



Rules of Scientific Integrity

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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Rules of Scientific Integrity

King Abdulaziz City of science & Technology (KACST), and all its related activities, are governed by a set of adopted policies, rules and regulations set to regulate the relationship between KACST, relevant entities (stakeholders) and beneficiaries of KACST support. Among the most prominent adopted policies, regulations and laws are the Rules of Scientific Integrity.

These scientific rules apply to all aspects of the activities funded by KACST. They also define the professional and basic principles of the development and execution of scientific research, its projects and outputs in accordance with the international scientific practices, researcher rights and obligations as well as potential violations of scientific integrity and subsequent procedures to deal with such violations.

■ Article One: Definitions

The following words and phrases, wherever they appear in these Rules, shall have the meanings set forth below, unless the context requires otherwise:

KACST: King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology.

Entity: the entity where the research is carried out.

Researcher: any member of the research team.

Research Outputs: technical reports (periodic and final), scientific papers, scientific discoveries, patents and others.

Violations of Scientific Integrity: plagiarism, falsification of results, fabrication of results or data that are not based on research experiments, and forgery or misrepresentation of results.

Citation: the literal or semi-literal transfer of texts from a third party without the scientific documentation customary in the context of the research and in the references.

General Rules

■ Article Two: Scope of Application

These rules apply to research and studies funded by KACST and the related tasks and various aspects of research activities, including the research proposal and its outputs.

■ Article Three: Key Principles

It is strictly prohibited for a researcher to do the following:

- 1- Conduct or propose any scientific research or study inconsistent with the Islamic values and ethics.
- 2- Use scientific achievements against humanity.
- 3- Conduct scientific research and studies with adverse impact on public health or the environment; if such research is necessary, a licence must be obtained from the relevant authorities.
- 4- Conduct research in a manner that derogates human dignity or is inconsistent with human values and customs.
- 5- Defend scientific issues in a manner devoid of facts, evidence, documented expertise and scientific references.
- 6- Submit proposals to more than one entity or submit an entirely, or partially, funded proposal to other entities.

■ Article Four: Professional Principles

A researcher must abide by the following:

- 1- Seek transparency and accuracy when selecting research topics, objectives, and appropriate methods to achieve the set goals.
- 2- Properly, and with no exaggeration, determine the research timeframe and financial needs, including materials, supplies, requirement and manpower.
- 3- Follow laboratory safety instructions, procedures and rules, and preserve the safety of lab staff, equipment and materials.

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- 4- Observe the instructions, regulations and laws pertaining to the research topic.
 - 5- Comply with executive bylaws and regulations related to living creatures research ethics, and observe professional ethics when conducting research and experiments on human, animal or plant subjects or any other element of the environment.

■ Article Five: Research behavior

A researcher must observe the following:

1. Ensure quality performance, which should never be linked or associated with any type of moral or material incentive or reward.
2. Abstain from utilizing his/her research activity, scientific concepts, or expertise for any sort of advertising or publicity for any personal goal, or any tribal, nationalistic, ethnic or other affiliation, in violation of existing laws and regulations.
3. Avoid personal relationships and inclinations or subjective criticism during scientific discussions and debates, respecting the principle of mutual respect, regardless of scientific position or academic honors.
4. Refrain from accepting an invitation to conduct, or participate in, any research when lacking sufficient professional or scientific expertise in the research domain, and seek to recommend qualified experts to conduct the research project.
5. When tackling any topic or issue that is not within his / her area of expertise, the researcher must state his / her domain of specialization as well as his / her academic honors.
6. Never conceal information and information sources, nor restrict the exchange of opinions and ideas among expert researchers, inhibiting scientific research progress, with the exception of research topics or projects needing confidentiality or requiring to be revealed by expert authorities.
7. Never withhold any scientific findings from the entity for which the research is being conducted.

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8. Protect the rights of KACST and the entity concerning the results of scientific research and the intellectual outputs found or revealed, and report such results to the party in question promptly. These results shall not be used in any manner that will serve the researcher's or other interests, without the prior written consent of KACST and the involved entity
 9. Commitment to the requirements of KACST or the entity in which the research is being carried out with regard to publishing, registering patents, and scientific discoveries.

■ Article Six: Duties of the Principal Investigator

The duties and responsibilities of the Principal Investigator include the following:

1. Distribution of the research work load among the research team members to ensure the exchange of expertise, the excellence of work quality and the enhancement of the competency levels amongst the team members.
2. Selection of a research team with the scientific skills and ability to accomplish, based on objective criteria and without favoritism.
3. Assumption of all responsibilities with regard to the research project which he/she is assigned.

