

Code of Conduct for Research in Kumamoto University

As a comprehensive university, and in the spirit of the “The Fundamental Law of Education” and the “School Education Law”, Kumamoto University’s purpose is to create, develop, foster, and pass on knowledge. The university strives to develop human resources with high intellectual, ethical, and practical abilities who contribute to both regional and international societies.

The university endeavors to strengthen core competencies in advanced academic research, promote leading-edge creative research, and develop a rich cultural heritage. In addition, the university has a responsibility to comprehensively expand the various sciences related to humanity, society, and nature; to promote academic research of those sciences; and to contribute to the coexistence of humans and nature through sustainable development of society by taking advantage of the features of a fully comprehensive university.

The members of the university (including officers, teaching staff, students, professors emeriti, honorary doctors, guest professors, etc.) must understand the purposes described above, and always perform their duties with ethical judgment and behavior. Therefore, the university established the Code of Conduct to be followed by all members.

I . Researcher Responsibilities

1. Researchers (i.e., staff engaged in any research activity in the university) must always act honestly and sincerely; use good faith judgment; endeavor to improve their own specialized knowledge, capability, and artistry; and make their best effort to demonstrate the scientific accuracy and validity of knowledge created by their research.
2. Researchers must be aware of the fact that the autonomy of science is accepted by the trust and mandate of society; understand the relationship between science, technology, society, and nature from a wide perspective; and act appropriately.
3. Researchers must be aware of the broad expectation of society when using research funds (including all funds used for research in the university, such as R&D funds that are subsidized through screening for proposed themes publicly sought for by funding agencies, operating expense subsidies, contribution to scholarships, research grants, and revenue from the university hospital) provided to maintain the research environment and perform research.
4. Researchers should aggressively disclose and explain the significance and role of their own

research; evaluate its potential influences on humanity, society, and nature; and demonstrate the results in a neutral and objective manner.

5. Researchers must select the appropriate means and manner as accepted by society in which their research and its results should be made public.
6. Researchers must participate in training sessions on research ethics, laws and regulations related to research activities, prevention of research misconduct, and endeavor to promote fair research activities.

II. Fair Research

7. Researchers shall act sincerely in accordance with the Code of Conduct in the process of framing, planning, performing, applying, and reporting their own research. Researchers must take responsibility for recognition of their achievements to suit their roles by demonstrating the results of their research through academic publications or other means. Researchers must record and store complete data of their investigations; strictly treat the data according to the rules; prevent research misconduct, such as fabrication, manipulation, plagiarism, and misappropriation of research funds; and themselves not participate in such misconduct.
8. Researchers must be aware of the fact that performing responsible research, and establishing and maintaining a fair environment to prevent research misconduct are important duties to be performed their own. They must endeavor to obtain the understanding and cooperation of society to qualitatively improve the research environment of the scientific community and the organization to which they belong.

III. Appropriate Operation and Management of Domestic Research Funds

9. Researchers must thoroughly recognize that even if their research fund proposal is accepted, the university is responsible for the management of the funds because they are financed primarily by domestic taxes. Any misappropriation of research funding has a serious impact on the whole of the university and all scientists engaged in research activities.
10. University employees must operate and manage research funds appropriately. They must thoroughly understand and comply with the rules defined by each research fund classification and the related regulations of the university.

11. University employees must adhere to the rules regarding research funds and continuously participate in compliance education to prevent misappropriation of funds.

IV. Compliance with Laws and Regulations

12. University employees must comply with related laws and regulations when performing research activities and using research funds.

13. When considering publication of research, university employees must consider any conflicts of interest between individuals and organizations, or between different organizations, and deal with conflicts openly and appropriately.