

ACCEPTED
EHU Senate decision
(2015-05-27 Minutes No 30-05)

APPROVED BY
EHU University Council
(2015-07-21 Minutes No 123-08)

The additions were accepted
EHU Senate decision
(2018-04-17 Minutes No 30-04)

The additions are approved
EHU Rector, 28 May 2018
order No 01-56

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY OF HUMANITIES

CODE OF ACADEMIC ETHICS

The European Humanities University (hereinafter referred to as the University) shall ensure compliance with the principle of academic freedom in order to achieve high quality of study programmes, scientific and artistic research, applied and project activities. University teachers, scientists and students shall enjoy freedom of teaching and scientific research: they have the right to determine without pressure from outside and from the administration of the University the content of curricula and teaching methods; they have the freedom to choose research objects of their intellectual interest; they can publish the results of their research and creative activities without control and censorship; in a correct manner to express one's opinion freely.

The high quality of study programmes, research, creative and applied projects is achieved by all members of the University's academic community committed to the culture of academic integrity. Violations of ethical standards caused by the activities of members of the academic community undermine the credibility and reputation of the University as an educational institution that adheres to high standards of teaching, scientific and artistic activities.

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 1.1. Academic ethics means the totality of universally recognised values ensuring transparency, fairness, justice of the process of science and studies, equality of the persons involved in this process, non-discrimination, responsibility, sustainable use of resources, academic freedom, impartiality of evaluation of scientific and research works, trust, respect and protection of intellectual property (Article 4 of Chapter 1 of the Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania);
- 1.2. The Code of Academic Ethics of the University (hereinafter referred to as the Code) sets the ethical standards applicable to teaching staff, students and administrative staff in carrying out academic activities.
- 1.3. This Code applies to all members of the University's academic community – students, lecturers, researchers, professors emeritus, employees of the administration and academic departments.
- 1.4. The Code is based on the Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania, the Statute of the University, the Code of Conduct of the University, as well as recommendations of the Office of the Ombudsman for Academic Ethics and Procedures of

the Republic of Lithuania “Accepting, Implementation and Supervision of Academic Ethics Codes of Research and Study Institutions”.

II. PRINCIPLES OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

- 2.1. Academic integrity shall be understood as the commitment of the University’s academic community to the principles of honesty, trust, respect, justice and responsibility:
- a) The academic community must observe the principle of intellectual integrity in the processes of learning, teaching, research and creative activities;
 - b) The academic community must strive to maintain an atmosphere of mutual trust that is indispensable for the free exchange of ideas, creativity and personal development;
 - c) Relations between all members of the academic community, irrespective of their status, must be based on mutual trust and respect for teaching, research and creative activities and its results;
 - d) The principle of justice is a fundamental principle defining relations between members of the academic community; all standards, practices and procedures used at the University must comply with the principle of justice;
 - e) All members of the academic community are responsible for supporting the culture of academic integrity.

III. COMMON STANDARDS OF ACADEMIC ETHICS

- 3.1. Academic, scientific research and creative activities of the University’s academic community must be based on the responsible implementation of the principle of academic freedom. This shall not be compatible with:
- a) intolerance to divergent opinions;
 - b) the lack of information or unjustified restrictions on access to academic self-governance;
 - c) unreasonable limitation of the ability to respond to criticism or claims.
- 3.2. Relations between members of the University’s academic community must be based on the principles of justice, mutual respect and solidarity. Those principles shall be deemed to have been infringed in the following cases:
- a) discrimination on grounds of age, race (skin colour), nationality, sex, sexual orientation, religious or other views, or special needs in taking administrative and academic decisions at the University;
 - b) use of offensive language in communication between members of the University’s academic community;
 - c) professional dislikes or disagreements of teachers, negative attitudes of teachers towards students or negative communication with students resulting from this attitude;
 - d) public disclosure of confidential information about colleagues or subordinates.

- 3.3. General norms of ethics for the academic community are regulated by the University Code of Conduct¹.

