

APPROVED by
Decision No 1SN-39 of the
Senate of Mykolas Romeris
University of 2 June 2015

CODE OF ACADEMIC ETHICS OF MYKOLAS ROMERIS UNIVERSITY

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The Code of Academic Ethics of Mykolas Romeris University (hereinafter referred to as the “Code of Academic Ethics”) sets out the values that guide community members (students, teachers, scholars, researchers, other employees and emeritus) of Mykolas Romeris University (hereinafter referred to as the “University”) and describes the ethical norms for relationships among the University’s community members and for performance of their duties.

2. The ethical values of the University Community and the procedure for the investigation of ethical violations are determined by the Statute of the University, Rules for Internal Procedure, the Code of Academic Ethics, Procedure for Investigations Carried out at the University, order of the Rector and other University’s legal acts.

II. FUNDAMENTAL VALUES

3. The Code of Academic Ethics is based on the fundamental principles of *Magna Charta Universitatum*, IAU-MCO Guidelines for an Institutional Code of Ethics in Higher Education, the Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity, the European Charter for Researchers, the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers, the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities, and the Recommendations for the Adoption, Implementation and Supervision of Code of Academic Ethics of Scientific and Educational Institutions of the Academic Ethics and Procedural Supervisor as well as the University’s mission.

4. The University Community, in the performance of its activities, shall follow the following fundamental values:

- 4.1. Honesty.
- 4.2. Collegiality and respect for human dignity.
- 4.3. Responsibility.
- 4.4. Academic freedom.
- 4.5. Accountability in using assets and resources, respect for the environment.

5. Honesty

5.1. Members of the University Community shall follow academic honesty and shall actively promote its principles in study, research and service provision activities.

5.2. The University shall not tolerate any form of academic dishonesty (data forgery, fraud, partiality, fraudulence, theft, plagiarism, bribery, purchase and sale of works, presentation of other authors' works as own, unjustifiable co-authorship, cheating during examinations and other unfair behaviour).

5.3. Members of the University Community shall act fairly and legally in the performance of their activities both at University and outside it, they shall make decisions following laws and other legal acts.

5.4. Members of the University Community shall act in good faith with international partners.

6. Collegiality and respect for human dignity

6.1. Members of the University Community shall follow the principles of academic cooperation and fair competition in their study, scientific, organisational and service provision activities.

6.2. Tolerance and respect for human dignity shall be one of the fundamental principles when members of the University Community communicate with each other, perform academic activities and participate in public life.

6.3. Members of the University Community shall follow the principles of equality, justice, equal opportunities, avoid and do not tolerate any form of discrimination, personalisation, harassment, abuse of power, nepotism.

6.4. Members of the University Community shall protect confidential information related to the University's academic activities and Community's personal data; however, the confidentiality requirement cannot hinder the investigation of cases of academic dishonesty or possible violations performed by the responsible University's units or state authorities.

6.5. Complaints and applications received by the University shall be considered objectively, impartially, transparently and in accordance with the timetable set.

7. Responsibility

7.1. Members of the University Community with ethical behaviour shall create not only personal reputation, but also the standards of professional integrity and the positive image of the University.

7.2. Both individual researchers of the University, and their groups shall act in a transparent way and shall be responsible that scientific research is in line with the ethical norms.

7.3. Members of the University Community, in the performance of their activities, shall take into account the needs of the state and society and shall be socially responsible, shall support open access to knowledge and information, shall publicly announce the results of their research works.

7.4. The University Community shall follow the principles of social responsibility, shall be committed to the principle of equality of access to higher education, to implementation of human and civil rights.

7.5. Members of the University Community recognize the importance of the principles of a healthy lifestyle.

7.6. Fostering relations with foreign partners or developing international cooperation projects, members of the Community shall properly represent the interests of the University.

7.7. Members of the University Community shall not use the name of the University under the circumstances negatively affecting its prestige, shall guard their own and University's public reputation.

8. Academic freedom

8.1. The principle of freedom of expression of study, research and opinion shall prevail at University.

8.2. Members of the University Community shall be obliged to search for truth and seek knowledge, spread their experience and knowledge to the community and general public.

8.3. The university shall not tolerate either internal institutional censorship, or external pressure of social movements, business interest groups, state institutions, political or religious groups.

8.4. Members of the University Community shall recognise and respect each other's beliefs and attitudes.

8.5. Members of the University Community shall foster critical thinking, freedom of expression, shall develop capacities to participate in discussions and debates, to justify own opinion.

8.5. Members of the University Community shall respect each other's dignity, there shall be no place for discrimination, dishonesty or abuse of power in their relationships.

9. Accountability in using assets and resources, respect for the environment

Members of the University Community shall:

9.1. Properly use and save University's property and assets.

9.2. Protect intellectual property rights of the University and members of the Community.

9.3. Use University's resources, staff time, equipment, services and funding intended for business trips solely for performing goals and tasks of the University.

9.4. Agreeing to the principles of sustainable development, responsibly consume natural and other resources.

III. CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS

10. Members of the University Community shall:

10.1. Not tolerate nepotism and shall avoid the conflict of interests arising from personal relationships, when making decisions affecting their family members, loved ones, relatives, former or current business partners.

10.2. Undertake to give priority to scientific and academic activities and obligations to the University, personal business or other interests should not hinder the performance of the employee's current position at the University.

10.3. Not accept any gifts from persons concerned about their decisions, students shall not give any gifts, even small, to teachers during the study course.

10.4. In case of a conflict of interest, inform their colleagues and immediate supervisors.

10.5. Due to potential conflict of interest, shall withdraw themselves from the decision making.

IV. FINAL PROVISIONS

11. The Code of Academic Ethics is published in MRU's Legal Acts Information System and at the University's website www.mruni.eu.

12. The Code of Academic Ethics can be consulted at the University's website www.mruni.eu:

12.1. Students shall confirm that they have read the Code of Academic Ethics by signing the study contract.

12.2. Persons recruited by the University shall confirm that they have read the Code of Academic Ethics in the job application.

13. In case of suspected violation of the Code of Academic Ethics, the investigation shall be carried out. In case the violation is confirmed, responsibility shall be applied following laws of the Republic of Lithuania and University's internal regulations.
