

#2 The 2018 version of the Australian Code: What's new?

V1.0 | September 2018

Contents

1. Updating the 2007 version
2. A new approach to national guidance
3. Institutional flexibility and responsibility
4. Your responsibilities
5. Transition
6. Griffith University's approach
7. National collaborations
8. International collaborations
9. Scope of these matters
10. Sources of advice and information

1) Updating the 2007 version

The previous version of the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research was released in 2007. Like the 2018 version, the 2007 version was released by the Australian Research Council, National Health and Medical Research Council and Universities Australia.

Institutional adherence to the Australian Code is a condition of funding by the ARC and NHMRC, as well as many other research funding bodies.

Griffith University is currently implementing the Australian Code, a process that will be completed by 1 July 2019.

2) A new approach to national guidance

The 2007 edition of the [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#) provided very specific guideline across a range of topics.

The 2018 update of the [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#) replaces that specificity with an eight page document that describes:

- (i) eight general principles;
- (ii) thirteen institutional responsibilities; and
- (iii) sixteen researcher responsibilities.

The Australian Code is complemented by the [Guide to Managing and Investigating Potential Breaches of the Code, 2018 \(the Investigation Guide\)](#). A number of additional good practice guides will be released in the coming months. After the release of each good practice guide, the Office for Research will review it against Griffith University policies and guidance materials (such as the Research Integrity Resource Sheets) to ensure their currency.

Griffith University researchers should regard the [Australian Code \(2018\)](#) as the national guideline for research integrity.

This resource sheet provides some tips and cautionaries for collaborations with researchers based at other Australian institutions and researchers who are based at institutions outside of Australia.

3) Institutional flexibility and responsibility

The new approach for Australia (see above) offers great flexibility for institutions to produce policies and resources to guide the responsible research practice of their researchers.



#2 The 2018 version of the Australian Code: What's new?

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



It does come however with a reciprocal obligation that institutions produce such material and use capacity building/professional development to assist their researchers to conduct their research responsibly.

The reduced length and detail in the [Australian Code \(2018\)](#) does mean an increased number of research integrity matters must now be addressed by institutional guidance material.

The Research Integrity Resource Sheets are an important component of Griffith University's implementation of the [Australian Code \(2018\)](#).

4) Your responsibilities

The [2018 version of the Australian Code](#) list the sixteen responsibilities of researchers with regard to research integrity matters. These researcher responsibilities are:

- R14. Support a culture of responsible research conduct at their institution and in their field of practice.
- R15. Provide guidance and mentorship on responsible research conduct to other researchers or research trainees under their supervision and, where appropriate, monitor their conduct.
- R16. Undertake and promote education and training in responsible research conduct.
- R17. Comply with the relevant laws, regulations, disciplinary standards, ethics guidelines and institutional policies related to responsible research conduct. Ensure that appropriate approvals are obtained prior to the commencement of research, and that conditions of any approvals are adhered to during the course of research.
- R18. Ensure that the ethics principles of research merit and integrity, justice, beneficence and respect are applied to human research.
- R19. Engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and respect their legal rights and local laws, customs and protocols.
- R20. Ensure that the 3Rs (Replacement, Reduction and Refinement) are considered at all stages of research involving animals and minimise the impacts on animals used in research and in so doing support the welfare and wellbeing of these animals.

Ensure that the 3Rs (Replacement, Reduction and Refinement) are considered at all stages of research involving animals and minimise the impacts on animals used in research and in so doing support the welfare and wellbeing of these animals.
- R21. Retain clear, accurate, secure and complete records of all research including research data and primary materials. Where possible and appropriate, allow access and reference to these by interested parties.
- R22. Disseminate research findings responsibly, accurately and broadly. Where necessary, take action to correct the record in a timely manner.
- R23. Disclose and manage actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest.

#2 The 2018 version of the Australian Code: What's new?

Research integrity areas to discuss with collaborators

- a) Who are the intended co-authors of any planned research outputs from the work?
- b) What criteria will determine co-authorship?
- c) What criteria will be used to determine first/corresponding author?
- d) Formulate a publication plan that covers both planned research outputs and future research outputs.
- e) Who else might be acknowledged for their contribution?
- f) Who owns and who can access the data/materials?
- g) How long will the data and materials be retained for?
- h) Does the work require ethics approval and where will it be submitted for research ethics review?
- i) What publication ethics standards apply to the work?
- j) What legislative or other standards/requirements apply to the work?

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

R24. Ensure that authors of research outputs are all those, and only those, who have made a significant intellectual or scholarly contribution to the research and its output, and that they agree to be listed as an author.

R25. Acknowledge those who have contributed to the research.

R26. Cite and acknowledge other relevant work appropriately and accurately.

R27. Participate in peer review in a way that is fair, rigorous and timely and maintains the confidentiality of the content.

R28. Report suspected breaches of the Code to the relevant institution and/or authority.

Everyone involved in the design, conduct and reporting of research under the auspices of Griffith University (as defined by Griffith University's The Responsible Conduct of Research policy) are required to be conversant with the eight principles and sixteen 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). Failure to consult/follow the available resource materials can have serious consequences.

5) Transition

The [Australian Code \(2018\)](#) was released in June 2018. Griffith University is currently implementing the updated code, which includes producing a number of new Research Integrity Resource Sheets.

Institutions must implement the updated code by 1 July 2019. Until this implementation deadline, some Australian research institutions will be using the [Australian Code \(2007\)](#) and some will be working from the [Australian Code \(2018\)](#) in full or part. Even when two institutions have both fully implemented the Australian Code (2018) they may have adopted quite different approaches on matters that were previously articulated as a national standard by the [Australian Code \(2007\)](#). This may present difficulties for multi-institutional collaborative research (see below).

6) Griffith University's approach

In November 2018 Academic Committee approved [The Responsible Conduct of Research policy](#).

Griffith University will be using Research Integrity Resource Sheets to define matters discussed in detail by the [Australian Code \(2017\)](#) but only included as a short principle/responsibility by the [Australian Code \(2018\)](#).

Initially Griffith University is likely to largely maintain the same policy settings as the Australian Code (2007), informed by international

OR CONTACTS

Manager, Research Ethics and Integrity

Tel: (07) 373 54375
research-ethics@griffith.edu.au

Animal Ethics Coordinator

Tel: (07) 373 56618
animal-ethics@griffith.edu.au

Research Ethics Systems and Support Officer

Tel: (07) 373 5 2069
research-ethics@griffith.edu.au



approaches and institutional experience, but this approach may be refined over time.

7) National collaborations

Even when all Australian institutions have fully implemented the Australian Code (2018), different institutions may have different approaches on matters that were previously articulated as a national standard by the [Australian Code \(2007\)](#). This may present difficulties for multi-institutional collaborative research as Griffith University researchers who work with collaborators at other institutions may find that their collaborators need to operate under different policies.

For the above reason, it is especially important to have an early collegiate conversation about the research integrity matters listed in the sidebar to the left (page 3) to ensure there is a shared understanding/expectations and then follow with a friendly email (thus creating a record of that discussion).

8) International collaborations

Work with a colleague who is based in another country has very similar considerations as those for working with an Australian collaborator who is based at another institution (see 7 above). In addition some jurisdictions have their own standards that may be more detailed than the [Australian Code \(2018\)](#) and/or different from the guidance provided by the Griffith University Research Integrity Resource Sheets.

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.

This Research Integrity Resource Sheet which was developed by the Office for Research, Griffith University, is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](#)

