
Guideline name: Regulations on Proper Conduct of Research

1. Introduction:

Tel Aviv University strives for excellence in research. Excellence is not measured solely by research results. It depends largely on observance of proper conduct in research. Proper conduct in research is based on a commitment to the principles of truth, academic freedom, responsibility, integrity and cooperation and requires adherence to professional and ethical standards acceptable in the international scientific community, by the laws of the State of Israel, by the University's rules and regulations and by the rules of the funding entities.

The determination, dissemination and integration of standards of proper conduct in research amongst the members of the scientific community should best be carried out by the members of the academic staff, who serve as a personal example by their supervision, guidance and management of the research programs at all levels. Nonetheless, Tel Aviv University has adopted these Regulations in order to give explicit expression to the common core of working principles that are binding for all the University's researchers.

Tel Aviv University expects that all its researchers conduct themselves in accordance with the principles and rules set forth in these Regulations, in every aspect of their research, including: the research planning and the submission of research proposals to the funding entities and the Research Authority, conducting the research, including the collection of data and the issue of results, its documentation, analysis and protection, the referencing of the results and publication, inclusion of others and its commercialization.

"Research"- research conducted at Tel Aviv University, at subsidiaries and/or external institutions and/or on behalf of Tel Aviv University and/or that Tel Aviv University is coordinating.

"Tel Aviv University Researchers" are employees of Tel Aviv University, its pensioners, visitors and students and post-doctoral students who are involved in planning of research, in the submission of research proposals for funding, in the management of research or its reporting, or in the decisions regarding its commercialization, and also any person utilizing University resources and/or involved in research with any of the persons mentioned above.

It is clarified that external entities purchasing laboratory services from the University's equipment centers are not subject to these Regulations and do not share the University's research.

Reference in these Regulations to the masculine form includes the feminine form by implication, and reference to the singular includes the plural by implication, and vice versa.

It is clarified that these Regulations are in addition to the provisions of the laws of the State of Israel and the University's Constitution and regulations.

Guideline name: Regulations on Proper Conduct of Research

2. Values and fundamental Principles:

2.1 Truth:

Tel Aviv University Researchers will be obligated to the exposure of the scientific truth and will strive for the publication of all their research results, to broaden of human knowledge and to deepening of human understanding and capability to use the knowledge for achieving worthy scientific, technological, human and social goals.

2.2 Freedom:

Tel Aviv University's Researchers will act on the basis of scientific research freedom. They will plan and conduct their research without extraneous influences and subject to professional norms, professional ethics and law.

2.3 Responsibility:

Tel Aviv University's Researchers are responsible for all aspects of their research. As part of this, they will not harm humans, they will protect the health, safety, privacy and dignity of all those likely to be affected by their research (whether or not they are directly involved in the research), will restrict as far as possible the use of animals in research and minimize their suffering, and protect the quality of the environment, all to the best of their ability and as expected and reasonable in the circumstances.

2.4 Professionalism:

Tel Aviv University's Researchers will conduct themselves in accordance with the highest acceptable professional standards in their field of research. They will be diligent about updating their knowledge and will impart the fundamental values and rules of the scientific research to anyone performing research within their responsibility.

2.5 Integrity:

Tel Aviv University's Researchers will present their research and its results in a fair, transparent, unbiased, complete and precise manner, which will allow review and discussion, while mentioning the contribution of all those who participated to the research.

Guideline name: Regulations on Proper Conduct of Research

2.6 Cooperation:

Tel Aviv University's Researchers will encourage scientific cooperation in an atmosphere of openness, mutual trust and willingness to assist. Tel Aviv University's Researchers are entitled to proper recognition for their own contribution to scientific discoveries, ideas and developments as well as to proper protection of this contribution.

3. Rules on Proper Conduct of Research

3.1 Ethical principles:

Tel Aviv University's Researchers will protect the health, dignity, autonomy, privacy, safety and wellbeing of all those likely to be affected by their research.

Research involving humans, whether or not it is a clinical study, will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the law, in accordance with accepted principles of the international community and in accordance with the University's rules regarding ethics in scientific research in which humans are involved, and in accordance with the decisions of the institutional ethics committees established under these rules.

Tel Aviv University's Researchers considering using animals in research will act in accordance with the requirements of the law, internationally accepted principles obligating a search of alternatives to the use of animals, reducing the number of animals used in the experiments to the minimum necessary, using the experimental animal that is lowest on the phylogenetic scale, and minimizing the suffering of the animals involved in the research.

