

Overview: Code of Professional Standards and Ethics in Science, Technology, and the Humanities

What the Code is for

The Code supports Members of Royal Society Te Apārangi to follow exemplary ethical behaviour and world class research and scholarly practices in Aotearoa New Zealand. It applies across all fields of science, technology and the humanities, and across differing knowledge systems and research epistemologies. It supports public trust through transparent standards.

The Code is freely available for use outside our membership. We welcome researchers and scholars, research institutions, research funding agencies and any other stakeholders in research or scholarly practice to adopt the Code or use it as a guide.

This document provides an overview of the values and principles as well as the responsibilities and standards of the Code.

Visit royalsociety.org.nz/code for the full Code and interpretation.

Values and principles

The first part of the Code sets out the values and principles that should guide the conduct of research and scholarly activities.

The underlying foundation of the values and principles and the standards that follow is the respectful and rights-based knowledge discovery between researchers, participants and communities to advance science, technology, and the humanities in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Within the context of Aotearoa New Zealand, the ethical and professional values and principles of the Code are interpreted within a general framework that recognises human and civil rights, the principles of free enquiry and an open society, and the obligations arising from the Treaty of Waitangi.

Neither the Māori values nor the established research ethics principles are prioritised. The table sets them out with the context. Please note that Māori words in particular have meanings that are highly context dependent.

Research and scholarly practices that are consistent with these values and principles will:

1. Be conducted with professionalism, integrity, care and diligence by appropriately knowledgeable people
2. Be undertaken in a manner consistent with accepted standards and codes of practice
3. Be respectful to other people, including acting with cultural intelligence and intellectual rigour (pūkenga), and respecting diverse values and communities (manaakitanga)
4. Recognise the potential impacts on communities, including their intergenerational interests
5. Endeavour to identify and engage with affected communities (whakapapa), recognise their rights (mana) and respect their interests (tika)
6. Ensure that activities with partners and/or participants have potential benefits that outweigh the risks and that the risks and benefits are not distributed inequitably
7. Take reasonable actions and precautions to protect vulnerable people and prevent harm to participants or others
8. Make results and findings available as soon as it is appropriate to do so
9. Support the public interest, including by averting or avoiding unacceptable levels of risk of adverse consequences
10. Manage collected data responsibly
11. Exemplify, require and support respectful and professional conduct amongst colleagues, and across the research community (manaakitanga)
12. Take reasonable precautions to prevent significant avoidable or unjustified degradation of the environment (kaitiakitanga)
13. Where appropriate, contribute to improving conservation, protection and sustainability (kaitiakitanga).

Value and principle	Context
Tika	Acting with integrity and respecting the interests of relevant communities
Mana	Balancing one's own authority and the rights held by others
Whakapapa	Acknowledges the importance of relationships with relevant communities
Manaakitanga	Acting with care and respecting diverse values and communities
Pūkenga	Acting with rigour
Kaitiakitanga	Acting with responsibility and ensuring resources are managed appropriately
Justice	People are treated fairly and equitably, including fairly distributing the benefits and burdens of research to individuals and communities
Duty of care	Obligations that a reasonable person owes to others who may be affected by their acts or omissions.
Beneficence	Acting to benefit other people, contributing to broad concepts of wellbeing, and balancing benefits against risks and costs
Non-maleficence	Not causing harm intentionally, and ensuring that the risks of harm are outweighed by the expected benefits
Respect	Respecting an individual's right to make choices and hold views, and to take actions based on their own values and beliefs
Integrity	Refers to the trustworthiness of research due to the soundness of its methods and the honesty and accuracy of its presentation

Responsibilities and standards

The Code sets out responsibilities and standards for Members of Royal Society Te Apārangi to meet.

Members have responsibilities to behave with professionalism, integrity, care and diligence; responsibilities to the public interest, affected and participating communities, partners and participants in their activities and colleagues; and responsibilities for guardianship of the environment and improving sustainability. Accordingly, Members are obliged:

1. To behave with honesty, integrity, and professionalism when undertaking their activities
2. To only claim competence commensurate with their expertise, knowledge and skills, and ensure their practices are consistent with relevant national, Māori and international standards and codes of practice in their discipline or field
3. To undertake their activities diligently and carefully
4. To support the public interest by making the results and findings of their activities available as soon as it is appropriate to do so, by presenting those results and findings in an honest, straightforward and unbiased manner, and by being prepared to contribute their knowledge or skills to avert or lessen public crises when it is appropriate to do so

5. In undertaking their activities, to endeavour, where practicable, to partner with those communities and mana whenua for whom there are reasonably foreseeable direct impacts, and to meet any obligations arising from the Treaty of Waitangi
6. To safeguard the health, safety, wellbeing, rights and interests of people involved in or affected during the conduct of their activities
7. To ensure that the three Rs (Replacement, Reduction and Refinement) are considered at all stages of their activities involving animals, minimise the impacts on animals used in those activities, and in so doing, support the welfare and wellbeing of those animals
8. To develop, and implement so far as they are reasonably able, a management plan to ensure the integrity, retention, secure storage, appropriate and transparent use of data and samples gathered or developed during their activities
9. To demonstrate and encourage ethical behaviour and high professional standards amongst their colleagues
10. To not harass, bully or knowingly act with malice towards individuals or groups of people
11. To take reasonable steps to prevent their activities leading to significant avoidable or unjustified degradation of the environment, and where appropriate, to contribute to improved conservation, protection and sustainability.