
RESEARCH POLICY

1. Purpose

The Ikon Institute of Australia (Ikon) is committed to fostering a research culture of excellence and high research standards and ethical conduct by academic staff and students.

This policy aims to provide a framework for identifying and conducting responsible research at Ikon that encourages and supports academic freedom and diversity of knowledge, thought and experience.

2. Scope

- 2.1 This policy applies to all academic staff and students of Ikon and supports the freedom of academic staff and students to engage in intellectual inquiry in relation to their research.
- 2.2 This policy applies to research activities in any field at Ikon and may involve a range of tools and media.
- 2.3 This policy aligns with the principles and responsibilities outlined in the Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021, Standard 4 Research and Research Training) and the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (the Code).

3. Related Documents

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies and procedures:

- Academic Integrity and Misconduct Policy
- Student Code of Conduct
- Grievance & Appeals Policy
- Intellectual Property Policy
- Copyright Policy
- Academic Freedom Policy
- Governance Guidelines
- Scholarly Activities Policy

All policies and forms associated with this policy can be accessed via the Policy and Procedures section of the Ikon website and the student and staff policy libraries.

4. Definitions

Academic Freedom is the freedom to conduct research, teach, speak, and publish, subject to the norms and standards of scholarly inquiry, without interference or penalty, wherever the search for truth and understanding may lead ¹

Conflict of interest exists in a situation where an independent observer might reasonably conclude that the professional actions of a person are or may be unduly influenced by other interests. This refers to a financial or non-financial interest which may be a perceived, potential or actual conflict

¹ Doyle, M. W., Fine, J., & Moneyhon, M. (Eds.). (2005). *Report of the First Global Colloquium of University Presidents on Academic Freedom and International Migration*. Columbia University.

of interest (Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research, 2018).

Research as a concept is broad and includes the creation of new knowledge and/or the use of existing knowledge in a new and creative way so as to generate new concepts, methodologies, inventions and understandings. This could include synthesis and analysis of previous research to the extent that it is new and creative (Australian Research Council).

Research misconduct is a serious breach of the Australian Code for Responsible Conduct of Research which is also intentional or reckless or negligent (Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research, 2018)

Researcher is a Person (or persons) who conducts, or assists with the conduct of, research (Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research, 2018).

POLICY

5. Principles

- 5.1 Research is conducted in a manner consistent with the principles outlined in the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research and this Research policy.
- 5.2 Research is conducted and overseen by suitably qualified staff.
- 5.3 Researchers must comply with all relevant laws, regulations, professional standards and codes of conduct related to their research field.
- 5.4 Researchers must obtain informed consent from participants involved in their research ensuring confidentiality and data protection.
- 5.5 Research should include appropriate engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples where relevant.
- 5.6 Research outputs of staff and students are recorded and accurate records maintained.
- 5.7 Research proposals and projects are reviewed and approved by the Research Proposal Committee.
- 5.8 Researchers must disclose any potential conflicts of interest that could compromise the objectivity, impartiality, or credibility of the research.
- 5.9 Alleged research misconduct is investigated and resolved in accordance with the Academic Misconduct Policy, and improvements made to policies or procedures to prevent any recurrence of misconduct.
- 5.10 The intellectual property rights of researchers to their discoveries and inventions is recognised and protected in accordance with Ikon's Intellectual Property Policy.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

- 6.1 The Board of Directors of Ikon guarantees a research environment within Ikon that may be exercised without fear of discrimination or reprisal, subject only to restraints or burdens imposed under law and reasonable and proportionate regulation of conduct.
- 6.2 The Research Proposal Committee is responsible for establishing the related processes, procedures and guidance materials to ensure that Ikon's research activities are conducted in accordance with the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research and this policy. The membership of the Research Proposal Committee will include the Executive Dean (Chair) and the Heads of School.
- 6.3 The Research Proposal Committee ensures that research is governed by institutional policies and embedded into its planning and operations. It communicates and promotes the Research policy to all staff and students.

- 6.4 All academic staff and students engaged in research activities are expected to comply with the principles outlined in this and related policies, including the expectation of academic honesty and integrity.
- 6.5 Academic staff are responsible for promoting free intellectual enquiry and encouraging, facilitating and supporting responsible research activities.

7. Grievances

Where a student or academic staff member believes their right to conduct research has been unreasonably restricted or limited, the following grievance processes apply:

- HR staff policies, or the
- *Grievance and Appeals Policy*

8. Publication

This policy will be published in the Policies & Procedures section of the Ikon website and the staff and student policies libraries.

Policy Information & History

Policy Category	Academic, Research
Policy ID	RE001A
Approved by	Academic Board
Date of Approval	18 October 2023
Endorsed by	Teaching and Learning Committee
Date of Endorsement	18 August 2023
Next Review Date	April 2026
Government Legislation	<u>Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011</u> <u>Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021</u> <u>Higher Education Support Act 2003</u> <u>National Code 2018</u> <u>Australian Qualifications Framework</u>
Responsible Officers	Executive Dean
Stakeholders*	Heads of School, Academic Course Coordinator, Lecturers, Education Services Team, Student Experience Team, Students.
Sources	The following documents were considered in developing the framework: Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (2017). <i>Guidance Note: Research and Research Training</i> . https://www.teqsa.gov.au/guides-resources/resources/guidance-notes/guidance-note-research-and-research-training . Australian Research Council, Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2018) https://www.arc.gov.au/about-arc/program-policies/research-integrity/australian-code-responsible-conduct-research-2018
Benchmarking	External referencing activities were conducted against comparable providers and best practices using publicly available information, including ACAP.