Research in which animals are involved will be conducted pursuant to the regulation on use of animals for experimental purposes [Regulation: 10-23], at the following link:

https://www.tau.ac.il/sites/default/files/media_server/General/yoets/10-023.pdf

and in accordance with the decisions of the ethics committees established under these regulations.

Guideline name: Regulations on Proper Conduct of Research

3.2 Conflict of interest:

Tel Aviv University's Researchers will conduct their research impartially and without bias. They must use their professional judgment in an independent manner and without extraneous considerations influencing any aspect of their research.

Tel Aviv University's Researchers will act pursuant to the University Regulations on Conflict of Interest in Research [Regulation: 10-024] and pursuant to the decisions of the Conflict of Interest Committee established in these regulations.

3.3 Research funding:

Tel Aviv University's Researchers submitting research proposals for funding will take every reasonable cautionary measures to ensure that all the information included in their proposals is accurate and complete, and that that the proposal is scientifically sound and is adequately budgeted.

Tel Aviv University's Researchers obtaining funding for their research will take every reasonable cautionary measures to ensure that the funding is used for its designated purpose, and to ensure that all reports meet the requirements of the funding entity and the University's rules.

Publication funded as stated in this article will note the name of the funding entity. Publication without noting the name of the funding entity, requires the prior approval of the Vice President for Research and Development.

In a joint or group research, the principal investigator/s will bear responsibility for compliance with the rules mentioned in this article.

3.4 Documentation of the research results and preservation of data:

Tel Aviv University's Researchers will document the course of their research and its results, including interim results, in a clear, precise and complete manner. This documentation will be preserved in a reliable and durable manner for at least seven years from the day the research was completed, unless a longer period is required by law or in the conditions of the funding entity or by the nature of the research.

Tel Aviv University's Researchers will enable access to this documentation upon the reasonable demand of the University's authorities, subject to the legal, ethical and professional rules concerned with the protection of confidentiality and privacy.

Guideline name: Regulations on Proper Conduct of Research

3.5 Publication and results:

Publication of the research results will be performed in a fair, transparent and accurate manner.

Tel Aviv University's Researchers will bear full responsibility for the research published under their name, and will take all reasonable cautionary measures to ensure::

- 3.5.1 that the research was conducted as described in an impartial manner and without bias, and that the results reported were obtained as reported and that the publication contains no misrepresentation whatsoever;
- 3.5.2 that the idea for the research and its planning, the collection, analysis and interpretation of the data, the reported results and the text published are of the authors signed on the publication and only of them, and are not copied from any source whatsoever without the approval or without an explicit mentioning of the source in the publication and that the publication does not involve plagiarism or theft of ideas;
- 3.5.3 that any scientific contribution to the research (of an academic staff member, of researcher or of other entity) was fully and properly attributed and noted;
- 3.5.4 that the authors signed on the publication all participated in the research or in the preparation of the publication, that each of them can identify his own contribution to the publication and assumes personal responsibility for its content, that they are all familiar with its content and there is no attribution of research to any person who did not participate in it as stated;
- 3.5.5 in exceptional cases in which there is a concern that disclosure or non-disclosure of the research data or findings might cause public harm, violation of human dignity or freedom or a violation of fundamental rights, the researcher will report on his findings to the Vice President for Research and Development and will obtain his instructions on this matter;
- 3.5.6 that the Tel Aviv University's Researchers will not accept upon themselves the performance of research for any external entity where the external funding entity is demanding any right of veto whatsoever with respect to publication of the research results. Publication of the research results may be delayed in accordance with the principles determined in the Inventions,

Guideline name: Regulations on Proper Conduct of Research

Patents and Their Commercialization Regulations [Regulation: 01-003(b)], at the following link:

https://www.tau.ac.il/sites/default/files/media_server/General/yoets/01-003b.pdf

(Hebrew)

https://m.tau.ac.il/sites/default/files/media_server/General/yoets/01-003B.pdf

(English)

3.6 No responsibility for use of research results:

Notwithstanding the foregoing in these Regulations, Tel Aviv University's Researchers are not responsible for any use whatsoever that others make with their research results.

3.7 Intellectual property of others:

Tel Aviv University Researchers will respect the intellectual property of others.

This version is an English translation of the Regulation published in Hebrew at TAU's web-site. In the event of contradiction between this English version of the Regulation and the Hebrew version, the latter will prevail.