

Policy on Research and Publication Ethics

The Directorate of Research and Innovations of the Uttarakhand Open University is coordinating the Ph.D. Programme and other Research Programmes in various disciplines. To ensure quality of research, the Directorate has developed a clear-cut policy and guidelines on research publication ethics. The priority of the University is that any research conducted in the University must exhibit integrity in research and follow the internationally accepted guidelines on publication. Therefore, understanding of the ethical boundaries in research and publication is essential for any academic institution. Keeping in view the research misconduct and ethical issues in publication, the Uttarakhand Open University has envisaged policy on research ethical conduct and publication. The policy broadly focuses on following two core areas-

- **Research conduct and ethics:**

It is often observed that researchers some time indulge in research fraud, falsification of findings and fabrication of data. A person might falsify data to make it fit with the desired end result of a study. Such practice of changing or omitting of data or results in such a way that the research is not accurately represented, may harm the society in long run. Hence such unethical research practices violate the prescribed norms of research ethics and should be curbed.

- **Publication ethics**

Publication of research findings is the key aspect of the research activity. One of the common types of unethical practice in publication is plagiarism, when one deliberately uses other's work by literal copying to paraphrasing or without acknowledgment, credit or permission. To ensure integrity of research work as well as research worker associated with the university, issues related to plagiarism, duplication of publication, undisclosed competing interests will be the paramount objective of the policy.

Objectives

1. To create awareness among learners/researchers on research misconduct and publication ethics.
2. To develop pre-PhD course work module on research misconduct and publication ethics
3. To ensure that principles and professional responsibility of the university for research integrity is not hampered.
4. To conduct Ph.D. programs as per UGC (M.Phil/ Ph.D) Regulation 2016 (3rd Amendment 2018) to ensure quality and originality of research work.

Tool Kit

The University will provide standard plagiarism detection software to researchers working in the university.

Mechanism to address the allegations.

The University will have a **Committee on Research Misconduct & Publication Ethics (CORMPE)** to address such issues or allegations, if arise. The committee constituted by the Vice Chancellor of the University will have following members-

- Director, Research & Innovations (Chairperson)
- All the Director of the Schools (Member)
- Controller of Examinations (Member)
- Convener of the concern Department/Subject (Member)
- External Expert of the concerned subject (Nominated by the Vice Chancellor)

The committee will have an important role to play in addressing cases of data fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, image manipulation etc. It will submit its findings and recommendation to the competent authority for necessary action.