



## **Policy on Academic Integrity & Code of Ethics**

The Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI) is committed to the values of honesty, trust, fairness, and ethical conduct in all areas of academic practice and enquiry. It also affirms the principle of accountability in these areas on the part of all who hold awards through its grant programs, whether undergraduate or graduate students, postdoctoral students, or more senior researchers.

SICI requires that every host institution, whether in India or in Canada, shall have established and publicly-accessible procedures for handling allegations of academic misconduct, as well as an ethics policy that governs research on human and animal subjects as well as other areas of ethical conduct.

SICI further requires that all award-holders make themselves aware, in advance of taking up the tenure of their award, of the policies and procedures mentioned above, and acknowledge that they are governed by them. The only exception is in the context where a researcher is not formally affiliated with a host institution, but instead participates in a research network directly through their position with their home institution; in this case, the policies and procedures of the home institution shall apply.

In the event that a member institution (whether host institution or home institution, as applicable) determines that an award-holder has engaged in academic misconduct or has failed to fulfill ethical obligations, penalties will be applied in accordance with the institution's policies and procedures. Additional penalties may be levied by SICI according to the decision of the Executive Council, possibly including forfeiture of the relevant grant award.

## **Code of Ethics**

The Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute is committed to providing a spectrum of opportunities related to institutional linkages, research collaboration, and academic partnerships to our Indian and Canadian member institutions. As a matter of principle, SICI endorses and embeds core values of integrity, honesty and transparency in the conduct of all of its institutional activities. In conducting academic research, the Institute expects its Fellows and members to adhere to the highest levels of research ethics and abide by the requirements set out by the Institute as well as by host institutions in India or Canada.

The Institute expects all of its Fellows to uphold the highest standards of integrity and professionalism in the conduct of their Fellowship assignment/project (before, during and after). In accordance with the spirit of Institute's core values, the following Code of Ethics must be respected and observed by faculty, staff, research fellows, and students in the course of all research and educational activities conducted at the host institution.

### **Code of Ethics**

- Research and related activities must be carried out in accordance with the accepted standards of discipline of the host institution/country.
- Research must be conducted with full integrity and must be free of biases and/or prejudices of any sort when reporting research findings and interpreting facts, data, images etc.
- Fabrication, falsification or plagiarism of any other party's ideas and research work must not be carried out under any circumstances. Any violation of this principle will risk expulsion from the research project.
- Fair credit must be given to another researcher when quoting his/her work in the original research document of the Fellow.

- It is a duty to preserve and save data, original notes, results of findings of the original research work, and also maintain the accuracy of the facts and figures established during the course of the Fellowship. This demonstrates that research has been conducted with integrity and honesty.
- It will be the Fellow's responsibility to ensure the well-being of all individuals (such as, though not restricted to, contributors to any enquiry, or research colleagues), including their dignity, rights, reputation and safety, to avoid all kinds of unreasonable risk or harm to them during the course of their research.
- All legal, regulatory and professional ethical requirements in the host country where the Fellowship is conducted must be duly observed and complied with.
- Any conflict of interest must be acknowledged in such a way as to demonstrate fair judgement and impartiality objectivity when making decisions in relation to the research project.
- It is imperative to treat peers, colleagues, fellow scholars, faculty, staff, people, local cultures, customs, and disciplines with the utmost respect and fairness, and in a non-discriminatory manner.
- It is necessary at all times to strive for excellence and aim to produce research work of highest quality.
- Fellows must be straightforward and honest in all their professional relationships.
- Participation is expected in activities, events, initiatives under the direction of the host Professor.
- Engagement in activities and behaviours that are in any way abusive (physically, emotionally, or in any other respect) is prohibited.
- Confidentiality, privacy, and respect for the individuals approached for interviews, tests, etc., must be maintained, along with obtaining necessary permission in writing from the subject, host institution, Professor, or other entities, to conduct research.
- Transparency is required in the use and disbursement of resources for research

Openness is expected in contributing to and promoting the exchange of ideas, research methods, data and results with relevant Professors, scholars, scientists, and/or mentors where such collaboration advances research in the relevant field.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I acknowledge that I have read a copy of the Code of Ethics and that I understand it. I further acknowledge that I am responsible for understanding and complying with the Code of Ethics during my tenure as a Scholar/Faculty/Researcher/Academician associated with the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute and its Grant Funding Programmes.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_