Copyright Regulations

■ Article Seven: Preparation and Publication

When intending to publish, the researcher must commit to the following:

1. Abide by international and domestic copyright laws and regulations effective in the Kingdom, especially in relation to obtaining the prior written consent from the author or the publisher when considering republishing pictures or figures or any other parts of the research.
2. Cite source(s) quoted or used by the author to write his/her published work wherever mentioned as well as in the references list.
3. A scientific paper may not be simultaneously submitted to more than one party for publication.
4. A scientific paper published in one particular scientific journal may not be published again in another scientific journal, scientific conference record or seminar without significant change or addition, unless so authorized by the publishing parties and with reference to the original reference or source where the paper was previously published.
5. Expressions of appreciation and gratitude to KACST must be included, taking into consideration paragraph (4) of article eight.

■ Article Eight: Rights of Others

To protect the rights of others, a researcher must commit to the following:

1. When intending to publish research outputs, the researcher shall include the names of all of those who have contributed effectively to the research to be published.
2. The names of researchers involved in joint research projects must be listed according to the written agreement between the members of the research team.
3. The technicians who contributed to the collection and analysis of samples must be thanked and their names listed among the list of authors, if their contribution is a major part of the published work.

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4. A copyright agreement with KACST and the entity must be concluded and documented before the research activity is conducted, and upheld once the research is published.
 5. The rights of society must be respected relating to the publication of scientific breakthroughs, and no attempts should be made to distort scientific facts or delay the publication of such facts.

Violations of Scientific Integrity

■ Article Nine: Presentation of Results

The researcher must take into account the following:

1. The scientific results found by the researcher must be presented in truth and transparency without distortion, falsification and fabrication, and without any concealment of negative results or interpretation of results based on hypothetical assumptions with false claims that they are based on scientific research or experiments. Furthermore, the real scientific results of the scientific experiments conducted must be presented without any exclusion of deviating and irregular results so as to present the research findings as being fully consistent.
2. A researcher must refrain from guided scientific deception, including any intentional focus on exhibiting content, or acknowledging implications that may be incidental and of poor significance, and treating such content as if it was the equivalent of the rest of the results obtained over the general course of the scientific research, as well as neglecting the significance of other data, that could, once disclosed, weaken the core idea of the research.

■ Article Ten: Plagiarism or Citation

A researcher is prohibited from the following:

1. Misrepresenting the work of others, partly or entirely, as his/her own, and neglecting to cite the source of any idea or information.
2. Literal or near-literal citation, taking into account the scientific method in differentiating between the formulation of the researcher and the formulation of the source. This also applies to a work that's been cited of a previous work of the researcher himself or the participants in the research.
3. Benefiting from, and citation of the work of others that has not been published in scientific journals (such as reports and institutions annual statistics, technical reports and personal communications ... etc.), without reference to that fact and documentation of it.

■ Article Eleven: Accurate citation and references

The researcher must take into consideration the following:

1. Cite source(s) quoted or used wherever mentioned, as well as in the references list.
2. Avoid using scientific references and citations that do not cite the source directly, using an intermediate reference and listing unnecessary references and names.

■ Article Twelve: A researcher's curriculum vitae

A researcher's curriculum vitae must reflect the utmost accuracy and truthfulness, and personal achievements and expertise must not be exaggerated or reiterated either to mislead others or to achieve personal interests or goals.

Disciplinary actions concerning scientific integrity violations

■ Article Thirteen: Scientific integrity committee

KACST shall form a scientific integrity committee that will assume the following responsibilities:

1. Establish the principles and standards related to issues of scientific integrity.
2. Study the cases referred to it.
3. Examine the violations of scientific integrity and citation, and propose the appropriate course of action based on the nature and severity of the violation.
4. Interpret and update the articles of the scientific integrity rules.

■ Article Fourteen: Disciplinary actions concerning scientific integrity

In the case of a confirmed violation of the rules of scientific integrity, the following actions will be undertaken upon the recommendation of the scientific integrity committee at KACST:

1. In the case of a violation in the research proposal or outputs, the actions taken by KACST will apply to the research team.
2. The entity with which the principal investigator is affiliated shall be notified of the researcher's malpractice and of the disciplinary actions taken against the research team, in order to follow up the implementation of that course of action and carry out its own disciplinary actions applicable in that case or dictated by KSA law against the research team.
3. The entity with which the researcher is affiliated will officially notify KACST of any procedures undertaken regarding the researchers having committed the violation and identify the researcher responsible for the violation within two months at the latest of receipt of the official KACST letter referred to in paragraph (2) above.
4. KACST shall take the scientific violation disciplinary actions only against

the principal investigator and the researcher who violates the laws in each research project concerned based on the recommendation described in paragraph (3) above.

5. The scientific violation disciplinary measures implemented against a researcher who violates the laws shall include all the named researcher's scientific research contributions at KACST from the date of the implementation of the measures against him, and in the following manner:
 - all of the researcher's research work approved by KACST shall be dismissed from the date the disciplinary measures become effective in case he/she is a principal investigator.
 - a researcher who violates the laws shall be disqualified from all research activities approved by KACST from the date of the implementation of the disciplinary measures in case he/she is a research associate or an adviser.

