

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF JHARKHAND
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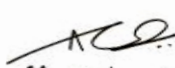


RESEARCH ETHICS POLICY
Central University of Jharkhand
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Central University of Jharkhand

Research Ethics Policy

1. Policy Statement

Central University of Jharkhand (CUJ) is committed to supporting highest standards of research integrity in all aspects of research. Research integrity relates both to the scientific integrity of conducted research and the professional integrity of researchers. Integral to this commitment to research integrity is the implementation of a culture that promotes robust and transparent research ethical standards.

Aim & Objective

The purpose of this policy is to articulate the ethical principles, procedures, and expectations that inform the conduct of research activities undertaken by CUJ faculty, staff and students. This policy seeks to harmonize processes across CUJ, with the aim of supporting faculty and students to enact the highest standards of ethical conduct in research.


Scope

This applies to all students and faculty at CUJ and all research carried out at, or in the name of, Central University of Jharkhand, including research at other sites and internationally.

2. Definitions

Research is broadly conceived to include any form of disciplined inquiry undertaken by faculty and students that aims to contribute to a body of knowledge or theory. Some consultancy, and knowledge exchange and impact activities, including public engagement, may also include activities, that may be categorised as research.

Researcher is broadly conceived to include those who engage in the research activities outlined above and are employed by, or registered as a student at CUJ. Researchers also include honorary members, those who are visiting from other institutions and organizations, and those who are undertaking or supervising research at or for the University.


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Research Ethics involve the application of ethical principles to research activities. These ethical principles are applied throughout the lifetime of a research project from conception and design, via data collection and analysis, to dissemination, archiving of research materials, and beyond. Researchers have a responsibility to undertake their research with due diligence of all relevant ethical considerations

Research Ethics Review comprises the proportionate review of the ethics and trust issues associated with planned research activities, and how those ethics issues will be addressed by the researchers. All researchers should explicitly self-evaluate the ethical implications of all of their research. Where the research might be reasonably be considered to raise ethical questions, then research ethics review will be required before the research commences. Ethical considerations are not solely to preserve of research on humans and animals, many other fields do have ethical considerations. It is the responsibility of the researchers to consider, and implement it.

Where independent scrutiny required, the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) or the Department Research Committee (DRC) can undertake the review. The purpose of the review is to provide an opinion on the ethical appropriateness of the proposed research, and, if appropriate to suggest changes to the research that would improve its ethical status.

There is a University Research Ethical Committee being constituted to review every year the overall ethical practices carried out by the researchers and students.

Research Integrity requires complying with the ethical, legal and professional frameworks, authorities, employers and funding agencies. A favourable opinion following ethical review is an important, but insufficient, requirement on its own to enable the research to proceed and meet the highest research integrity standards. Researchers must also ensure appropriate governance procedures are adhered to prior to and throughout the lifespan of the research.

3. Research Ethics Principles and Values

This policy enacts our University values to be principled, considerate and respectful, and act with integrity in our research. The policy aims to safeguard the interests and well-being of researchers, research participants (both human and non-human), the wider research community, the environment, and broader society throughout the research life cycle, and beyond.


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Beneficence and Non-maleficance

Researchers seek to maximize the benefits of their research for individuals, the environment, the society and above all the country and to avoid or minimize risk of harm via appropriate robust precautions.

Integrity, Openness and Transparency

Researchers design and conduct research to ensure its methodological integrity, and contribution to knowledge, working within the limits of their professional competence, and/or with appropriate supervision. The aim of the research is transparent, and the full record of the research should be as open as possible, and as closed as necessary.

Researchers undertake due diligence to assess the integrity of potential research partners, maintain independence of research, and make explicit any unavoidable actual or potential conflicts of interest. As research partnership evolve and develop over time, researchers will continue to monitor issues relating to integrity, independence, and conflicts of interest.

Dignity and Respect

Researchers respect the rights, autonomy, privacy, interests, values, and dignity of fellow researchers and research participants, including humans, human tissue, and non-humans alike. Researchers need to restrict themselves from going beyond stated objectives or imposing more than necessary on research participants. All the issues related to research should be communicated to all the participants and proceed with the due consent of all the participants. Where obtaining consent will be difficult, researchers are advised to abide by the best practices of the University. Researchers and participants should take at most care in data management in order to maintain its confidentiality, security and adherence to legal and ethical obligations.

Responsibility and Accountability

Researchers should take the responsibility for adhering to the ethical principles. They are also accountable for the actions and decisions they make, including promoting ethical conduct and guarding against unethical practices and misconducts.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

University believes in the inclusiveness in the research arena, hence researchers to consider equality, diversity and inclusion in all aspects of research. They should promote inclusive environment ensuring fairness.

Researchers may align their work with ethical principles outlined by funding agencies, and/or collaborative organizations, and with respect to cultural contexts. Sometimes these additional principles will be complementary to the University principles. In such situation, where there is a conflict, the same may be subject to the review by the University Research Ethical Committee and the decision of the committee will be binding for the researchers.

4. Procedure for Implementing University Ethics Policy

All researchers of the University are responsible for the implementation of the University Research Ethics Policy. University Research Ethical Committee (UREC) is the guiding committee in order to establish robust ethical standards in the University.

CUJ is committed to support learning on research ethics involving good practice, learning, and challenges in order to optimize research integrity. Regular training to all the stake holders will also be ensured in order to establish the ethical standards.

5. Roles and Responsibilities of the University in Support of Research Ethics

University a responsibility to maintain a positive research environment that encourages the highest standards of research practice. This involves governance, review and training for both researchers and those involved in operating these structures.

University has a responsibility to provide mechanism for applying for research ethics review, risks involved, and facilitate the review process. Further, it the responsibility of the University to recognize and respond to emerging and complex challenges in relation to ethical practices.

6. Roles and Responsibilities of the Researchers in Adhering to Research Ethics Standards

Ethics is the cornerstone of the research integrity. Thus, the policies and procedures in place is aimed to support researchers in undertaking high quality research. All researchers have an individual responsibility to ensure that they have an up to date working knowledge of relevant ethical issues in their research area, and they have adequate training required for their role as well specialized training relevant to their field of study. Faculty members have also the additional responsibility to apprise the research students (Ph.D. Scholars and project students) of the ethical issues and requirements associated with their research.


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In case, faculty members and/or research students seek for the review of their work by the UREC, then they should apply in advance and they should view the review process as a collegial and constructive process.

Failure to meet research ethical obligations can be considered as research mis-conduct and will be subject to review. Actions will be taken as per the suggestion of the UREC.

7. Roles and Responsibilities of Student Involved in Research

Students undertaking research as per their curriculum demand in the level of UG, PG, PhD, must adhere to appropriate ethical principles and procedures depending on their nature and level of study. Engaging the students with research ethics also represent a teaching-learning opportunity for the students. For students also, failure to meet ethical standards, will be regarded as research mis-conduct. This failure may lead to referral of the student to proctorial board for appropriate action under academic misconduct.

8. Role of University Research Ethics Committee

University Research Ethics Committee is constituted to suggest appropriate measures to ensure the establishment of high standard of research environment in the University from time to time. The UREC tenure will be for three years and will be reconstituted after each three years by the approval of the competent authority.

The UREC has to look into the matters of conflict of interest (if arises) and guide the researchers appropriate measures to come over such type of issues. UREC should meet at least once in a year. Depending on the situation emergent meeting may be called upon by the approval of the competent authority.


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