

Code of Conduct for research involving commercial enterprises

TU Berlin regards itself as an internationally renowned university located in the German capital at the heart of Europe. Central to its activities are the creation of a clearly defined profile, outstanding achievements in research and teaching, producing outstanding graduates, and the creation of a modern administrative system. The University's efforts to achieve knowledge enhancement and technological progress are based upon the principles of excellence and quality.

As a research university with an international reputation, TU Berlin develops and maintains global contacts with commercial enterprises in various forms.

TU Berlin displays respect and appreciation towards businesses with which it engages in cooperative activities and strives to develop long-term relationships with its cooperation partners which are built upon trust.

This Code of Conduct is based on the following values and fundamental principles, which it is hoped will lead to fruitful cooperation between TU Berlin and its partners from industry.

Integrity

TU Berlin values its reputation and independence as an institute of public education and research, and seeks in particular to uphold the freedom of scholarship and research.

TU Berlin only conducts research for civil purposes (in other words non-military purposes).

Publications

TU Berlin's mission consists therein of making its knowledge and expertise in research, teaching, and knowledge transfer accessible for the general public (open science).

TU Berlin supports the principle of open access for academic publications as set out in the Open Access Policy signed by the president of TU Berlin (unanimously approved by the Academic Senate on 6 December 2017) and the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities.

TU Berlin supports the publication of, as well as free access to computer programs and similar material created by the University's scientists in accordance with the open source paradigm. The University particularly values the visibility and transparency of its research, which open access and open source enable.

A doctoral degree awarded within the framework of a research collaboration must, in principle, be published within 12 months of the scientific defense. TU Berlin takes account of the interests of commercial enterprises to the best of its ability and as far as these interests are worthy of protection. Doing so, however, may not result in an extension to the publishing deadline being granted to the detriment of the doctoral candidate.

Intangible goods and intellectual property

Every deliverable achieved by members of the University has a value in the sense of intellectual property.

TU Berlin is the owner of inventions and patents developed by its staff in their capacity as employees of the University. The utilization of such inventions and patents is conducted on the basis of TU Berlin's strategy for patenting and transfer (approved by the president on 4.1.2015) and with the agreement of the commercial enterprises involved.

Software is appropriately utilized by TU Berlin.

TU Berlin expressly supports spin-offs through the creation of conditions favorable for establishing start-ups.

Corruption and conflicts of interest

TU Berlin is committed to non-tolerance of corruption in any form and to ensuring that the University itself does not become involved in any form of corruption. No member of staff can create improper advantages when conducting research projects, either for themselves, or for contracting partners or their staff, or any other third parties.

When initiating research projects, members of the University ensure that the research work assigned to a given project leader cannot be conducted at the same time working with two commercial enterprises in competition with one another.

Confidentiality and transparency

TU Berlin is responsible for informing the public regularly and in an appropriate manner concerning the University's research projects and third-party funded activities. Unless otherwise required by law, members of the University, however, handle with confidentiality all of the respective partner organization's business and operational secrets marked as confidential which they gain knowledge of in the course of executing their professional duties and do not make these secrets available to third parties.

TU Berlin is furthermore obliged to present invoice costs in a transparent and plausible manner.

TU Berlin observes data protection regulations.

Calculation

In accordance with the requirements of the Union Framework for State Aid for Research, Development and Innovation of 2014, an adequate remuneration is agreed for all contractual services. The same applies to the transfer of invention rights.

Export controls

TU Berlin recognizes its ethical responsibility to prevent proliferation in its research. Goods subject to a license are only exported once the license has been issued by the Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control.

Supplementary legal bases

In addition to the generally applicable legal conditions, the following regulations also apply to TU Berlin's work with commercial enterprises: the Statute on the Safeguarding of Good Academic Practice at TU Berlin (approved by the Executive Board of TU Berlin on 30.03.2017) the Code of Conduct for Doctorates with Commercial Enterprises (approved by the Executive Board on 27.02.2017) and the Board of Trustee's set of criteria for joint research with commercial enterprises of June 2012.

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