Efforts to Promote Responsible Research Activities and Prevent Misconduct in Research Activities as a Funding Agency


Mandatory Completion of Research Ethics Materials (e-learning)

A) Before application: Since FY2015, researchers who apply for new JST calls for proposals are required to complete a research ethics training program at their affiliated organization prior to application. Details are to be provided in the application guidelines for each project.

B) After selection: Researchers who are part of new projects funded by JST are required to take a research ethics course through eAPRIN* in order to prevent research misconduct (fabrication, falsification, plagiarism and misappropriation of public research funds).

*Provided by the Association for the Promotion of Research Integrity (APRIN).

Features

- Students can take the course one module at a time, fully online. It is available 24 hours a day. Anytime, anywhere learning style.
- Prepared under the MEXT’s Program for Promoting Inter-University Collaborative Education “Standardization of Code of Conduct Education and National Development of Educational Systems for the Development of Researchers” and the NPO Japan-US Medical Education Consortium, based on research and ethics materials used in the United States as a framework and in accordance with Japanese laws, guidelines and other matters.
- Select one of the three courses to take
  1. JST Course (1) (Biomedical) 7 modules
  2. JST Course (2) (Engineering) 7 modules
  3. JST Course (3) (Humanities) 5 modules

APRIN English page
https://www.aprin.or.jp/en/

Pamphlets on Research Integrity

JST has made the following two types of pamphlets to promote research integrity. They are also used in research ethics seminars hosted by JST. The pamphlets introduce the definition for specified misconduct in research activities, their cases, measures to be taken against misconducts, and other information in an easy-to-understand manner, based on various guidelines issued by MEXT. These pamphlets are available in Japanese, English and Chinese languages. They can be used by research students and researchers from overseas when conducting research in Japan.

- Conduct for Responsible Research Activities
  This is a booklet created by JST which summarizes what is research misconduct (fabrication, falsification and plagiarism) in research activities and preventive measures against misconduct in an easy-to-understand manner.
- On the Appropriate Use of Public Research Funds
  This is a booklet created by JST which summarizes the types and examples of misappropriation of research funds and preventive measures against misconduct in an easy-to-understand manner.

Research Ethics Seminars

JST provides an opportunity to directly explain research ethics to the research representatives whose research has been adopted as a JST project, their co-researchers, and the administrative staff of the relevant research institutes at seminars, workshop and the like. In addition, researchers participating in JST projects are required to learn research ethics through e-learning. After taking these courses, the principal researchers are required to sign a pledge regarding research integrity.
### Conduct for Responsible Research Activities

JST’s Initiatives for Research Integrity

The recent incidents involving misconduct and dishonesty in research activities have resulted in an alarming condition that threatens the relationship of trust between science and society, and hinders the healthy development of scientific technologies. To prevent misconduct in research activities, autonomous self-purification of the scientific community must function. Each researcher must strictly discipline him/herself and work to create new knowledge and inventions that are useful for society, based on a high moral standard to meet the expectations of society. As a funding agency for research, the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) considers research misconduct a grave issue and makes every effort to prevent it in cooperation with relevant organizations, thereby aiming to regain public trust.

- JST believes that honesty in research activities is extremely important for Japan, which seeks to develop itself through science and technology.
- JST supports honest and responsible research activities.
- JST strictly condemns any misconduct in research activities.
- JST will promote education in research ethics and reform its research funding programs in cooperation with relevant organizations, in order to prevent misconduct.

We must develop a healthy scientific culture based on social trust toward building a society filled with hopes and dreams for a bright future. We therefore request the continued understanding and cooperation of the research community and related institutions.

### Educational Video Materials for Taking on Research Ethics as a Personal Issue

JST has created drama-style video materials that can be studied on their own, with the aim of enhancing the ethical consciousness required by researchers in their daily research activities.

**https://www.jst.go.jp/kousei_p/en/gaps_in_ethics.html**

#### 2022 GAPS IN ETHICS

**The Science and Engineering Research Center Edition**

- This materials consist of two dramas, with an associate professor and a doctoral student as the main characters. The drama portrays the perspective of both the associate professor and the student.
- The realistic presentation of drama allows viewers to experience the lead-up to research misconduct, while cultivating ethical judgment and behavior.

**Story**

The Onuma Research Center of the Faculty of Science and Engineering at Shuwa University, a fictional school, is conducting research and development of Brain-Machine Interface (BMI) technology as a collaborative research project with a private company. Dr. Segawa, an associate professor plays a central role in this project. Assistant professor Maruyama and PhD student Sasayama are leading the research, but it is difficult to obtain the right experimental data.

As the date of the presentation to the collaborating company draws closer, the research center is under immense pressure. Under these circumstances, Dr. Maruyama and Sasayama...

**How to Use**

- It is designed around problems that could arise at any research site, so that it can be widely used by researchers and students outside of science and engineering, such as the Life and Medical Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences, and corporate researchers.
- It is most effectively used in workshops that combine watching the drama with discussion and group work. It can also be used in a variety of other situations, including lectures at universities to students and training to researchers at research institutions.

#### 2023 GAPS IN ETHICS

**The New Chapter on Plagiarism will be released in 2023!**

For 2023, we are producing two video teaching materials with “plagiarism” as the topic, set in a humanities and social sciences laboratory and a natural science laboratory, respectively.

JST produces a series of video teaching materials for research ethics education.

### Site Concepts

**Research Integrity Portal**

JST’s “Research Integrity Portal” was created for all research ethics education providers, researchers, students, and research supporters in universities and institutions. This portal site serves as a place to share information for research funding agencies (FAs), and related ministries, as well as a resource for links related to responsible research activities and research ethics by research institutions in Japan and overseas.

**Japan’s Most in-depth Portal Site for Research Integrity**

![Research Integrity Portal](https://www.jst.go.jp/kousei_p/en/)

**Site Concepts**

- It was created in 2016, with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology’s budget providing the necessary funds. It is operated by JST in cooperation with five research funding agencies (FAs).
- We will contribute to the promotion of research activities with integrity by distributing teaching materials on research ethics. In addition, we will promote continuous and autonomous research integrity and provide support to carry out effective research ethics education.
- We will support education and human resource development that achieves the diverse well-being of every individual, and helps them take on challenges to address issues.

### Contents

- **Guidelines**
- **Universities**
- **Academic Societies**
- **Events/Reports**
- **Survey/Research**
- **Teaching Materials**
  - Japanese site
  - (EN) https://www.jst.go.jp/kousei_p/en/
  - (JP) https://www.jst.go.jp/kousei_p/

- Covering guidelines and policies from Japanese government, as well as regulations and initiatives related to research integrity at domestic universities.
- Posting research integrity pamphlets in Japanese, English, and Chinese languages.
- Distributing a Japanese version of "THE LAB" created by JST, an interactive video teaching material produced by the Office of Research Integrity (ORI), USA.
- Sharing research integrity efforts in Japan both domestically and internationally through the English site, (Japanese Language)

**How to Use**

- It is most effectively used in workshops that combine watching the drama with discussion and group work. It can also be used in a variety of other situations, including lectures at universities to students and training to researchers at research institutions.

**Events to Advance Research Ethics Education**

- In support of responsible research activities at universities and research institutes, we organize workshops on research ethics education, targeting personnel in charge of research ethics education at each research institution.
- In 2022, we held a workshop in which participants looked at "interactive educational methods" using "Gaps in Ethics," the Research Ethics Instructional Video, and promoted the use of video teaching materials at each institution.
- In cooperation with five research funding agencies (FAs), the "Research Integrity Symposium" is held every year to promote the advancement of research ethics education.