

Action Plan for Research Ethics

A High Standard of Research Ethics as the Ethos of the University of Tokyo

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The University of Tokyo

Forward

This action plan highlights actions that should be adopted by the University in order to build an environment where research ethics is observed based on “The Charter of The University of Tokyo” and “Code of Conduct for Research Activities”.

If the meaning of “research ethics” is taken in a broad sense, it can be taken that in addition to preventing fraudulent activities, diverse issues such as ethics relating to research involving humans as well as experimenting on animal, problems with misuse of research funds and conflict of interests will also be addressed. However, the primary objective of this action plan is the prevention of misconducts, represented by fabrication, manipulation and plagiarism in research, as well as the promotion of responsible research, and therefore this action plan points out what actions should be

achieved to achieve the plan's purpose. The plan is based on the Charter of The University of Tokyo and the Code of Conduct for Research Activities.

- Training in research ethics worthy of an independent researcher.

Objective

Ongoing training programs on research ethics suitable for each carrier as an independent researcher or leader which begins from their appointments should be implemented.

Example of typical approaches

- Disseminate the relevant rules and regulations through training at the time of appointment.
- Implementation of training on research ethics through active use of e-learning and other sources (including consideration of mandatory training on research ethics on the obtaining of research funds by researchers).
- Disseminate research ethics for specific fields of research through systems such as “faculty development”.

2. Enhancing awareness

Objective

Improve the education to enhance students' and researchers' understanding of research ethics, so that research activities will be conducted daily with a high standard of research ethics and responsibility.

Example of typical approaches

- Disseminate the Code of Conduct for Research Activities and the related hotline using various tools in addition to leaflets and website.
- Establish a “Research Ethics Week” and hold lectures or seminars to improve the understanding of research ethics.

II. Enhancing the Organization and Environment

1. Enhance the System for Responsible Research Activities

Aim

Establish the “Office for Promoting Research Ethics” in the University Headquarters and enhance the system of promoting research ethics in each department so that every responsible research activity can be carried out.

Example of typical approaches

- Establish the “Office for Promoting Research Ethics” in the University Headquarters to promote`ht os

- Conduct periodic meeting by the executive vice president and members in charge of promoting research ethics.
- Strengthen the university-wide system on compliance and collaboration between offices in charge.

2. Enhance the Environment for Responsible Research

Aim

Ensure an environment where research is carried out in accordance with established rules and standards for research data and information management, communication, and collaboration between members.

Example of

- Promote research data management, including, and disclosure of research data, and research data management in the academic field.
- Implement research data management using examples of using software.
- Establish a help center for writing and publication of articles and provide a system of FAQs.
- Look into initiatives that would enhance communication between students and researchers.

III. Handling cases of misconduct

1. Improving methods of investigation

Aim

Provide a system that investigate cases of misconduct promptly and thoroughly and promotes the improving of rules.

Example of typical approaches

- Ensure investigation is carried out more flexibly by improving the system.
- Make the ~~hotline~~ easier to use and ensure that those reporting incidents are protected thoroughly.
- Make practical use of external experts during investigations and ensure that any ~~conflicts~~ interests are stringently eliminated.
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Example of typical approaches\$ p