

Section 1

Introduction

This Edinburgh Napier University Code of Practice on Research Integrity defines and details the research principles and practices to which all students and staff at the University are required to adhere. The Code was ratified for this purpose by the Academic Board on May 2013. The Code underpins the University's commitment to promoting high standards of ethical practice by all those undertaking research.

Any Code of Practice on Research Integrity must be meaningful and relevant to researchers and be accepted by them. To this end, the Code of Practice is supported by a number of research guidance notes that help support researchers in turning the guiding principles within this document into practice that underpins the research carried out by the University.

We encourage both our staff and students to be ethically aware, self-reflective researchers who take responsibility for embedding the principles within this code into their day-to-day research practices.

As a University, we commit to the principles laid out in the 'Concordat to Support Research Integrity'¹ as well as the 'Singapore Statement on Research Integrity'².

¹ The Concordat to Support Research Integrity (2012). Available at <http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/highereducation/Documents/2012/TheConcordatToSupportResearchIntegrity.pdf> [last accessed Dec 2015]

² The Singapore Statement on Research Integrity (2010). Available at http://www.singaporestatement.org/downloads/singapore%20statement_A4size.pdf [last accessed December 2015]

Section 2

Guiding principles for research at Edinburgh Napier University

All research within the University should be conducted with:

- honesty
- rigour
- transparency and open communication
- care and respect
- accountability.

The guiding principles of this Code of Practice are the ethical imperatives of **do no harm** (non-maleficence) and **do good** (beneficence).

Researchers must weigh up — and reach a rational judgement on — the potentially conflicting risks and benefits of a particular piece of research in terms of the principles above.

Ethical research conduct does not require the avoidance of potentially high-risk research. Proper recognition of risks and responsible management of them are required for an ethical approach. Ethical research is therefore a matter of being risk aware, not risk averse.

Researchers are expected to comply with the ethical, legal and professional frameworks, obligations and standards as required by statutory and regulatory authorities, and by employers, funders and other relevant stakeholders.

The following standards have been developed to guide staff and students undertaking research. They are intended to cover general principles, but they may not address all situations and the researcher should seek further advice from their local 'gatekeeper', the School or University Research Integrity Committee and their profession's Code of Practice for Research Ethics as appropriate. For further information on 'gatekeepers' see [Research Guidance Note 2](#).