TU/E CODE OF SCIENTIFIC CONDUCT

Preamble

In 2004, the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Academic Practice was established; revised versions were published in 2012 and 2014. TU/e fully supports this code. This TU/e Code fulfils the need for a more concise version. It also clarifies certain elements of the code in the light of recent developments and the specific characteristics of scientific activities at a technical university.

This TU/e Code is organized around five central values that jointly characterise good scientific conduct. From each of these values certain behavioural norms and principles follow, of which the most important are listed below. This Code is meant to be inclusive of the variety of research, design and educational activities at TU/e, and to leave room for differences in disciplinary context.

Adherence to this code of scientific integrity is the responsibility of *all* scientists, engineers and students at TU/e, whether they work individually or in groups. They may expect to work in an institutional environment that is supportive of fulfilling this responsibility, through various institutional policies and regulations on scientific integrity. Supervisors and group leaders have a special responsibility to teach junior staff members what is acceptable scientific conduct, and to function as examples of such conduct. Institutional responsibilities include: to create a climate that stimulates regular discussions about correct practices in research, design and education (especially when there seems to be a conflict between the principles of the code, or a conflict between principles and actual practices); and to facilitate accessible, unbiased and confidential procedures for reporting and investigating possible violations of the TU/e Code and for taking adequate measures in case they have occurred.

Code

TU/e expects its academic staff and students[1] to respect the following five central values of scientific integrity and to conform to the norms and principles that follow from them for their research, design and educational activities:

1. Trustworthiness

Academic staff and students ground their views as academics on scientific evidence. This entails that:

- They do not fabricate, falsify or suppress evidence. The selective omission of research results is reported and justified.
- In presenting results of their activities, they do so with the corresponding uncertainties.
- In scientific communication, they strive for precision and nuance.
- They do not present as established facts speculations, personal opinions and claims that go beyond available evidence.

2. Intellectual honesty

Academic staff and students respect standards of quality in their field and they respect the achievements of others. This entails that:

- They acknowledge and respect intellectual property and authorship. Plagiarism is unacceptable.
- They only claim authorship if they have made a genuine contribution.
- They carry out peer-review tasks seriously and make assessments solely on scientific grounds.
- They only accept tasks for which they have the necessary expertise.
- In educational activities, they accurately present available knowledge in the discipline.

[1] This includes guests of TU/e who have access to the university's facilities.

3. Openness

Open and unbiased communication is essential for science and engineering. For academic staff and students, this entails that:

- They contribute actively to an academic climate in which insights and criticisms are welcome from all, regardless of academic rank and personal characteristics.
- They give room to others to develop or take their own intellectual stance in research, design and education.
- Whenever they publish research results, they present their research such that its results may in principle be replicated.
- They make accessible, after publication, all information needed for intersubjective testing of design results and design processes.
- They make accessible, after publication, research data for re-use by colleagues.

4. Independence

Academic staff and students operate in a context where academic freedom and independence are of great importance. Where needed, they guard this independence against commercial, political and personal interests. This entails that:

- In research, they chose their methods and criteria primarily to realize scientifically valuable goals.
- With external sponsors of scientific research, they arrange that all relevant results of this research may be published within a specified, reasonable amount of time.
- They report interests that may potentially conflict with the independence of research activities.
- They avoid situations in which reasonable doubt concerning the objectivity of their scientific judgements may arise.

5. Societal responsibility

Science and engineering are vital for the health and well-being of people and for a sustainable economy. They may also be the cause of harm and risks. For academic staff and students this entails that:

- They actively seek, within the limits and standards appropriate to their field, to contribute to society through research, design, knowledge dissemination and/or public debate.
- In their research and design, they adhere to the ethical codes for activities in which human subjects and animals are involved.
- They report possible harm and risks of scientific and technological developments to the relevant authorities; in case of doubt, they consult ethical advisory bodies or signal the need for such ethical advice.

Possible cases of violations of this code of conduct should be reported to relevant supervisors or to the confidential officer for scientific integrity at TU/e. See http://www.tue.nl/en/research/scientific-integrity/. The website also contains information about the complaints procedure.