



TUS

**Technological University of the Shannon:
Midlands Midwest**

Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta na Sionainne:
Lár Tíre Iarthar Láir

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TUS Good Research Practice Guidelines 2025 - 2028



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1.0 Introduction

These guidelines are based on the '[HEA Principles of Good Practice in Research within the Irish Higher Education Institutions](#)' and ensure consistency and alignment with accepted international norms and best practices. These guidelines apply to all employees of the Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest (TUS), all TUS students undertaking research, and to all Adjunct, Emeritus, and visiting personnel officially engaged in research activity at TUS and/or undertaking any research activity in the Technological University of the Shannon name.

According to '[Ireland's Framework of Good Practice for Research Degree Programmes](#),' *"Research is a process to discover new knowledge, through systematic investigation. Through research, hypotheses are investigated, facts are established, or new interpretations of data or texts suggested. It is a process of gathering and analysing information, designed to develop or contribute to knowledge, increase or revise knowledge."* The term research therefore includes fundamental and applied research, scholarship, creative work, performance, composition and related activities. The primary purpose of this document is to help realise this responsibility and to serve the research community as a framework for self-regulation.

This document sets out a series of guiding principles and standards for good research practice and applies to all disciplines. It does not include a prescriptive set of rules or regulations. These are dealt with in policies and other documents, in more detail, as appropriate and should be referenced throughout the research process, including, but not limited to:

- TUS (2024). [Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy](#)
- TUS (2024). [Article-based PhD Thesis/PhD Thesis by Publication](#)
- TUS (2022). [Conflict of Interest Policy](#)
- TUS (2023). [Data Protection Policy](#)
- TUS (2023). [Data Retention and Records Management Policy](#)
- TUS (2023). [Dignity and Respect at Work Policy and Procedure](#)
- TUS (2022). [Disciplinary Procedure](#)
- TUS (2022). [Equal Opportunities Policy](#)
- TUS (2025). Ethics Policy for Research
- TUS (2022). [Export Controls Policy](#)
- TUS (2024). [Framework for the Development of Professional Doctorates in the Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest](#)
- TUS (2024). [Fraud Policy](#)
- TUS (2023). [Health and Safety Statement](#)

- TUS (2024). [Information Security Policy](#)
- TUS (2022). [Institutional Affiliation & Funder Acknowledgement Policy](#)
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- TUS (2023). [Policy and Procedures for Collaborative Provision \(National and Transnational\)](#)
- TUS (2024). [Policy on Gender Identity & Expression](#)
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- TUS (2025). Research Integrity Policy
- TUS (2024). [Submission Specifications for PhD and Master's Theses](#)
- TUS (2022). [Student Code of Conduct and Discipline](#)
- TUS (2022). [TUS Student Policy on Dignity and Respect](#)

2.0 Good Research Practice

TUS is committed to ensuring the highest standards of rigour and integrity in all aspects of research, based on the '[HEA Principles of Good Practice within Irish Higher Education Institutions](#).' The nine principles that underpin good research practice are to be observed by all members of the research community. They are:

- Excellence in Research and Academic Freedom;
- Research Integrity and Ethics;
- Open Research;
- Intellectual Property and Knowledge Transfer;
- Researcher Development;
- Research Project and Programme Management;
- Dignity and Respect;
- Gender Equality and Inclusiveness;
- Research and Sustainability.

This includes conducting research in accordance with appropriate ethical, legal, regulatory and professional frameworks, obligations and standards.

Each principle is now dealt with in detail.

2.1 Excellence in Research and Academic Freedom

TUS promotes excellence in how research is conducted at all career stages and across all disciplines. TUS embraces the fundamental principles of academic freedom and recognises that its researchers shall have the freedom, within the law, to question and test received wisdom, to put forward new ideas and to state unpopular opinions.

2.2 Research Integrity and Ethics

Researchers should comply with all legal and ethical requirements pertinent to their work and declare any conflicts of interest, as per the '[TUS Conflict of Interest Policy](#),' and the means to resolve them. Researchers must abide with the 'TUS Research Integrity Policy' and the 'TUS Research Ethics Policy.'

2.3 Open Research

TUS and its research community are engaging with the advancement of the open research, in accordance with the '[National Action Plan for Open Research](#)' principles, including:

- Scholarly publications and research data developed are as open as possible and only as closed as necessary (while fully respecting appropriate data privacy responsibilities and disciplinary needs);
- Research data produced at TUS reflects the FAIR principles: findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable;
- Data produced is responsibly managed, stored and retained;
- Researchers are supported in their engagement with the developing Open Research agenda.

