**Graduate Studies and Research**

**Code of Ethical and Legal Conduct of Research**

The Lebanese American University recognizes its commitment to its researchers and the community it serves to ensure the highest ethical standards based on integrity and professionalism in the conduct of research.

This code provides the guiding ethical and legal principles for the conduct of research and applies to all those undertaking research at the University or on its behalf.

**Basic Ethical and Legal Principles:**

**It is the responsibility of all those who are engaged in research to adhere to the following principles:**

**Excellence**

* Ensure the highest integrity and quality in both research design and its conduct
* Promote and support ethical research practices

**Integrity**

* Oversee and comply with all relevant regulatory and ethical requirements for the conduct of research within LAU and any collaborative organization/institution
* Ensure securing necessary approvals, as it is required, to conduct research
* Demonstrate accountability of awarded research funds and comply with specific terms and conditions related to research contracts and grants
* Foster and support honesty in research, in relation to your own research and that of others

**Ethical Conduct**

* Comply with all relevant regulations, local laws or legislations as well as the University’s Policies and Procedures for the conduct of research and the protection of human participants when applicable
* Secure IRB approval for all research involving human participants or participants’ information
* Pursue the advancement of knowledge while meeting the highest standards or honesty, accuracy and objectivity

**Individual responsibility, Training and Skills**

* Conduct the research in accordance with this code and all applicable laws, policies and procedures
* Exercise sound judgement and serve in the best interests of the institution and the community
* Identify and undertake the necessary training and development to carry out the proposed research.

**Conflict of Interest**

* Recognize and disclose any potential or perceived professional or non-financial conflict of interest relating to any aspect of the research conducted
* Recognize and disclose any form of actual or perceived financial interest, and or receipt of any form of financial or benefit from a third party relating to any aspect of the research conducted

**Compliance**

* Ensure that any research undertaken complies with an approved research project, agreements, terms and conditions relating to the project while maintaining proper governance and transparency
* Comply with multi-institutional agreements when researchers are involved in joint research projects, particularly those relating to dissemination of research findings and management of the research data and primary materials
* Ensure the accuracy, security and accessibility of research data
* Avoid plagiarism and use of other researchers’ intellectual property or data without their proper consent
* Ensure that the data and results are retained or deleted/destroyed in accordance with all legal, ethical, funding organization and University’s requirements

**Publication and Dissemination of Research Findings**

* Disseminate a complete description and related findings of the research project as broadly as possible, including negative findings, results contrary to the hypothesis, and any changes or corrective actions
* Take into account any restrictions to intellectual property or culturally sensitive data
* Cite and acknowledge other relevant work appropriately and accurately when disseminating research findings
* Include information on all funding resources for the specific research and any potential conflict of interest