CoU Research Code of Conduct

Integrity • Responsibility • Openness • Digital-first excellence

Purpose

This Code of Conduct sets the minimum standards for ethical, responsible, and high-quality research conducted through City Open University (CoU) and its OpenPlus Research ecosystem. It applies to students, faculty, staff, visiting scholars, partners, and any collaborators using CoU platforms, data, funding, or affiliation.

Core Principles

Honesty and transparency in methods, data, analysis, and reporting.

Respect for people, communities, cultures, and the environment.

Accountability in authorship, supervision, mentoring, and stewardship of resources.

Fairness, inclusion, and the avoidance of conflicts of interest.

Security and privacy by design for data, systems, and AI tools.

Expected Practices

Maintain complete research records and version-controlled materials where feasible.

Use appropriate approvals for human participants, sensitive data, and community-based research.

Cite sources accurately, avoid plagiarism, and respect intellectual property.

Disclose funding sources, affiliations, and potential conflicts of interest.

Report concerns promptly and cooperate with review processes.

Research Misconduct

Research misconduct includes fabrication, falsification, and plagiarism; serious breaches of ethics; and intentional misrepresentation in proposals, reports, or publications. CoU investigates allegations fairly, protects whistleblowers, and applies proportionate corrective actions.

Reporting & Support

Use the reporting channels described on the Research Code of Conduct webpage. For urgent safety or security issues, contact the OpenPlus Support Desk and the Research Integrity Office.