



Council Statement on Dignity in the Conduct of Research

The Irish Research Council (IRC) supports a research system in which individual researchers are enabled to reach their full potential, at all stages of their career.

At the heart of research is people, and respect for the dignity of the person, whether a student or a member of staff, is a principle that all stakeholders have a collective responsibility to safeguard.

Students, their supervisors & mentors, and research staff are entitled to carry out their research free from any form of harassment, victimisation, or bullying. Host institutions have a responsibility to ensure an appropriate work environment and to deal with any complaints or issues speedily, in line with agreed grievance procedures. The IRC encourages IRC-funded researchers and students to hold colleagues accountable to the highest standards with regard to dignity in the research environment and to alert their institutions to violations. We must lead the way in the face of any conduct which might potentially damage the fabric of our research community.

The Council draws the attention of institutions and all parties to the provisions of the Equal Status Acts 2000-2012 and the Employment Equality Acts 1998-2012. Host institutions are subject to the provisions of the Acts in their dual capacity of educational service providers and employers. The legislation prohibits discrimination on any of nine grounds, including gender, sexual orientation, age, race and religion. In addition, the Employment Equality Acts specifically prohibit harassment, sexual harassment or victimisation in the workplace. The IRC reserves the right to withdraw funding from any institution which has been found to be in contravention of the Acts.

Irish Research Council
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