



# RESEARCH CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

UNIVERSITY OF SWAT

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

COPE	Committee of Publications Ethics
HoD	Head of Department
ORIC	Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization
PI	Principal Investigator
ORC	Organizational Research Cell
RCOI	Research Conflict of Interest
UoS	University of Swat

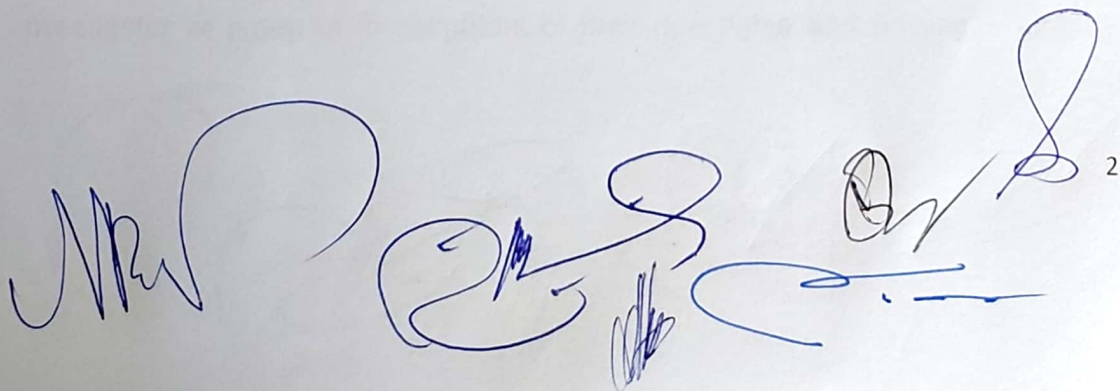
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COPE	Committee of Publications Ethics
HoD	Head of Department
ORIC	Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization
PI	Principal Investigator
QEC	Quality Enhancement Cell
RCOI	Research Conflict of Interest
UoS	University of Swat



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## RESEARCH CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY, UNIVERSITY OF SWAT

A university employee or student of the University of Swat shall be responsible to declare any potential or actual Conflicts of Interests as enshrined under the Research Conflict of Interest Policy (RCOIP) University of Swat 2024 onwards **(effective from date of approval of syndicate)**.

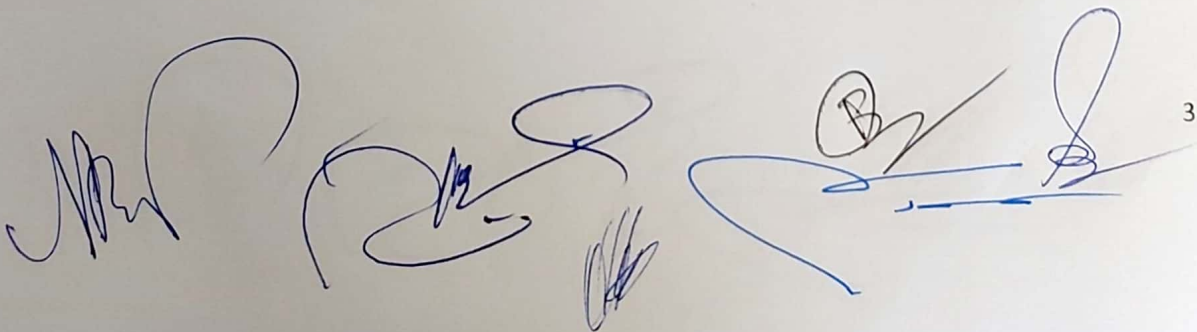
### DEFINITION

By way of definition, a Research Conflict of interest (RCOI) is said to exist, when considerable financial or personal interests may potentially compromise professional integrity in reporting of research results both internally and externally.

