

Policy

General Research

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Designated Executive Officer: Vice-President,
Research and Innovation
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Associated Procedures: General Research Procedures

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1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) is a designated research-intensive university. As such, it supports research in all areas of inquiry. It especially encourages research activity relating to the peoples, resources, and issues of central and northern British Columbia, with the expectation that such activity produces results that are applicable beyond the boundaries of the mandate region of the University.
- 1.2 The University supports research throughout the full research cycle – from idea generation through to dissemination of results. This support includes internal grants for proof-of-concept research, research travel, research dissemination/mobilization, support for research ethics and animal care certification, facilitation of research grant writing, physical infrastructure support, liaison with major granting agencies, and many other activities.
- 1.3 The research activities of faculty members and students engage a great many of the organizational units of the university and support for research is provided, either directly or indirectly, by all of these units.

2.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set out the accountability and principles that govern research at UNBC.

3.0 PRINCIPLES

- 3.1. Research at UNBC includes all forms of scholarship, knowledge, and creative endeavours from all disciplines. Research activity is expected to be creative, inclusive of different ways of knowing, open, available, transparent, and academically rigorous.
- 3.2. The University commits to freedom of inquiry and freedom of expression in research activities and support thereof.

4.0 SCOPE

This policy applies to all individuals who conduct research and/or participate in research-related activities under the aegis of UNBC.

5.0 DEFINITIONS

- 5.1. **Principal Investigator** is the lead investigator on a research project who is responsible for the design, implementation and resource management for the research project.
- 5.2. **Research** involves scholarly inquiry aimed at advancing knowledge.
- 5.3. **Research Contract** is a legally binding agreement with set deliverables. A contract generally has a defined scope of work, obligations and responsibilities, and can include ramifications to the researcher or institution if the task is not accomplished.
- 5.4. **Research Grant** is a legally binding agreement. Funds are granted to a researcher with an expectation, but not the requirement that set deliverables will be accomplished. The project is designed and initiated by the researcher and there are few to no contractual commitments.

6.0 POLICY

- 6.1. Researchers who are members of the UNBC Faculty Association are expected to engage in research activities and disseminate research findings in accordance with the current Collective Agreement between the Faculty Association and the University.
- 6.2. Research conducted at UNBC must comply with the University's Policies and related documents, including, but not limited to, those listed in section 10 of this Policy.
- 6.3. Normal teaching and service duties of the researcher should not be adversely affected by research activities. Adjustments to teaching or service commitments must be approved by the appropriate Chair and Dean, or for Division of Medical Sciences faculty, by the Associate Vice-President.
- 6.4. Researchers and scholars must comply with all applicable federal, funding agency, and University laws, regulations, policies, guidelines, and standards when conducting research.
- 6.5. The University alone has the legal capacity to enter into research contracts and research agreements which bind the University. The Board of Governors delegates responsibility to the Vice-President, Research and Innovation to approve and execute research contracts and agreements on behalf of the University, within the

limits indicated in other University policies and procedures, including, but not limited to, those regarding signing authority, fundraising acceptance, and gift acceptance.

- 6.6. The Board of Governors delegates responsibility to the Vice-President, Research and Innovation for approving procedures to implement policy related to research, subject to reporting on statutory requirements and activity involving liability or risk in research.
- 6.7. Establishment of research accounts and approval of all non-disclosure, material transfer, and similar agreements that formally bind the University with respect to research-related activities requires the approval of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation.
- 6.8. Grant and contract funds are entrusted to the University for specific purposes and are not the property of any individual.
- 6.9. It is the Principal Investigator's responsibility to ensure that all expenditures authorized against University accounts conform with the approved budget, with all terms and conditions of the grant or contract, with all regulations of the sponsoring agency, and with all applicable University policies and regulations.
- 6.10. Title to equipment and material purchased with the aid of research contracts and grants is vested in the University unless otherwise specified in the terms of the contract or grant.
- 6.11. Where University equipment, facilities, or other resources are used for commercial purposes the rental or usage, fees must include an allowance for University overhead (see *Indirect Costs and Overhead Charges for Research and Instructional Services Policy*).

7.0 REPORTING

The Vice-President, Research and Innovation reports to the Board of Governors statutory requirements and activity involving liability or risk when they arise.

8.0 AUTHORITIES AND OFFICERS

The authorities and officers for this policy are as follows:

Approving Authority: Board of Governors

Designated Executive Officer: Vice-President, Research and Innovation

Procedural Authority: Vice-President, Research and Innovation

Procedural Officer: Vice-President, Research and Innovation

9.0 RELEVANT LEGISLATION

[University Act, RSBC 1996 c 468](#)

10.0 RELATED POLICIES AND OTHER ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- 10.1 [University of Northern British Columbia's Strategic Research Plan](#)
- 10.2 [Centres and Research Institutes Policy](#)
- 10.3 [Indirect Costs and Overhead for Research and Instructional Services Policy](#)
- 10.4 [Intellectual Property Policy](#)
- 10.5 [Faculty Association Collective Agreement](#)
- 10.6 [Occupational Health and Safety Policy](#)
- 10.7 [Purchasing Policy](#)
- 10.8 [Ethics Review of Research Involving Human Participants Policy](#)
- 10.9 [Animal Care and Use Policy](#)
- 10.10 *Integrity in Research and Scholarship Policy* (needs development and to replace 1995 General Research Ethics policy)
- 10.11 [Signing Authority Policy](#)
- 10.12 [Research Grant in Lieu of Salary Policy](#)