

Hiroshima University Code of Conduct for Scientists

Declaration

Scientific research is the act of scientists boldly challenging the unknown and creating new knowledge based on pure intellectual curiosity and the demands of society. Only the results of scientific research that have withstood the rigorous criticism and evaluation of contemporaries and future generations of scientists can be the intellectual common property of humans and contribute to the peace and happiness of humankind and the development of society.

Hiroshima University's philosophy is based on five principles: Pursuit of Peace, Creation of New Forms of Knowledge, Nurturing of Well-Rounded Human Beings, Collaboration with the Local, Regional, and International Community, and Continuous Self-Development, and all those involved in scientific research at Hiroshima University are responsible for contributing to human society with pride under this philosophy.

Needless to say, while those involved in scientific research (hereafter referred to as *scientists*) have a special right to seek truth with the assurance of free-thinking and independence, they have an obligation to remain transparent and accountable to society.

In view of these important responsibilities of scientific research, scientific researchers are required to follow an independent and strict code of conduct as they engage in research activities. Universities, in particular, are institutions that train the next generation of scientists, and scientific researchers are expected to adhere to a higher standard of conduct. Fundamentally recognizing this, Hiroshima University formulated the Code of Conduct for the University based on the Code of Conduct for Scientists prepared by the Science Council of Japan (October 3, 2006).

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Revision of Hiroshima University Code of Conduct for Scientists (March 13, 2007)

Since a large amount of public funds have been invested in research activities to improve the quality of research and explore new research fields, it is imperative that not only scientific researchers but also universities as research organizations are fully accountable for their activities.

In March 2007, Hiroshima University formulated the Code of Conduct for Scientists and announced it within and outside the University, and since then, the University has made continuous efforts such as establishing the Office to Prevent the Inappropriate Use of Research Funds and Other Resources in October of the same year to draft and implement plans against the unauthorized use of research funds.

Given that public understanding and support is indispensable for the promotion of scientific research in the future, scientists and related individuals should be aware of their responsibility as individuals playing a fundamental role in scientific research and at the same time be supported by society.

We must seriously accept the fact that research funds are a valuable source of financial resources entrusted to us by citizens, private companies, and other parties and strictly discourage any inappropriate use of research funds or any other act that undermines trust in the research activities of the University.

In light of this, Hiroshima University has amended the Code of Conduct for Scientists to include a code of conduct for the use of research funds because it is necessary to strictly request that scientific researchers act in accordance with ethical standards when using research funds and to encourage staff who support the research environment to be aware of their position and to act accordingly.

Thus, Hiroshima University shall be fully aware of its social responsibility to conduct appropriate research activities and make efforts toward appropriately using research funds.

Chapter 1 Research Activities

T shall do their utmost to contribute to world peace through science and avoid actions that threaten peace.

Scientific researchers have a responsibility to ensure the quality of their scientific research results and the technology they produce and to contribute to the health and welfare of mankind, the safety and security of society, and the sustainability of the Earth's environment using their expertise, skills, and experience.

Scientific researchers shall be aware that the autonomy of scientists is based on the trust and confidence of society and shall always judge and act with honesty and integrity. They will do their best to scientifically demonstrate the accuracy and legitimacy of the knowledge produced by scientific research and actively participate in the scientific community, especially in the mutual evaluation of scientists in their own areas of expertise.

Scientific researchers shall openly and assertively explain the significance and role of their research, evaluate the possible effects of their research on human beings, society, and the environment, evaluate the possible changes that their research may cause, publicize the results with neutrality and objectivity, and strive to build a constructive dialogue with society.

Scientific researchers shall act in accordance with the intent of this Code of Conduct in the drafting, planning, application, implementation, and reporting of their research. In addition to complying with the laws and regulations, they shall ensure that all research and survey data are kept in the strictest confidentiality and will not commit nor be complicit in any fraudulent acts such as fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism.

Scientific researchers shall be aware of their important duty to establish and maintain a fair environment that enables responsible research and prevents misconduct and shall actively work to improve the quality of the research environment of the scientific community and their organizations. They shall also strive to gain the understanding and cooperation of society in order to achieve this goal.

Chapter 2 Use of Research Funds, etc.

All people involved in scientific research, executives, and staff members of the University () shall comply with the laws and regulations (hereafter referred to as laws, etc.) in the use of all funds managed by the University (hereafter referred to as research funds, etc.), and shall fulfill their responsibility to society.

Scientists and related individuals shall act with the understanding that competitive funds or donations, even when proposed and obtained by individual initiatives, are expenses that should be managed by the University.

Scientists and related individuals shall recognize that research funds, etc. are valuable financial resources entrusted to them by citizens, private companies, and other entities and shall use them efficiently and effectively and shall not use them for purposes other than those for which they were originally intended, make expenditures based on false claims, or make expenditures that violate laws, etc.

Executives and staff members shall act with the awareness that they are in a position of responsibility for the administration of affairs aimed at efficient execution of scientific research while ensuring appropriate use of research funds, etc. with their professional skill.

Scientists and related individuals shall be aware that the inappropriate use of research funds, etc. will have a serious impact on all activities of the University and shall act in accordance with a plan to prevent the inappropriate use of research funds, etc. that is separately determined while deepening mutual understanding.