The existence of such a research conflict of interests does not necessarily infer any crime or wrongdoing on the part of the individual or group, although efforts to mitigate, manage or eliminate such conflicts of interest as soon as one becomes aware of it are necessary in order to maintain a conducive research atmosphere at the University of Swat. In the event of a conflicting interest scenario, the Director Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) will work with the concerned employee/student or research group in consultation with concerned Dean and Head of department to develop an appropriate Management plan in order to resolve the research Conflict of interest situation in a fair and just manner.

### DISCLOSING RESEARCH CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS RCOI

Any researcher, group or consortium of researchers associated with university of Swat will submit a Research Conflict of interest disclosure statement to the ORIC office upon discovering knowledge of potential financial or other forms of conflicts of research interests within one month of such occurrence, provided that under this policy the declaration of potential conflicts of interests is encouraged before submission of proposals to externally funded grants or other associated activities. In an event of clash of personal and organizational interests then the organizational interests will be given priority over personal gains as per the universal administrative principles. Having said, that the preceding line does not deprive the investigator or group of investigators of their due rights and privileges already



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approved by university of Swat such as consultancy charges, honorarium or any other perks and privileges given in normal course of business at university of Swat.

Moreover, the Principal investigator (PI) or head of a project is responsible to ensure that all the co-principal investigators and other partners associated with grants acquisition, conduct of research and reporting of results are fully aware of the Research conflicts of interests related disclosures and must make such disclosures preferably before inception of proposal submission or within 30 days of discovering a potential RCOI scenario to the ORIC office.

The ORIC director will assess every application to ascertain whether or not a potential or actual Conflict of research interest situation exists in the design, conduct and reporting of a particular idea, prototype, experiment or social sciences related research. Whenever a RCOI is disclosed having considerable financial or other consequences the concerned case will be forwarded to QEC office who will work with the concerned dean and head of department to review the extenuating circumstances and assist the parties involved to mitigate or eliminate the conflicts of interest through a suggesting a management plan in this regard so as to contain the issue reported at hand in the best interest of parties involved.

#### MITIGATING OR ELIMINATING A RCOI THROUGH A MANAGEMENT PLAN

In the light of reports submitted by concerned stakeholders such as Dean, HoD, ORIC/QEC if it is established that a certain research conflict of interest exists then the person or group of persons concerned shall be responsible to adhere to a management plan suggested by the concerned officials in order to mitigate or eliminate the issue in most appropriate manner as per the ethical ideals of fairness, equity, transparency and come up with a solution which is most beneficial for all the persons or groups of persons involved therein while incurring no financial obligations on University of Swat or its associated bodies. The aforesaid solutions as per the management plan shall be in accordance with ideals of committee of publications ethics COPE and must take due care in instances where research

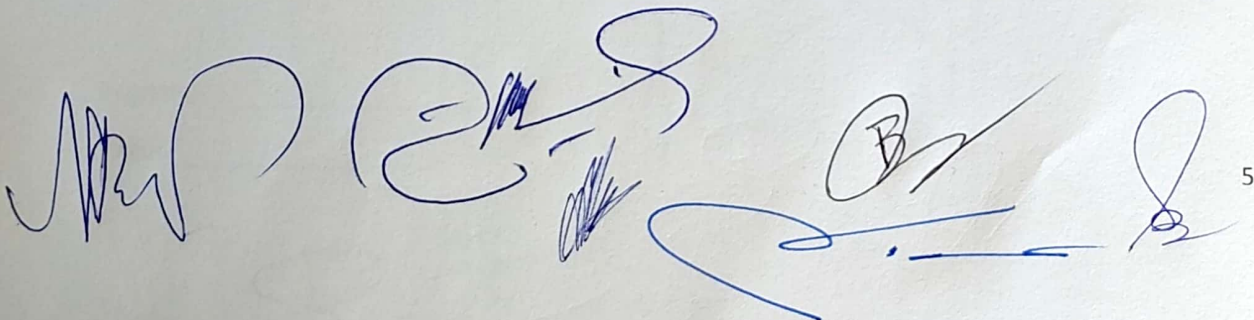
involves experimentation on human subjects or poses threats to security and safety of those directly or indirectly involved in research.