2.4 Intellectual Property and Knowledge Transfer

TUS is fully committed to the management and use of Intellectual Property, in line with the '[TUS Intellectual Property Policy](#).' Fully respecting this, TUS seeks to maximise the dissemination of its research outputs in recognition of their public importance.

Where there is external collaboration, for example with enterprise or internationally, TUS will work with these partners to ensure appropriate conduct of collaborative research in all its forms, including projects, programmes and placements.

2.5 Researcher Development

TUS supports the professional development of its researchers, at all career stages. This includes supporting them to maintain their knowledge of, and skills in, good research practice throughout their careers. TUS will endeavour to ensure there is appropriate training and career development opportunities for its researchers and collaborators, where appropriate, and provide timely advice in this regard. Researchers should ensure they are appropriately trained and educated in the requisite skills necessary for them to be effective.

TUS applies the required duty of care at all researcher career stages including:

- Doctoral students, as outlined in the '[National Framework for Doctoral Education](#)' and '[Ireland's Framework of Good Practice for Research Degree Programmes](#),'
- Those being supervised and their supervisors, with particular regard to those researchers who are becoming supervisors for the first time;
- Early-career researchers;
- Established and leading researchers.

TUS is also committed to the professional development of its research support staff.

2.6 Research Project and Programme Management

TUS ensures clear lines of accountability for the university and management of research taking place under its auspices. This includes, but is not limited to, compliance with and adherence to relevant:

- laws, regulations and standards;
- financial policies including procurement, as well as funder terms and conditions;
- health and safety procedures;
- quality assurance procedures;
- policies in relation to recruitment and remuneration of research personnel;
- insurance and indemnity requirements;
- institutional risk identification and management procedures.

2.7 Dignity and Respect

TUS is committed to creating a positive culture which recognises and reflects the dignity of each member of the TUS community, through the promotion of good and professional behaviour and attitudes, embracing diversity, encouraging each person to reach their potential, and fostering social inclusion and equality, as per the '[TUS Dignity and Respect at Work Policy and Procedure](#)' and the '[TUS Student Policy on Dignity and Respect](#)'.

TUS prioritises dignity and respect for

- 1) Its researchers and associated staff, covering but not limited to:
 - Recognition of good practice in the conduct of research and of research support,
 - Freedom from bullying and harassment,
 - Equality, diversity and inclusion.
- 2) All others participating in research being undertaken under its auspices, covering but not limited to:
 - Participants who are deemed to be vulnerable or hard to reach;
 - Appropriate regard for moral and cultural values;
 - Informed consent, confidentiality, anonymity and data protection;
 - Due respect for animal subjects.
- 3) The citizen in terms of:
 - The return on public research investment through various forms of impact, including its role in human capital development, and its economic, societal, cultural and intellectual objectives;
 - Value-for-money and accountability;
 - Dissemination of, and public engagement with, publicly funded research.

2.8 Gender Equality and Inclusiveness

TUS promotes gender equality and fosters inclusiveness in research, as outlined in the TUS '[Policy on Gender Identity and Expression](#).' TUS are cognisant of Ireland's obligations as a signatory to the '[Ljubljana Declaration on Gender Equality](#).' Key objectives in this area include:

- gender equality in research careers;
- gender balance in decision- making;
- the integration of the gender dimension in research and innovation content;
- an inclusive approach that addresses elements of equality beyond gender.

Research activity within TUS will promote equality and diversity throughout the research community and avoid discrimination on the basis of gender, civil status, family status, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, race (which includes colour, nationality or ethnic or national origins), membership of the Traveller community, or socioeconomic backgrounds.

2.9 Research and Sustainability

TUS recognises its responsibility to support the achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its role in securing a sustainable future. TUS supports the implementation of [‘The National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development’](#). Through TUS research activity, the university will endeavour to bring about positive change and solutions to significant global challenges with regard to [‘Ireland’s Climate Action Plan’](#) and will support our researcher community in achieving the objectives of that Plan as they relate to project management.

Across its research activity, TUS will pay due regard to potential direct and indirect impacts on the environment, the ‘Do No Significant Harm’ principles [\(Article 17 of Regulation \(EU\) 2020/852\)](#), and the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Researchers will be supported to ascertain the connections between their research and the SDGs.

References

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- 2) Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (2021). [Ireland's Climate Action Plan](#).
- 3) European Commission (2021). [European Research Area Policy Agenda 2022-2024](#)
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- 9) TUS (2024). [Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy](#).
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