

STATEMENT ON SCHOLARLY, RESEARCH AND CREATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Date: March 25, 2020

Updated: March 17, 2022

Responsible Office: Vice President, Research and Innovation

Research at Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU) is driven by intellectual curiosity resulting in researchers creating evidence-based solutions and activating real-world transformation. TMU's distinctive core mission - the advancement of knowledge to address and serve societal need - responds to the demand for highly skilled creative and critical thinkers who address increasingly interconnected, complex problems and work towards effective solutions.

As a globally connected city university, we believe that inclusive and collaborative approaches are essential to great research. To that end, TMU is committed to cooperation and partnerships with diverse communities, industry, stakeholders, and government. Accordingly, the following statement reflects the principles that shape our Scholarly, Research and Creative (SRC) partnerships and confirms the continuing commitment of the University to foster those partnerships:

1. Foundational to SRC activity at TMU are the principles of equity, diversity, inclusion, and access. Together, these principles underscore our commitment to and expression of social justice and are essential to our integrated approach to SRC activity as they cross-cut TMU's strategic research themes and objectives.
2. Academic freedom and the ability to undertake SRC activity freely and without restriction forms the basis of the University research enterprise and TMU is committed to this practice. Thus, any restrictions placed upon this freedom must have strong justification. In the case of SRC activity undertaken for, or in conjunction with, private sector and public sponsors certain restrictions may be necessary, but at no time should private sector and/or public sponsors be allowed to prohibit the undertaking of SRC activity by members of the University Community.
3. The University has established various policies that govern aspects of SRC partnerships. A number of these policies apply to individual members of the University community, including but not limited to the Scholarly, Research and Creative (SRC) Activity Integrity Policy 118, which articulates the researcher's responsibility to strive for the highest standards of integrity in every aspect of their SRC activity.

4. SRC funding applications and agreements are subject to review by departmental and divisional heads, as well as the Vice-President, Research and Innovation before approval to ensure compliance with all relevant policies, procedures, ethical requirements, and legislation. This also includes funding directly provided to faculty members for SRC activity that is any way to be undertaken under the auspices of the University, even when those funds will not be administered by the University.
5. In view of the importance attached to academic freedom, the University will not enter into any research agreement that includes a general or blanket prohibition on SRC activities in specific areas.

In exceptional circumstances, the University may agree in a research agreement to restrict Ryerson students and staff from conducting similar SRC activity with or for other sponsors simultaneously with the SRC activity done for, or in conjunction with, the original sponsor.

6. The results of University research are freely publishable in accordance with the University's Policy 56 on the Publication of SRC results. To encourage the translation of knowledge into socially useful applications, the policy permits limited publication delays to the extent necessary to obtain protection of proprietary rights or confidential information.
7. The University recognizes and is committed to ensuring that all creators of intellectual property – students, faculty, staff and other contributors – have their rights protected, have their contributions acknowledged appropriately, and receive appropriate economic return for their contributions in creating intellectual property when it results in commercialization.
8. The University's research partnerships are matters of public record, except for information which is personal or proprietary, in accordance with applicable legislation.
9. As a condition of their participation in SRC activity, all individual researchers and collaborating partners will respect and be bound by the University's obligation of confidentiality, including any applicable non-disclosure agreements.

Appendix: Relevant Policies and Statements

The following Toronto Metropolitan University policies and guidelines are relevant to this statement.

Academic Freedom:

[Collective Agreement between the Board of Governors of Toronto Metropolitan University and the Toronto Metropolitan Faculty Association](#)

Senate Policy 56 - [Publication of Research Results](#)

Access to Information:

[Information Protection and Access - Restricted Information Policy \(Privacy Policy\)](#)

[Information Protection and Providing Access to Restricted Information Procedure \(Privacy Procedure\)](#)

[Employee Confidentiality Agreement](#)

Conflict of Interest:

[Conflict of Interest Policy](#)

Institutional Review:

Senate Policy 154 - [Signing of Applications and Agreements in Support of Scholarly, Research \(SRC\) and Creative Activity](#)

Senate Policy 143 - [Policy on the Indirect Costs Associated with Scholarly, Research and Creative \(SRC \) Funding](#)

Intellectual Property:

Senate Policy 171 - [Scholarly, Research And Creative \(SRC\) Intellectual Property Policy](#)

School of Graduate Studies - [Intellectual Property Guidelines](#)

Research Ethics:

Senate Policy 51 - [Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Human Participants](#)

Senate Policy 52 - [Ethics Review of Research Involving Animals](#)

Senate Policy 58 - [Research Using Biohazardous Materials](#)

Senate Policy 118 - [Scholarly, Research and Creative Activity \(SRC\) Integrity Policy](#)

Other relevant policies, and documents as they relate to SRC Partnerships:

Senate Policy 95 - [Development and Approval of International Partnerships and International \(and National\) Mobility Programs](#) (*currently undergoing review)

Senate Policy 103 - [Mission and Aims of Toronto Metropolitan University Strategic Research Plan 2020-2025](#)