



Policy Number	5.1
Approval Body	Board of Governors
Policy Officer	AVP Research
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5.1 RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION, ETHICS AND CONDUCT

ENABLING LEGISLATION + LINKED POLICIES

University Act

Section 47.1 (d) so far as and to the extent that its resources from time to time permit, undertake and maintain applied research and scholarly activities to support the programs of the special purpose, teaching university.

Emily Carr University of Art + Design Policies and Procedures

- 5.1.1 *Integrity in Research + Scholarship Procedures*
- 5.1.3 *Conflict of Interest Procedures (Research)*
- 5.2 *Intellectual Property*
- 4.17 *Academic Integrity Policy*
- 8.11 *Conflict of Interest Policy*
- ECU's Code of Conduct*

Other External Guidelines and Procedures

Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (TCPS 2), most current edition.

Tri-Agency Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research (Tri-Agency Framework), most current edition.

N2/CAREB-ACCER REB Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), most current or modified versions as approved by the AVP-Research or delegate.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this policy is to describe the standards for research, research ethics, and responsible conduct of research at Emily Carr University (University).

SCOPE

This policy applies to all University researchers engaged in any research activities (funded or not funded) that are supported through university equipment, staff, or students. All members of the University involved in research are expected to adhere to the highest standards of ethical conduct and in a manner consistent with their research disciplines.

As a special-purpose teaching University with faculty, staff, and students engaged in a range of research, research-creation, and creative practice activities, this policy relies on the definition of creative practice provided by the TCPS2 in Article 2.6 as follows:

“Creative practice is a process through which an artist makes or interprets a work or works of art. It may also include a study of the process of how a work of art is generated. Creative practice activities do not require REB review, but they may be governed by ethical practices established within the cultural sector.”

This policy and the work of the ECU-REB interprets creative practice activities as occurring across the disciplines of art, design and media. In following the TCPS2, creative practice activities that involve human participants do not require REB review and approval; however, research employing or relying on creative practice to obtain responses from participants that will be analyzed to answer a research question is subject to review by the REB as detailed in this policy.

With the exception of REB review, all other aspects of this policy do apply to any research-creation and creative practice activities that are part of a research project.

This policy does not apply to the University’s institutional research or quality improvement studies that are in accordance with its core mandate and are related directly to the normal administering, evaluating, or improving of an operation, program service, or activity with the University.

POLICY PRINCIPLES

1. Research Ethics

1.1 Ethical conduct of research involving human participants involves upholding the core principles stated in the [TCPS2](#) including respect for persons, concern for welfare, and justice, and standards for responsible conduct of research described in the [Tri-agency Framework](#).

1.2 Building on Chapter 9 of the TCPS, the University recognizes that research involving Indigenous peoples requires additional ethical considerations, including but not limited to the need to co-create research projects in a community-led process. As described in the [“In a Good Way”](#) statement issued by the ECU-REB in 2022, research conducted on Indigenous knowledge, territories, topics, and with Indigenous people and communities may involve rights holders, accountabilities, risks, and benefits that are specific to communities, territories, and traditions and which must be considered throughout the scope of review. The ECU-REB is committed to Indigenous research expertise in all research ethics reviews involving Indigenous content or peoples.

1.3. All members of the ECU community conducting research involving human participants or human biological materials must seek the review of the ECU Research Ethics Board (ECU-REB) and receive research ethics approval prior to the commencement of research, unless these are specifically exempted by the ECU-REB (such as those listed in Chapter 2, TCPS2, ECU-REB SOP102 “Research Requiring REB Review”, or the ECU-REB’s “Risk and Review Tool”).

1.4. The REB is established and empowered under the authority of the University to review ethical acceptability of all research involving human participants conducted under the auspices of the University. The ECU-REB is independent in their decision-making process of research ethics review. Research ethics board procedures are guided by ECU-REB Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) which are consistent with the most recent version of N2/CAREB-ACCER SOPs (or equivalent).

1.5. The ECU-REB is authorized to approve or reject, and to state conditions for any research involving a human subject or subjects, in accordance with the TCPS2.

1.6. Instructors who assign or supervise research projects and exercises (such as, but not limited to, theses, major research projects, and course-based research) conducted by students are responsible for providing sufficient ethical oversight to ensure that the student conducts their research ethically in accordance with the TCPS2, including seeking approval of the ECU-REB for student theses and major research projects where required.

1.7. Researchers are entitled to appeal a decision from the REB by following the associated appeal procedures outlined in 5.1.4 Research Ethics Appeal Procedures.

2. Responsible Conduct of Research

2.1. All research must be conducted in alignment with the relevant policies, guidelines, and procedures established and provided by the University and funders. Researchers are encouraged to contact the Research + Industry Office for guidance on how to meet the required standards of ethics and conduct throughout their research.

2.2. If any person has concerns about conduct that may constitute a potential breach or non-compliance with this policy, you may direct your concerns to the policy officer, the AVP-Research. Breaches of responsible conduct of research and/or non-compliance with this policy will be taken seriously by the University and will be addressed in accordance with the 5.1.1 Integrity in Research and Scholarship Procedures. All inquiries and proceedings will be conducted expeditiously.

2.3. Upholding the 5.1.1 Integrity in Research and Scholarship Procedures may necessitate reference to other policies and laws. Depending on the circumstances, aspects of research misconduct may be dealt with under other policies including all linked policies and procedures. Each situation must be assessed based on its own particular facts to determine how to respond to an allegation.

2.4. Researchers who secure external funding for their research shall disclose their source(s) of support to potential participants for the purpose of transparency in obtaining consent and disclosure of potential conflicts of interest. This disclosure should explicitly note any project funding and support from the University but shall not represent that the research is sponsored by the University or a department within the University except by explicit arrangement with appropriate administrative authorities.

2.5 Researchers who conduct research that relates to or involves Indigenous communities, or that involves traditional knowledges and/or cultural practices, are expected to consult relevant guidelines and documents such as the [University's Strategic Research Plan](#) for information on best practice. University resources that address conduct of research involving Indigenous communities include current editions of the University library's research guide (or LibGuide) "[Indigenous](#)

[Research Ethics](#)", [The First Nations Principles of OCAP®](#) (Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession), [Onscreen Protocols and Pathways](#), the [University's Strategic Research Plan](#), and the [Aboriginal Gathering Place](#). Research licenses and approvals may be required in Indigenous jurisdictions. It is the responsibility of the researcher to ensure that their research is respectful of the cultural protocols, traditions, and laws of the relevant communities.

2.6 Researchers who engage in projects that involve animals and/or more-than-human species are expected to observe and consult relevant guidelines, LibGuides, and expert opinions to ensure their projects are conducted ethically. While these activities do not fall under the purview of ECU's REB, researchers can contact the Research + Industry Office for advice or more information before embarking on a project.