

Code of Conduct for Researchers at Institute of Science Tokyo

Established on March 17, 2025

Institute of Science Tokyo has established the following code of conduct for all members and students engaged in research activities with the aim of ensuring fair and credible research activities and contributing to the further advancement of academic research.

I. Researcher Responsibilities

(Basic responsibilities of researchers)

1. Researchers must be responsible for ensuring the quality of the specialized knowledge and technology they create, and for using their specialized knowledge, skills, and experience to contribute to the health and welfare of humankind, the safety and security of society, and the sustainability of the global environment.

(Mindset of researchers)

2. Researchers must always behave with integrity and sincerity, endeavor to maintain and improve their specialized knowledge, abilities, and skills, and strive to demonstrate the accuracy and legitimacy of knowledge produced by scientific research.

(Researchers as a part of society)

3. Researchers must be aware that the autonomy of science is based on society's trust and mandate; understand the relationships among science, technology, society, and the natural environment from a broad perspective; and act accordingly.

(Responding to societal expectations)

4. Researchers bear the responsibility to meet societal expectations by elucidating the truth and solving various challenges. Researchers must always be aware of such societal expectations when using research funds provided for developing research environments and conducting research.

(Explanation and disclosure)

5. Researchers must endeavor to build constructive dialogue with society by disclosing and actively explaining the significance and function of the research they engage in; evaluating the impact that research could have on, and the changes it could cause to, humanity, society, and the environment; and publishing results with neutrality and objectivity.

(Ambiguity in scientific research)

6. Researchers should understand that the results of their research may be misused for

destructive acts against their intentions, and must conduct research and publish results in an appropriate and responsible manner that is acceptable to society.

II. Research Integrity

(Research activities)

7. Researchers must behave conscientiously in accordance with the purport of this code of conduct throughout the proposal, planning, application, implementation, and reporting stages of their research. Researchers must publish research results to receive recognition of their achievements and assume responsibility in accordance with their roles. Researchers must ensure that research and survey data are recorded and stored, and that the data is handled with the utmost care, and they must not engage or participate in forgery, fabrication, plagiarism, or any other form of improper conduct.

(Improving the research environment and promoting thorough education)

8. Researchers must be aware that one of their key duties is to establish and maintain a fair environment that enables them to engage in responsible research and prevent misconduct, and continuously endeavor to improve the quality of the researcher community and the research environment within their affiliations, as well as to promote education to prevent misconduct. To achieve this, they must also strive to gain the understanding and cooperation of society.

(Consideration of research subjects)

9. Researchers must respect the individuality and human rights of those who cooperate in their research, and consider their wellbeing. Researchers must treat animals, etc. with respect.

(Relationships with others)

10. Researchers must critique other individuals' achievements appropriately, listen humbly to critiques of their own research, and exchange opinions with a sincere attitude. They must also evaluate other individuals' intellectual efforts and other achievements fairly, and respect their honor and intellectual property rights. In addition, researchers should actively participate in the mutual evaluation of researchers in the research community, especially in their field of expertise.

III. Science in Society

(Dialogue with society)

11. Researchers should actively participate in dialogue and interaction with the public for better mutual understanding between society and the research community. In addition, researchers should strive to provide policy- and decision-makers with scientific advice that is effective for policy-making, for solving various challenges in society and realizing welfare. Such advice should, where possible, reflect the consensus of researchers, and if there is a difference of opinion, it should be explained in an easy-to-understand manner.

(Scientific advice)

12. Researchers should conduct their research activities for the purpose of contributing to the public welfare and provide fair advice based on objective and scientific evidence. In doing so, researchers must be aware of the significance and responsibility of the impact of their comments on public and policy formulation, and must not abuse their authority. Researchers should also make every effort to ensure the quality of scientific advice, as well as to clearly explain the uncertainties and diversity of views relating to scientific findings.

(Scientific advice to policy- and decision-makers)

13. When providing scientific advice to policy- and decision-makers, researchers should understand that while scientific findings should be fully respected in the policy-making process, they are not the sole basis for making policy decisions. If a policy decision differs from what the research community has advised, researchers should request the policy- and decision-makers to explain the details of the decision to the public, if necessary.

IV. Compliance with Laws and Ordinances, etc.

(Compliance with laws and ordinances)

14. Researchers must observe laws, ordinances, and relevant regulations when engaging in research, using research funds, etc.

(Proper use of public research funds)

15. All members must understand that public research funds are sourced from taxpayers' money, and must be aware of their accountability for the use of these funds.

(Mutual cooperation)

16. All members must cooperate with each other to prevent misconduct in research activities (including misuse of research funds).

(Elimination of discrimination)

17. When engaging in research, education, and academic society activities, researchers must respect freedom and individuality, and treat individuals fairly on the basis of scientific methods without discriminating on the basis of race, gender, status, beliefs, creed, religion, etc.

(Conflicts of interest)

18. When engaging in research, inspection, evaluation, judgment, scientific advice, etc., researchers must pay adequate attention to impingement upon the interests of other individuals or organizations, and interests arising between different institutions, and respond appropriately while always considering public interest.

(Responsibilities of individuals who support research)

19. Administrative staff and other individuals who support the research activities of researchers must strive toward both the enhancement of the research support environment and the development of research activities in accordance with this code of conduct. In particular, they must endeavor to prevent misconduct and engage in appropriate management of research funds without committing or participating in improper conduct.