

Nirma University Code of Ethics for Research (CER)

Preamble

Nirma University promotes research that benefits to the larger section of society and so all Institutes under the University are committed to research focused on people, organisations and industry. To honour the trust placed in researchers by research participants, funding organisations and society, the researchers should at all times act correctly and in ways that respect the rights and dignity of the participants, organisations and industry. In this regard all faculty members, researchers and students undertaking research are bound by code of research ethics.

Object

Nirma University lays down Code of Ethics for Research

To provide the ethical framework within which the ethical review process will operate across campus

To promote exemplary ethical standards in research and scholarship

Scope

This document lays down code of research ethics for all faculty members, researchers and students undertaking research and operationally controlled by the Nirma University. It covers all the activities through which research information and data are gathered, processed and disseminated including surveys and interviews and the reporting of research findings.

The following are ethical principles that this codes address*:

1. Academic Honesty

Be honest in all scientific communications. Honestly report data, results, methods and procedures, and publication status. Do not fabricate, falsify, or misrepresent data. Do not deceive colleagues, granting agencies, or the public.

2. Integrity

Keep your promises and agreements; act with sincerity; strive for consistency of thought and action.

3. Carefulness

Avoid careless errors and negligence; carefully and critically examine your work and the work of peers. Keep good records of research activities, such as data collection, research design, and correspondence with agencies or journals.

4. Respect for Intellectual Property

Honour patents, copyrights, and other forms of intellectual property. Do not use unpublished data, methods, or results without permission. Give credit where credit is due. Give proper acknowledgement or credit for all contributions to research. Never plagiarize.

5. Confidentiality

Protect confidential communications, such as papers or grants submitted for publication, personnel records, trade or military secrets, and patient records.

6. Social Responsibility

Strive to promote social good and prevent or mitigate social harms through research, public education, and advocacy.

7. Competence

Maintain and improve professional competence and expertise through lifelong education and learning; take steps to promote competence in science as a whole.

8. Legality

Know and obey governmental policies, relevant laws and institutional rules and regulations.

9. Animal Care

Show proper respect and care for animals when using them in research. Do not conduct unnecessary or poorly designed animal experiments.

10. Human Subjects Protection

When conducting research on human subjects, minimize harms and risks and maximize benefits; respect human dignity, privacy, and autonomy; take special precautions with vulnerable populations; and strive to distribute the benefits and burdens of research fairly.

* Shamoo A and Resnik D. 2009. *Responsible Conduct of Research, 2nd ed.* (New York: Oxford University Press).