In the light of preceding paragraph, the concerned individual or group of individuals must duly accept the suggested management plan and adhere to the committee recommendations in true letter and spirit failing which the committee reserves the right to report such cases to concerned quarters for remedial actions under the employee efficiency and discipline rule in vogue. To this end a signed copy of undertaking shall be submitted by the concerned party to the office of ORIC as well as to the Chairman and Dean office to abide by the instructions given to resolve the research conflict of interest scenario.

### CONFIDENTIALITY AND NON-COMPLIANCE TO RCOIP POLICY

The proceedings regarding the RCOIs scenarios will be dealt with utmost confidentiality in order to respect the privacy of individual or groups involved and the data pertaining to RCOIs shall be reviewed by Dean, HoD, QEC/ORIC in a confidential manner. In cases where external support from expert will ne needed then such experts will also be informed regarding the confidentiality requirements.

All the university employees (individual or groups) are required to ensure compliance to the salient aspects of RCOI policy such as declaration or disclosure of interest in true letter and spirit. In case of non compliance to the directions of RCOI policy or the suggested management plan by the concerned committee, the individual or group of individuals will be proceeded with employees' discipline and efficiency rules of the University of Swat.



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# Research Conflict of Interest Redressal Application Form

## Section 1: Researcher Information

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Title/Position: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Department/Institution: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Email/Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Research Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_

## Section 2: Conflict of Interest Information

1. Describe the conflict of interest: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Nature of conflict (financial, non-financial, intellectual property): \_\_\_\_\_
3. Entities involved (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

## Section 3: Supporting Documents

Attach relevant documents:

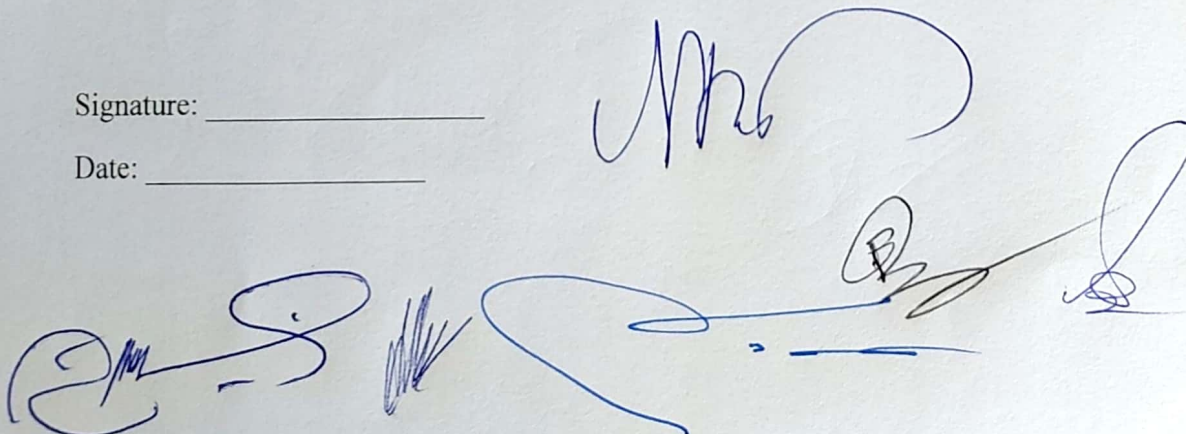
1. Research protocol/proposal
2. Conflict of interest disclosure form (if already submitted)
3. Letters from collaborators/institutional officials (if applicable)
4. Other relevant documentation

## Section 4: Certification

I, \_\_\_\_\_, certify that the information provided is accurate and complete. I understand that failure to disclose or manage conflicts of interest may compromise research integrity.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The image shows several handwritten signatures in blue ink. One signature is large and stylized, appearing to be 'M. S.'. Below it, there are several smaller, more scribbled signatures. The signatures are written on the lines provided for the signature and date fields.