

Approved
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on 12.12.22



Approved
Rector
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Yerevan Haybusak University • Code of Ethics

Our Vision

Yerevan Haybusak University's vision is thousands of talented, knowledgeable, and caring professionals and scientists educated in a free academic space who consistently improve the well-being of people and communities and care for the environment. Realizing our university's mission through science-based education, we seek to serve society and adhere to high standards of academic ethics.

Our values and guiding principles

In teaching and learning, conducting research, and in our service to society, we are dedicated to advancing the university's core values and guiding principles.

1. Academic freedom and institutional autonomy:

- are essential for realizing the university's mission and sustaining its independence
- protect teachers' right to apply their pedagogical philosophy and intellectual commitments and
- ensure that teachers and students are free to pursue knowledge wherever it may lead. Լ

2. Diversity, equity, and inclusion:

- uphold our equality, fairness, and our equal opportunities
- create an environment of mutual help and guidance in our multicultural community
- promote respect for the dignity and autonomy of others and appreciation of their opinions and choices, fostering the atmosphere of understanding and tolerance

3. Academic excellence and personal development:

- lead us in studying, attaining creative thinking and new knowledge
- promote good academic and research practices
- safeguard academic progress and achievements and establish a baseline of knowledge and skills for all students

4. Integrity and accountability for resources and relationships:

- ensures access to and delivery of education
- proactively prevent compliance violations or noncompliant activities
- we teach and learn by acting with integrity, building trust and taking responsibility for our actions

5. Responsible research:

- advances research and makes its results more accessible, promoting knowledge sharing and re-use
- advances academic integrity, strengthens the fight against plagiarism, misrepresentation, and falsification, and protects the right to privacy and the confidentiality of information
- makes research more open to participation, review and improvement and citizen science

6. Trust and leadership in service to society:

- ensure sustainable development, care for the environment and responsible use of natural resources
- promote understanding of complex global phenomena through research and education
- foster creativity and develop students' life skills essential for ensuring the university's broader societal impact.

These values and principles are the basis of YHU's norms of conduct.

YHU Code of Conduct

General Provisions

1. Supported by YHU policies, procedures, and rules, these norms guide our decision-making and underscore our commitment to ethical conduct and behaviour. Everyone at YHU is responsible for acting with integrity.
2. The university has a zero-tolerance policy for discriminatory treatment on the grounds of race, religion, ethnic origin, political views, age, gender, disability, or other circumstances of a personal nature. Harassment, abuse, and showing personal preferences and prejudices are prohibited.
3. Our community members are responsible for acting according to this guidance and reporting any suspected unethical behaviour or illegal activity. We respect all parties' right to legal protection and confidentiality and ensure that reports of misconduct submitted in good faith will not cause retaliation or any negative consequences to those who submitted them. A head of a structural unit who deliberately ignores academic fraud is behaving unethically.

Academic Education

4. Becoming a student is a person's voluntary choice and requires an honest and responsible commitment to studies and research. Academic dishonesty is a serious offense, regardless of whether it was committed intentionally or not. Therefore, this Code of Conduct binds all students not to commit academic dishonesty or fraud. It includes plagiarism – any cheating in academic pursuits, such as copying, representing someone else's ideas or work under one's own name, operating on fictitious methods and using prohibited data, false information or data collected in an unethical or unfair manner, and submitting false information about yourself and others and use of unauthorized resources in knowledge. These actions are forbidden and punishable depending on the gravity of the infringement.
5. Academic communication between the teacher and the student shall be mutually respectful and foster cooperation and goodwill that promote the student's personal development. Students must also treat each other appropriately – they learn more in a classroom where they feel safe, motivated and respected.

Good Scientific Practice

6. A scientist shall act with honesty and responsibility, ensuring that research is carried out in adherence to the established principles of research ethics, standards, and regulations. When planning research, a scientist shall assess its positive and negative effects on any party (the natural and cultural environment, research participants, society, research community, research organization, etc.). When conducting research, a scientist shall respect human dignity, privacy, and autonomy and consider how to treat the persons involved to minimize harm and risks and maximize benefits.
7. Upon publication or presentation of the research results, researchers shall be honest in public communication and clear about the limitations of the research and their expertise. The results of the research shall be presented in a way that they can be checked and reused.
8. A scientist shall recognize the authorship, interests and intellectual property rights of all the scientists and cooperation partners who contributed to the research and preparation of the publication and consider recommendations and restrictions on publication.
9. Any research involving animals or humans must comply with institutional, national, or international guidelines. Projects presented by the university researchers must obtain ethical approval from the University Ethics Committee before the research commences. University will not support research without ethical approval.
10. Researchers shall safeguard the obtained information. They shall not misuse or wrongfully disclose it. When applying to Ethics Committee with their research projects, they shall assess privacy risks and threats to information security and describe measures for meeting confidentiality obligations by safeguarding information for its entire life cycle from the collection and use to dissemination, retention or disposal. They shall inform participants and seek their consent if their personal information may be shared with the government or other interested parties.
11. Ethical approval must be obtained before any research involving human participants, identifiable personal data and/or animals is undertaken to avoid disciplinary procedures. Researchers will only be supported by the university if they have approval in place.

12. In case of a conflict of interest affecting the reliability of the research, a scientist shall disclose it, notify the publisher and refrain from the position of a decision-maker, assessor or expert. Issues of conflict of interest in the university are regulated by the YHU conflict of interest policy.
13. A reviewer or mentor shall ensure the research results' impartiality, quality, timeliness, and confidentiality.

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