IV. ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR PEDAGOGICAL ACTIVITIES

- 4.1. The relationship between teachers and students is based on the principles of academic cooperation and transparency. Interlinking with non-academic responsibilities can lead to a conflict of interest and therefore ambiguous relationships with students should be avoided. These principles are violated by:
- a) the instructor's attempt to establish intimate relationships with the student with whom he/she is related to the subject of study, the management of the research work or any other direct academic relationship;
 - b) assuming the role of a teacher in relation to a family member, close friend (with direct, close ties, relationships), business partner (examination, management of written work, etc.) in cases where it is possible to avoid such a role;
 - c) requirement and/or admission of gifts, services of a non-academic or academic nature not directly related to study courses or management of written works, directly and indirectly (through other persons) from students.
- 4.2. In detail, potential conflicts of interest are described in the University's Conflict Management Policy².
- 4.3. Evaluation of student's knowledge, abilities and skills must be fair, fair and based on the criteria set in a programme of a subject of study. To this end, the trainer:
- a. must respond in good faith to cases of student dishonesty, such as plagiarism, cheating, falsification of data, fabrication, forgery of examinations or credits results, use of extraneous assistance during an examination or evaluation, presentation of work of another person's written work as own, remuneration in preparation of written work for other students, purchase of a written job and its submission for evaluation, submission of the work of the same evaluated letter to account for another subject of studies, etc.;
 - b. do not have the right to request personal data from the student in group discussions;
 - c. must keep the student's personal data in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Legal Protection of Personal Data;
 - d. must avoid linking students' knowledge assessments with the student's participation (non-participation) in political or social activities;
 - e. the assessment must provide appropriate conditions for students with special needs (e.g. visual, hearing, mobility and other disabilities) so that they have equal opportunities for carrying out their tasks.
- 4.4. The atmosphere of confidence is undermined by the disclosure of confidential information about the student. The principle of confidentiality of information requires:
- a. to disclose information to third parties about the student's academic assessments or penalties only with the student's written consent or legal basis for the intended damage to other persons justifying the disclosure of such information;

¹EHU Code of Conduct: <https://en.ehu.lt/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/EHU-CODE-OF-CONDUCT-1.pdf>

²EHU's conflict management policy: <https://en.ehu.lt/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/EHU-POLICY-ON-CONFLICT-OF-COMMITMENT-1-1.pdf>

- b. avoid discussing the student's academic achievements, except in cases where students' appeals about the results of examinations (or other assessed works) are evaluated and other academic issues the objective examination of which clearly justifies their discussion;
- c. the use of private information for teaching or research purposes only with the written consent of the student;
- d. to ensure that comments and comments on student's written work not presented for public defence are not accessible to third parties.

V. ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

5.1. Members of the academic community carrying out scientific activities shall undertake to adhere to the principle of academic integrity.

The principle of academic integrity in scientific activities shall be violated by:

- a) counterfeiting, forgery or manipulation (e.g. creation of non-existing data, correction of existing data to improve or worsen results). Typical cases of counterfeiting, forgery or manipulation:
 - i. forged signatures, certificates, reports or results and other documents (e.g. data or results of academic tasks (laboratory, course and other work));
 - ii. a specified non-assembled source or otherwise intentionally manipulated data from the source inventory;
 - iii. omission of data obtained which contradict the study hypothesis and/or questions and/or the conclusions of the study;
 - iv. deliberate provision of misleading information on the empirical survey methodology;
 - v. unjustified (undeserved) imposition of co-authorship on students, colleagues, subordinates or managers;
 - vi. unfounded denial or omission of the intellectual and/or financial contribution of those involved in scientific activities.
 - b) empirical study data, computer programs, empirical material samples, manuscript theft or deliberate damage.
 - c) plagiarism, i.e. the expropriation of ideas, data or texts without mentioning their author, i.e. presenting foreign ideas as own.
 - d) incorrect, biased criticism of a colleague's work or deliberate shrinkage due to personal antipathy, competition, political or other reasons not related to the quality of the scientific work assessed.
 - e) assisting others in carrying out academic actions that violate the principle of academic integrity.
 - f) academic bribery, i.e. offering or giving remuneration for academic services (personal or group).
- 5.2. Unintentional errors in research, data discrepancies or differences in the interpretation of research results shall not be considered as violations of ethical standards applicable to scientific activities.

VI. ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF STUDENTS

- 6.1. Students and listeners are guided by the principle of academic integrity.
- 6.2. Violations of the principles of academic integrity and sanctions that may be imposed on students for violations of academic integrity standards are included in the regulations on independent performance of EHU's writing and creative work.
- 6.3. Students and listeners undertake to use the University's infrastructure (scientific and computer equipment, library and other resources) responsibly, sustainably and according to their purpose.

VII. FAMILIARISATION WITH THE CODE OF ACADEMIC ETHICS, COMPLIANCE WITH ITS REQUIREMENTS AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION CONTROL

- 7.1. The code is published after its adoption and is freely accessible to a wide range of members of the academic community. New students, teaching staff and administrative staff of the University must be familiarised with the requirements of this Code.
- 7.2. Each member of the academic community must comply with the requirements of this Code.
- 7.3. The supervision of the implementation of the Code, except for Chapter VI of the Code, shall be carried out by the University's Academic Ethics Commission in compliance with the provisions of the Code and the provisions governing its activities.

VIII. FINAL PROVISIONS

- 8.1. This Code enters into force on the day following the approval of the University Council and must be published immediately in such a way that all members of the University's academic community have access to the document.
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