principal Investigators and Research Supervisors

Principal investigators and research supervisors must take responsibility for the following:

1. Researchers must ensure that research projects are ethically sound and have obtained all relevant statutory regulatory authorities before they commence;

2. The safety of all involved in the research process, ensuring that the research is carried out in accordance with health and safety policies and legislative requirements;
3. Ensuring that research is conducted in a suitable working environment with appropriate equipment and facilities;
4. The integrity of the financial management of all research projects, and for seeking to provide the optimum value for the public or private funders who have invested in them including effective project management to agreed project plans and appropriate quality standards, as well as the timely delivery of any scheduled tangible outcomes;
5. Management of research data in accordance with standard practices in Civil engineering;
6. Undertaking of professional development appropriate to the research;
7. Ensuring confidentiality in order to achieve protection of intellectual property rights where appropriate;
8. Ensuring that research findings are suitably disseminated;

1.4 Confidentiality

Individual participant personal information obtained as a result of research is to be considered confidential and disclosure to third parties is prohibited with the exception of statutory notification as applicable to the particular research. The department encourages its researchers to make all research papers (including journal articles, conference proceedings, book chapters and similar material), where copyright allows, should be made available in an open access upon publication.

1.5 Publications

Researchers are encouraged to disseminate their research and research findings in an appropriate form, usually as papers in refereed journals. Publication and wider dissemination of research and research findings must be carried out responsibly and with an awareness of the consequences of dissemination in the wider media.

1. A publication must contain appropriate reference to the contributions made by all participants in the relevant research;
2. The research funder should be notified in advance when research might be published, publicised or disseminated;

3. Any person who has not participated in a substantial way in conceiving, executing or interpreting at least part of the relevant research is not to be included as an author of a publication derived from that research;
4. In addition to meeting the requirements of the points above, an author must ensure that the work of research students and research assistants is recognised in all publications derived from research to which they have made a contribution;
5. A publication which is substantially similar to other publications derived from the same research must contain appropriate reference to the other publications;
6. Publication and dissemination of work electronically or on the Web should be treated with the same degree of integrity as every other form of publication;
7. In addition to publications, all external communications, whether through websites, e-bulletins, press releases, media briefings, or events should be undertaken with the core principles of openness, transparency and accountability.

1.6 Research Ethics

Department of Civil Engineering, CHRIST (Deemed to be University) has a committee on research and ethics, which is responsible for reviewing all research proposed and conducted by the Department. The purpose of Ethical review by the committee is threefold:

1. The department is committed to following good ethical practice, as a principle in itself and as a means by which the public can be assured of confidence in the work of staff and students of the department.
2. The provisions for ethical review and approval assist researchers in the identification of ethical issues and to address them in the structuring of research protocols. The resultant development of good practice is expected to cascade down to students and inform their own emerging practice at both undergraduate and postgraduate level.
3. The approval process acts as a safeguard to researchers, supervisors and students who can be confident of the ethical propriety of their project once it has been approved.

