Policy Document Administrator	Edwina Murphy, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
Policy Document Approver	Academic Board
Responsible Body/Person	Academic Board
Next Review date	July 2028
Superseded documents	None
Related documents	Research Misconduct Procedure Academic Integrity Policy for Coursework Awards HREC Terms of Reference Low Risk Ethics Approval Rules
Related HE Standards	*1.4, 4.1, 4.2, 5.2.*
Related National Code Standards	8.8

1. PURPOSE

To ensure the Australian University of Theology's research culture is based on the principles espoused in the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (**Code for Research**) and the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (**Statement on Ethical Conduct**).

2. DEFINITIONS

Definitions for any words in **Bold** in this document can be found in the Policy Glossary. The first instance of each defined term has been outlined in bold.

3. SCOPE

This policy applies to all **AUT affiliated researchers** and **HDR candidates**, as well as students conducting **human participant research**.

4. POLICY STATEMENT

The **University** is committed to **research** which is conducted responsibly, ethically and with integrity, built on the principles articulated in the Code for Research and Statement on Ethical Conduct summarised below:

Code for Research

- Honesty
- Rigour
- Transparency
- Fairness
- Respect
- Recognition of the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- Accountability
- Promotion of responsible research practices

Statement on Ethical Conduct

- Research merit and integrity
- Justice
- Beneficence

- Respect

All researchers affiliated with the University must familiarise themselves with the Code for Research and, if they are conducting human participant research, the Statement on Ethical Conduct.

5. PRINCIPLES

5.1 General Principles

5.1.1 The primary responsibility for ensuring the integrity of research lies with individual researchers and institutions.

5.1.2 In line with the principles of the Code for Research, where permitted, the use of artificial intelligence tools (including, but not limited to, ChatGPT or similar) must be acknowledged.

5.1.3 HDR Candidates must inform their principal supervisor of any use of artificial intelligence tools for conducting research, transcription, data analysis, text generation, editorial assistance, etc and appropriately reference such use as outlined above. Both the candidate and the principal supervisor must certify the thesis in accordance with the HDR Thesis Submission & Final Bound Copy Rules.

5.1.4 All researchers, including HDR candidates, must keep logs of their AI use in order to satisfy the requirements of publishers.

5.2 AUT's responsibilities

5.2.1 Through its research culture, the University will foster responsible research conduct, encouraging and supporting it.

5.2.2 The University will do this in accordance with the responsibilities of institutions outlined in the Code for Research.

5.2.3 The University will ensure that researchers have access to the Code for Research and the related Guides, as well as the Statement on Ethical Conduct, where required.

5.2.4 Human participant research will be reviewed under the auspices of the HREC in accordance with the HREC Terms of Reference, the Low Risk Ethics Approval Rules, the Ethics Protocol and associated documents.

5.2.5 Postgraduate/Research Coordinators from each Affiliated College act as Research Integrity Advisors (RIAs). RIAs will be trained through the Research Integrity Office and provided with a copy of the Research Integrity Advisor Guide.

5.2.6 Supervisors will be trained through the Graduate School of Research (GSR) and provided with a copy of the Guide on Supervision.

5.2.7 The requirements of the Code for Research will be included in induction training for HDR candidates through the Graduate School of Research.

5.3 Researcher's responsibilities

5.3.1 Researchers will uphold the principles of responsible research conduct in all aspects of their research, in accordance with the responsibilities of researchers outlined in the Code for Research.

5.3.2 If researchers need guidance on a particular matter, they should contact a Research

Coordinator (RIA), either at their own college or at another Affiliated College, if they prefer. Researchers who are HDR Candidates or coursework students may also discuss the matter with their supervisor or project coordinator.

5.4 Supervisor's responsibilities

Supervisors of HDR candidates have particular responsibilities and must act in accordance with the Guide on Supervision.

5.5 Breaches of the Code or Statement and Research Misconduct

All allegations of breaches of the Code for Research or the Statement on Ethical Conduct will be dealt with by the Research Integrity Office in accordance with the *Research Misconduct Procedure*. However, potential issues of academic misconduct arising during coursework, including coursework associated with **HDR candidature**, will be dealt with under the *Academic Integrity Policy for Coursework Awards*.

6. QUALITY ASSURANCE

A marker of the effectiveness of this policy will be the extent to which researchers comply with the Code for Research and the Statement on Ethical Conduct, where relevant, and any breaches are handled appropriately. The level of compliance will be evaluated each time the policy is reviewed and, if unsatisfactory, changes to the policy made.

7. RELATED DOCUMENTS AND LEGISLATION

Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2018)

Guidance to support the Code

National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research 2025 | NHMRC

8. VERSION HISTORY

Version	Approved by	Approval Date	Effective Date	Changes made
1	R&RSC	28 April 2017	28 April 2017	New document updating and reformatting previous policy
2	R&RSC	24 July 2020	24 July 2020	New template
3	Board of Directors	14 November 2022	14 November 2022	Renamed from HDR Candidate Academic Integrity Policy; scope broadened; principles linked directly to the Code
4	Academic Board	10 March 2023	10 March 2023	Introduce explicit reference to the acknowledgement of the use of artificial intelligence tools

5	Academic Board	7 March 2025	7 March 2025	New template; updated legislation; change to University.
6	Academic Board	31 July 2026	31 July 2026	Updated references to AI use and related documents.

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