



Ethics Policy

1. Introduction

Al-Mahdi Institute is committed to conducting its research, teaching, enterprise, and other activities within a comprehensive ethical framework. This policy reflects the Institute's value to uphold the highest standards of ethical conduct and integrity in all its activities.

2. Purpose

This policy aims to:

- ☐ Ensure integrity, quality, and transparency in all research and studies.
- ☐ Provide a clear understanding of the ethical review process.
- ☐ Support a culture of academic freedom and excellence by providing a framework for review.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all staff, students, and visitors of Al-Mahdi Institute engaged in studies or research, as well as collaborators or agents conducting research or other studies on behalf of the Institute.

4. Principles of Ethical Research

- ☐ Studies and research should ensure integrity, quality, and transparency.
- ☐ Participants must be fully informed about the research and their participation must be voluntary.
- ☐ Risks should be minimized and benefits should outweigh any potential harm.
- ☐ The independence of research must be clear, and any conflicts of interest or partiality must be explicit.
- ☐ High ethical standards shall apply wherever the research is undertaken.

5. Ethical Review Process

Al-Mahdi Institute is committed to providing a competent, rigorous, and independent process of ethical review for research and studies undertaken, proportionate to the risk involved.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

Managing Director

The Managing Director chairs the Ethics Committee and is responsible for developing, reviewing, and monitoring the implementation of the Institute's Ethics Policy, and for sustaining Institute-wide awareness of research governance, ethical, and related issues.

Ethics Committee

The Ethics Committee, comprising the Managing Director and Heads of Departments, is responsible for ensuring that research and studies undertaken in their departments obtain the appropriate ethical review in accordance with this Ethics Policy. The Committee ensures that all projects adhere to applicable department and Institute policies, legislation, professional guidelines, and best practice.

Researchers

Researchers are expected to familiarize themselves with this Ethics Policy and ensure that they and their colleagues comply with the policies of the Institute and conduct their research to the highest ethical standards.



7. Specific Policies and Guidance

This Ethics Policy is supplemented by specific ethics policies and guidance which will be developed and made available by the Ethics Committee. These may include policies on the ethical conduct of research involving human participants, use of animals in research, and other relevant areas.

8. Complaining about Ethical Conduct

Researchers, participants, or other stakeholders who have concerns about the ethical conduct of research or studies are encouraged to raise such issues with the Ethics Committee. The Committee will investigate and address any complaints or concerns about the conduct of approved studies.

9. Disciplinary Action

Any breach of this Ethics Policy will be taken seriously and may result in disciplinary action, including proceedings for misconduct for staff or formal disciplinary proceedings for students. Visitors breaching this policy may have their visitor status reviewed or withdrawn.

10. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or in response to changes in relevant legislation.

11. Conclusion

Al-Mahdi Institute is dedicated to ensuring that all research and studies are conducted to the highest ethical standards and comply with all relevant legislation and guidelines. This Ethics Policy provides a framework to ensure that ethical considerations are embedded in all aspects of the Institute's research and study activities.

Policy approved by the Board of Trustees on: 01/10/2023

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