

Code of Good Research Practice of the University of Pardubice

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Preamble

1. The University of Pardubice Code of Good Research Practice (the “Code”) sets out the basic requirements for ethical conduct at the University of Pardubice in research-related activities. It closely follows the Code of Ethics approved at the 5th session of the Assembly of the Council of Higher Education Institutions on May 17, 2007 and adopted by the College of the Rector of the University of Pardubice on June 11, 2007.
2. The Code is based on the general ethical standards commonly accepted in the field in developed countries, always taking into account the nature of the specific R&D activity.
3. The Code is binding on all academic and research staff of the University of Pardubice (the “researcher”). Individual provisions also apply mutatis mutandis to students and other employees of the University of Pardubice, in activities that require the direct participation of these employees in research.
4. The provisions formulated explicitly for the field of research and development shall also apply, as appropriate, to artistic activities.
5. The researcher shall be guided by the internal standards of the University of Pardubice and the applicable legislation.

Part I Researcher

1. The researcher shall always prefer and promote research and development activities as a means of raising the level of knowledge for the benefit of society and as a means of active self-education that supports and facilitates the teaching of students and young researchers.
2. The researcher shall
 - a) take it for granted that the results of his/her research and development activities are made available to the public at the level of publication and under the conditions usual for the field,
 - b) accept responsibility for the quality and plausibility of the results of his/her research and development activities,
 - c) respect the rules resulting from the internal standards of the University of Pardubice when acquiring, storing and using research data,
 - d) set an example implementing ethical principles in research and development activities involving students.
3. In the context of his/her own research and development activities, the researcher shall accept his/her own responsibility for:
 - a) the choice of research and development topics in terms of contribution to scientific knowledge, in particular as regards the revision of research topics already examined, the choice of topics requiring enormous costs compared to the expected benefits of achievable results, etc.,

- b) unbiased approach in research and appropriateness of the choice of research methodology,
- c) reproducibility of research and development results and correctness of procedures for their further processing, including an adequate method of data archiving while respecting higher level regulations or obligations in data archiving,
- d) correct interpretation of the results of research and development, both of his/her own and those of other researchers,
- e) efficient use of funds and staff resources,
- f) conducting ethically sound research, adherence to internationally recognized standards in this respect.

Part II Teamwork

1. It is the moral duty of each researcher to contribute to the creation of team research results and simultaneously develop all important areas of research and development issues of his/her team.
2. As a member of the research team, the researcher shall recognize the mental, material and practical contribution of other team members to the results of the teamwork.
3. The researcher shall take it for granted to contribute his/her research activities to achieving the effect of constructive interference in the team's research activities, in particular by:
 - a) an objective approach to the research and development results of the team members,
 - b) an objective and critical approach to his/her own results,
 - c) willingness to discuss in a matter-of-fact way and respecting the opinions of team members,
 - d) a friendly professional and personal attitude,
 - e) a matter-of-course willingness to involve students as equal partners in teamwork.

Part III

Planning of education, research and development projects

When planning education, research and development projects, the researcher shall, in particular:

- a) apply generally accepted sound procedures in obtaining external grants and internal financial support,
- b) ensure that fair relations are maintained in interaction with the business community in research and development activities,
- c) avoid conflicts of interest in obtaining financial support and counter them with explicit notices of the possibility of their emergence in his/her case,
- d) take responsibility for the effective planning of the budget of funds and promote the establishment of clear and controllable rules for their use.

Part IV

Publication of Results

1. When publishing research results, in addition to the matter-of-course adherence to the statutory copyright rules, the researcher is also obliged to respect publication and other rules for publishing and providing research and development results that are standardly established according to industry practices and established relationships with the business community.
2. The researcher shall observe ethical rules relating to the respect for intellectual property, in particular:
 - a) reject fraud, forgery, plagiarism, counterfeiting, misrepresentation, misuse and theft of results, withholding of results in the case of research and development, at any stage of the process from intention to publication,
 - b) correctness in the application and transfer of technology.
3. The researcher shall apply an objective approach in assessing his/her own and others' share in the reporting of authorship, in particular when assessing the creative contribution to the published result and assessing the quality and rate of contribution to the actual conduct of the research that led to the result.
4. In any way of publishing the results, the researcher shall take for granted:
 - a) ensuring objectivity of self-evaluation of the importance of literary and other information sources used for achieving the published result, including the obligation of their exact citation in case of their use,
 - b) assuming responsibility for the veracity of the data and the correctness of the interpretations presented in the publication or application of the results,
 - c) correcting retrospectively identified erroneous data, results or interpretative conclusions at the same level of disclosure at which they have been submitted,
 - d) critically evaluating the benefits of the breakdown of results, or modified or supplemented results, of research and development into several published works.
5. When publishing the results in journals and proceedings, the researcher shall care about the credibility of the selected title and avoid publishing in the so-called "predatory"¹ titles.

Part V

Principles of Collegiality

1. The researcher shall abide by the principles of collegiality towards colleagues and other staff of the University of Pardubice, consisting in respect for their personality, the right to express independent expert opinion and the right to freely choose their own approach to research activities, provided that this choice complies with the usual standards in the field and with this Code.

¹ Predatory journals exploit the paid open access model. They do not provide standard peer review for submitted papers and their primary objective is not to openly publish and make available sound scientific results, but to make a profit. Detailed information on this issue can be found on the website of the University Library ("Science Support" tab).

2. The researcher shall reject anti-collegiality manifestations, manifestations of discrimination, or manifestations of pressure based on functional status.
3. The researcher shall not assert a false collegiality consisting in tolerance of violations of the general moral principles and rules of this Code.

Part VI

Loyalty to the University

The researcher is loyal to the University. To that effect, loyalty means respecting the fact that the researcher is not the only one instrumental in achieving the results of the his/her research activities at the University using its technical and personnel background. Providing these results to third institutions or persons for the personal benefit of the researcher shall be considered an unethical behaviour.

Part VII

Data and Information Handling

1. The researcher shall always handle the data entrusted, in particular research and development data and personal data, in such a way as to minimize the possibility of their misuse and shall ensure their protection in accordance with the legislation of the Czech Republic.
2. The researcher, especially as a project investigator, administrator of records databases, etc. shall respect the requirement of protection of personal data in accordance with internal standards of the University of Pardubice and generally binding legal regulations.
3. The researcher shall handle the information systems of the University of Pardubice while being aware of the obligation to use them solely to improve the quality of research activities, and not for the private benefit of himself/herself or others.

Part VIII

Violation of the Code

Cases of violations of this Code shall be dealt with in accordance with the internal standards of the University of Pardubice.