

#1 Introduction to research integrity at Griffith University

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1) About research integrity at Griffith University

Griffith University is committed to the responsible design of research, conduct of research and the reporting of research results. Rather than merely being a matter of 'just' complying with (inter)national standards and rules, responsibility and ethics are defining characteristics of our research.

Griffith University researchers must aspire to the highest standards of responsibility and ethics in their research practice.

2) National guidelines and framework

The [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#) (2018) is the national guideline for research integrity. The Australian Code is complemented by the [Guide to Managing and Investigating Potential Breaches of the Code, 2018 \(the Investigation Guide\)](#) (released at the same time as the 2018 Australian Code).

Together the [2018 Australian Code](#) and the guides provide Australia's research integrity framework.

On p2, the [Australian Code](#) articulates eight research integrity principles (which includes further clarifying text not provided below). The eight principles are:

- (i) **Honesty** in the development, undertaking and reporting of research.
- (ii) **Rigour** in the development, undertaking and reporting of research.
- (iii) **Transparency** in declaring interests and reporting research methodology, data and findings.
- (iv) **Fairness** in the treatment of others.
- (v) **Respect** for research participants, the wider community, animals and the environment.
- (vi) **Recognition** of the right of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to be engaged in research that affects or is of particular significance to them.
- (vii) **Accountability** for the development, undertaking and reporting of research.
- (viii) **Promotion** of responsible research practices.



Griffith University Research Integrity web page

[https://www.griffith.edu.au/
research/research-
services/research-ethics-
integrity/research-integrity](https://www.griffith.edu.au/research/research-services/research-ethics-integrity/research-integrity)

ON THE PAGE



Link to Australian Code



**Link to Griffith University's
responsible research policy**



**The Research Integrity
Resource Sheets**



**A resource paper about
HDR candidate research
outputs**



**List of RIAs and their
contact details**



**Aboriginal Knowledge and
Intellectual Property
Protocol Community Guide**



**Research Data
Management**



International links



3) What changed in 2018?

In 2018 the National Health and Medical Research Council, Australian Research Council and Universities Australia released an update to the [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#). This replaced the 2007 edition.

The 2007 version had 37 pages of very directive rules and requirements.

The six pages of the 2018 version list eight principles to inform practice, 13 institutional responsibilities and 29 responsibilities of researchers.

A number of good practice guides are intended to inform the implementation of the [2018 version of the Australian Code](#).

4) Your responsibilities

Page four of the [2018 version of the Australian Code](#) list the 29 responsibilities of researchers with regard to research integrity matters. These responsibilities correspond to the eight principles of the [Australian Code](#).

Everyone involved in the design, conduct and reporting of research under the auspices of Griffith University (as defined by the [Griffith University responsible research policy](#)) are required to be conversant with the eight principles and 29 researcher responsibilities.

A researcher who is unsure of how the principles and responsibilities apply to their work or how to incorporate them into their practice must seek advice and assistance (see below).

5) International guidance

Internationally there are three useful articulation of research integrity standards:

- (i) [International Committee of Medical Journal Editors](#) (ICMJ) have produced recommendations, news statements and editorials. Whilst most relevant to medical research, their work often informs international practice.
- (ii) [Committee on Publication of Ethics](#) (COPE) have produce resources, policies, elearning materials and other resources. COPE is arguably a more helpful source of advice, especially outside of the medical sphere.
- (iii) [Office for Research Integrity](#) (ORI) While the ORI is a US-based agency with the HHS., they provide some

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When planning a collaboration with a colleague

- a) Reach a shared understanding of the basis that will be used to determine if a collaborator will be a co-author, the order of authorship and whether they should be acknowledged.
- b) Discuss where the research data will be stored, who 'owns' the data, who has access and who can publish based on the data.
- c) Discuss whether anyone involved in the project has a conflict of interest (whether real, potential or perceived) and how it will be managed.
- d) Formulate a publication plan that covers both planned research outputs and future research outputs.
- e) Discuss the roles of the collaborators and the anticipated time frames (seeking ethics approval).

The above matters will be discussed further in the other resource sheets in this series.

- (iii) **Continued from previous page** - ...useful case studies – including some thought provoking videos, pamphlets and posters, other resources, as well as news, policies and regulations.

Taken together, the implications of sections 3-5 above means that if you collaborate with a researcher who is based overseas they may be coming from a context where there are quite detailed standards (e.g. with regard to who can, must or should not be listed as co-authors). Differing institutional approaches may also apply if you collaborate with an Australian researcher who is based at another institution.

6) The Research Integrity Resource Sheets Series

This sheet is the first in a series of 12 sheets.

- > [#1 Introduction to research integrity at Griffith University](#) <-
- [#2 Moving to the 2018 version of the Australian Code](#)
- [#3 Planning and conducting a project responsibly](#)
- [#4 Responsible research outputs](#)
- [#5 Responsible data management](#)
- [#6 Collaborative research: Hints and tips](#)
- [#7 The responsible supervisor](#)
- [#8 The responsible candidate](#)
- [#9 Conflicts of interest](#)
- [#10 Tips for peer review](#)
- #11 Disputes between researchers
- #12 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research and research integrity
- #13 Research Integrity Advisers

The RIRS Series is complemented by two resource papers. These documents are longer than the RIRS, but like the resource sheets they are intended to inform responsible research practice at Griffith University:

[Supervision and HDR candidate research outputs](#)

Procedure for the handling of alleged breaches of the Australian Code (2018)

7) A constructive approach

The principles and responsibilities of the 2018 edition of the Australian Code are best approached as the core behaviours that characterise the responsible conduct of research.

8) Quick prompts

- 8.1 Determine if a project needs human research ethics, animal ethics

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review, biosafety review, strengthened export controls clearance, or consideration by another University process.

8.2 Check what research integrity principles and researcher responsibilities (as per the [2018 version of the Australian Code](#)) are pertinent to the project and ensure they are addressed by the design of the project.

8.3 Check whether any other Griffith University policies/processes are pertinent to the project.

8.4 Determine if there are any regulatory, governance, contractual, gatekeeper or cultural protocol matters that need to be accommodated/addressed by the design of the project.

8.5 If the work is human research, seek consent for retaining/archiving data or other materials, being contacted about future research and the sharing of data.

8.6 Minimise harms to humans, animals and the environment.

8.7 Identify whether you have any capacity building or professional development needs with regard to the above, seek resource material/advice/training to address this.

8.8 Conduct the project in accordance with any approvals, agreements, contracts and/or permits.

8.9 Conduct the project in accordance with the research integrity principles and researcher responsibilities.

8.10 Report the results of the research responsibly.

8.11 As appropriate, bank/archive/share the data and materials.

8.12 Retain the data for the requisite period.

9) Scope of these matters

These guidelines apply to all Griffith University research, regardless of whether the work requires ethical or biosafety clearance, the expertise of the parties, the methodology/design used, and/or the funding for the work (if any).

10) Sources of advice

Researchers are urged to consult the [other resource sheets](#) produced for Griffith University. Researchers with further questions should consult a Research Integrity Adviser ([RIA](#)) (whether in their Group or elsewhere in the University) or the Office for Research.

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