



CODE OF ETHICS FOR RESEARCHERS

1. Content

1. Content.....	1
2. About Ikerbasque.....	2
3. Purpose	2
4. Principles and Values of the Code of Ethics.....	3
5. Violations of research integrity	4
6. Code of Ethics in host institutions	5
7. Ikerbasque Ethics Committee	5

2. About Ikerbasque

Fundación Ikerbasque / Ikerbasque Fundazioa (hereinafter, Ikerbasque) is a Foundation promoted by the Department of Education of the Basque Government, legally constituted in December 2006. Ikerbasque carries out its activity in the research and development sector, specifically in basic research.

Ikerbasque's mission is to strengthen science in the Basque Country through programs to attract and incorporate researchers, and to promote excellence in research in cooperation with other Basque research centers and universities.

Since its creation, the attraction of research talent has been the main axis of work and the hallmark of the Foundation. Ikerbasque has worked to attract the best scientific minds to the Basque Country and help them to continue developing their work in any research center of the Basque Science, Technology and Innovation Network (RVCTI by its acronym in Spanish) which we call host institutions, ranging from departments of the Basque universities to health research centers, BERCs, CICs or technology centers.

3. Purpose

This Code of Ethics for researchers constitutes a statement of the values, principles and norms that should guide the conduct of all researchers who are part of and who collaborate with Ikerbasque for the responsible development of their professional activity, both in their relations with employees, as well as with their host institutions, clients, suppliers, public and private institutions, external collaborators and society in general.

The objective of this Code of Ethics for researchers is to provide a deontological guide to all those who fall under its scope of application, determining the values and commitments that should govern their work activity within the organization.

In this way, this document seeks to prevent the commission of unwanted behaviours by the Ikerbasque Foundation, establishing reference guides on social and professional issues, while defining the monitoring and control mechanisms that guarantee its full compliance by all those who carry out their research work at Ikerbasque.

The conduct criteria included in this Code is not intended to contemplate all situations or circumstances that Ikerbasque professionals may encounter, but rather to establish general guidelines of conduct that guide them in the way they act during the performance of their professional activity.

4. Principles and Values of the Code of Ethics

The Principles and Values of the Ikerbasque Code of Ethics for researchers are based on the principles of integrity in research, which guarantee the responsible use of available resources, trust in the methods used and the reliability of the results obtained.

Anyone subject to this Code of Ethics will have the obligation to apply the values, standards and principles contained in it in the following four areas of activity in the development of their activity linked to Ikerbasque:

- a. Respect
- b. Responsibility
- c. Transparency
- d. Professional competence

a. Respect

- Researchers must avoid discrimination of any kind, and in any context.
- Researchers must guarantee respectful and adequate treatment of all the people around them.
- Researchers must respect the commitments made.
- Researchers must respect the property of others, both intellectual and material.

b. Responsibility

- Researchers must focus their research for the good of humanity and for expanding the frontiers of scientific knowledge in accordance with recognized ethical principles and practices.
- Researchers must make rational and efficient use of the resources available to them to develop research projects.
- Researchers must know and comply with the rules and regulations governing working conditions, as well as the contractual requirements and conditions that apply to them.
- Researchers must avoid plagiarism of any kind, and respect the principle of intellectual property and joint ownership of data in the case of research carried out in collaboration with other researchers.
- Researchers must ensure, if any aspect of their work is delegated, that the person to whom it is delegated has the competence and the means to carry it out.
- Researchers with people under their responsibility must enhance their professional development and provide them, insofar as this is possible, the necessary tools for their professional growth.

c. Transparency

- Researchers must guarantee transparency in the use of resources and methods used, and cooperate with any authorized audit of their research, when necessary and as requested by the competent authorities.
- Researchers must guarantee that the results of their research are disseminated and exploited insofar as this is possible, not only in specialized media but also in channels aimed at the more general public.
- Researchers must disclose conflicts of interest that may arise in their roles as authors, evaluators, tutors or managers.

d. Professional competency

- Researchers must master and properly apply the methods, techniques and tools of scientific research, to guarantee the objectivity and credibility of their results.
- Researchers must adopt safe work practices at all times, in accordance with current legislation, including the adoption of the necessary precautions for the health and safety of all people and the material and immaterial resources at their disposal.
- Researcher's work must be aligned with the mission and objectives of Ikerbasque and their host institutions.
- Researchers must be committed to excellence by continuously updating and improving their skills and competencies.

5. Violations of research integrity

The breach of any of the principles and values of the ethical code mentioned in the previous chapter constitutes a violation of research integrity, such as:

- Perform humiliating or discriminatory treatment of other people.
- Carry out investigations that violate the law or Human Rights, that affect the environment, public order, national security or the common good.
- Put people's safety at risk.
- Do not communicate a conflict of interest.
- Deliberately altering or omitting data that contradicts the hypothesis of the research work carried out.
- Manipulate the information and the conclusions of a work with subaltern ends.
- Deliberately interfering with the work or the professional development of others.
- Resorting to unethical or criminal means (bribery, any type of deception, plagiarism, telephone interception, violation of correspondence, incursion into people's private lives, use of hidden cameras, etc.).
- Use professional influence and inside information to benefit personally or to benefit third parties.
- Misinform deliberately and in bad faith.
- Carry out an undercover investigation (presentation under false identity or concealing the medium it represents).

6. Code of Ethics in host institutions

Ikerbasque's mission is to strengthen science in the Basque Country through programs to attract and incorporate researchers and to help them continue to develop their work in any research center of the Basque Network of Science, Technology and Innovation (RVCTI), ranging from departments from Basque universities to health research centers, BERCs, CICs or technology centers.

In this way, Ikerbasque researchers carry out their professional work in other centers and institutions that we call host institutions. That is why in addition to the Ikerbasque Code of Ethics, our researchers must also comply with the principles and values of the Code of Ethics of the research centers in which they carry out their work.

7. Ikerbasque Ethics Committee

To define, review and supervise compliance with the Ikerbasque Code of Ethics, the Ikerbasque Ethics Committee has been set up.

The Ethics Committee must:

- Ensure compliance with the Principles and Values of the Ikerbasque Code of Ethics, and manage the conflicts that its non-compliance may generate.
- Take responsibility for the review and update of the Ikerbasque Code of Ethics.
- Prepare reports for the governing bodies on the ethical aspects related to the investigation that may arise.
- Coordinate its activity with that of similar committees of other institutions.
- Any other functions that current legislation may attribute to it.

The Ikerbasque Ethics Committee may be made up of the participants that apply to each casuistry:

- Scientific Director of Ikerbasque
- Manager of Ikerbasque
- Executive Committee representative.
- Members of the Scientific Advisory Board.
- Responsible for the process of selection and evaluation of candidates and researchers.
- Responsible for the Equality Plan.
- Responsible for the HRS4R strategy.