

Note: This translation is for reference purposes only. Should any discrepancies arise between the English and Japanese versions, the Japanese version is the authoritative version, thus the Japanese version will be deemed valid.

Code of Conduct for Research Activities at NAIST

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“Research activities” refers to actions that generate new findings and construction of systems of knowledge based on reflections, thinking, and ideas while continually using facts and data obtained by means of surveys, observations, experiments and other activities as raw material, building on the results of studies carried out by previous researchers.

The fruits of such activities form the building blocks for the common intellectual assets of humanity, underpinning human happiness as well as economic and social development.

Such research activities have as their premise the integrity of researchers toward their research activities. Dishonest behavior, including the fabrication or falsification of data or results, plagiarism of the results of others’ work, multiple publication of the same results, and inappropriate authorship whereby the authors of a paper are not attributed correctly, is contrary to the basic character of research activities. Such actions are unacceptable under any circumstances, and will be dealt with severely.

Given this fundamental awareness of research activities, NAIST has set out the following Code of Conduct outlining the behavior expected of all those involved in research activities at the institute (hereafter “researchers”) during the performance of research.

1. Responsibilities of Researchers

Researchers shall be responsible for ensuring the quality of the specialized knowledge and techniques they themselves generate, and shall also be responsible for using their specialized knowledge, techniques, and experience for the safety and well-being of society, and for environmental preservation.

2. Actions of Researchers

Researchers shall act with integrity on the basis of earnest beliefs, constantly reviewing their positions toward and approaches to research in the awareness that the autonomy of science is built on the trust and mandates of society. They shall both make the utmost efforts to demonstrate the accuracy and appropriateness of the knowledge generated by their research in a scientific and objective manner, and participate actively in the mutual evaluation of researchers within the scientific community, particularly in their own fields of specialization.

3. Self-Improvement

Researchers shall endeavor to maintain and improve their own specialized knowledge, abilities, and skills, and shall also strive unremittingly to understand the relationships of science and technology with society and the natural environment from a broad perspective.

4. Explanation and Disclosure

Researchers shall proactively disclose and explain the significance and roles of the research in which they are involved, assessing the potential effect of this research on humanity, society, and the environment as well as any changes it may cause, and shall publish the results in a neutral and objective manner, while striving to achieve and maintain a constructive dialogue with society.

5. Research Activities

Researchers shall act with integrity and in accordance with the spirit of this Code of Conduct during the process of making proposals, planning, submitting applications, carrying out research, reporting, and conducting other activities connected with their own research. They shall be scrupulous with respect to the recording and storage of research and survey data and its strictly impartial treatment, without engaging in dishonest behavior such as fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism, nor shall they be complicit in such behavior.

6. Improvement of Research Environments

Researchers shall be aware that the establishment and maintenance of a fair and open research environment that enables the execution of responsible research and the prevention of dishonest behavior is also an important obligation, and shall be actively engaged in improving the quality of research environments of both the scientific community and the organization to which they belong. They shall also strive to obtain the understanding and cooperation of society in order to achieve this.

7. Appropriate Use of Research Funds

When using research funds, researchers shall comply with all applicable legislation, institute regulations and other rules, in addition to conditions, rules for use, and other stipulations established for all types of externally funded research.

8. Concern for Research Subjects, the Environment, Safety, and Related Issues, and Respect for Bioethics

Researchers shall respect the persons and human rights of those who cooperate in their research, and shall take their well-being into account. When dealing with materials that could have an adverse effect on the environment or safety during the execution of research (radiation, radioactive isotopes, genetically modified organisms, nuclear fuel material, non-native species, poisonous materials, environmental pollutants, etc.), they shall comply with all applicable legislation, institute regulations, guidelines and other stipulations issued by academic societies and other bodies concerned, and shall have the greatest possible respect for bioethics in research involving human or animal subjects.

9. Interpersonal Relationships

Researchers shall both evaluate others' results appropriately and listen humbly to criticism of their own research, exchanging opinions with an attitude of sincerity. They shall comply with the obligation of confidentiality concerning the intellectual property rights of others. In particular, they must pay strict attention to compliance with the obligation of confidentiality concerning information obtained during the review process for papers or research funding. They shall also endeavor to protect individuals' privacy through the appropriate handling of personal information obtained during the research process.

10. Elimination of Discrimination and Harassment

Researchers shall not discriminate against any individual on the basis of his or her race, gender, rank, ideology, religion, or for any other reason, but shall treat each person fairly while respecting the freedom and character of the individual. They shall not use their status or authority to impede or disadvantage any person under their instruction, guidance, or similar circumstances in either word or deed.

11. Conflicts of Interest

Researchers shall pay careful attention to any conflict of interest that may arise between an individual and his or her own institution or another organization in the course of their research, review, evaluation, judgment, or other undertaking, and shall deal with it appropriately while giving due consideration to its public nature. Researchers shall also comply with the NAIST Conflict of Interest Policy and related policies.