RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH POLICY

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1. PURPOSE

To ensure research at Morling College conforms to the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research, and to relate this to Morling College's values as a registered Institute of Higher Education.

2. DEFINITIONS

Key Term or Acronym	Definition
MC	Morling College
IHE	Institute of Higher Education
ACT	Australian College of Theology
BAT	Faculty of Bible and Theology
HDR	Higher degree research

3. SCOPE

This policy applies across Morling College (MC), to research done by all researchers: staff, students, and honorary appointments. It also applies to research or research-like activities associated with coursework learning and teaching.

Note: While research undertaken by students and staff in the Faculty of Bible and Theology is also governed by the relevant and applicable policies of the Australian College of Theology and the University of Divinity, the requirements of these policies are consistent with the requirements of this policy.

4. POLICY STATEMENT

Morling College (MC) commits to excellence when conducting all research, including the highest standards of researchers' conduct.

As an educational institution, MC also commits to instruct and mentor new and less experienced researchers. This includes supervision of students, both HDR and coursework projects.

5. PRINCIPLES

5.1   Responsibly conducted research has **merit**, with a justifiable goal and suitable methodology.

5.2   Responsible researchers show **professional humility**, by only undertaking research for which qualified and by being open to correction.

5.3   Responsible researchers are **honest** in all aspects of research.

5.4   Responsible researchers are **accountable** in all aspects of research, identifying all stakeholders before, during and after.

5.5   Responsible researchers show professional **fairness and courtesies** towards others and acknowledge their contributions.

5.6   Responsible researchers **communicate openly and transparently**. MC expects research findings to be publicly available, except where that would be unethical or impractical.

5.7   Responsibly conducted research shows **good stewardship** of resources.

5.8   Responsibly conducted research seeks out and meets **regulatory requirements.**

5.9   Responsible researchers **respect** the intrinsic worth of all people involved, be they researchers, participants, or those affected in any way.

5.10   Responsible researchers **encourage and assist** responsible practices in others and contribute to an institutional culture supporting responsible conduct.

5.11   All research involving human subjects shall be subject to approval and oversight by a **Human Research Ethics Committee**.
Note that MC will not conduct research involving animals.

5.12   MC treats any **research** misconduct seriously and all complaints will be thoroughly investigated.

5.13   Research can generate dilemmas in which it may be impossible to find unanimous agreement about what is right or wrong. However, responsible researchers are expected to resolve such situations, avoiding recklessness and negligence.

6. RELATED DOCUMENTS AND LEGISLATION

ACT HDR Candidate Academic Integrity Policy

MC Responsible Conduct of Research Guideline

MC Staff Code of Conduct Policy

7. REFERENCES

[Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research 2018](#)

[Singapore Statement on Research Integrity 2010](#)

[National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007), updated edition 2018](#)

8. VERSION HISTORY

Version	Approved by	Approval Date	Effective Date	Changes made
V1.00	Academic Board	3 August 2022	3 August 2022	New Policy

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