



**Mahatma Gandhi University
Meghalaya**

Ph.D. Research Ethics

Mahatma Gandhi University, Meghalaya

Ph.D. Research Ethics Board

Mahatma Gandhi University, Meghalaya

1. Preamble

Mahatma Gandhi University, Meghalaya (hereinafter referred to as "the University"), is committed to upholding the highest ethical standards in research and academic integrity in accordance with the **University Grants Commission (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018**, and other relevant statutory guidelines. To institutionalize these standards, the University hereby establishes the **Ph.D. Research Ethics Board (PREB)** to ensure ethical compliance, safeguard research integrity, and promote responsible conduct among doctoral scholars and faculty.

2. Legal Mandate and Applicability

The PREB is constituted under the powers conferred upon the University by **Section 26(1)(g) of the UGC Act, 1956**, read with the UGC's research integrity and plagiarism regulations. This Policy applies to all Ph.D. scholars, faculty supervisors, and research personnel affiliated with the University. The Board shall function in alignment with national and international best practices, including the **ICMR Guidelines on Research Ethics, Helsinki Declaration (for biomedical research), and COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics) framework**.

3. Objectives

The primary objectives of the **Ph.D. Research Ethics Board** are:

1. To ensure adherence to ethical norms in all doctoral research conducted at the University.
2. To prevent, detect, and address academic misconduct, including plagiarism, data falsification, and fabrication.
3. To scrutinize all research proposals for ethical compliance, particularly concerning human and animal subjects, environmental impact, and intellectual property rights.
4. To promote awareness of research ethics through workshops, seminars, and training programs.
5. To investigate complaints of ethical violations and recommend corrective actions.

4. Composition of the Ph.D. Research Ethics Board (PREB)

The Board shall be a statutory body comprising experts with proven academic and ethical credentials. It shall be constituted as follows:

Designation	Role	Remarks
Vice-Chancellor (Ex-Officio)	Chairperson	Provides overall leadership and policy direction.
Dean of Research	Member Secretary	Oversees research compliance and documentation.
Senior Faculty (Law/Philosophy/ Ethics)	Ethics Review Member	Evaluates ethical aspects of research proposals.
External Ethics Expert	Independent Member	Ensures impartial review of ethical concerns.
Vice- Chancellor Nominee	Member	Maintains regulatory oversight and compliance.

The tenure of the members shall be **three years**, subject to renewal by the Vice-Chancellor. Any vacancy shall be filled within **30 days** to ensure uninterrupted operations.

Accordingly the Ph.D. Research Ethics Board (PREB) will be as follows:

S.No.	Designation	Name
1.	Chairperson	Prof. (Dr.) Sagar O' Manjare
2.	Member Secretary	Prof. (Dr.) Dinesh Vaishya
3.	Ethics Review Member	Prof. (Dr.) Sunjit Basumitry
4.	Independent Member	Prof. (Dr.) Mohan Bhattacharya
5.	Member	Prof. (Dr.) Lakhimi Gogoi

5. Scope of Responsibilities

- 1. Review and Approval of Research Proposals:** The Board shall assess all Ph.D. research proposals before approval, ensuring ethical considerations are adequately addressed.
- 2. Plagiarism Detection and Prevention:** The Board shall enforce anti-plagiarism measures, requiring scholars to submit their research for verification using UGC-approved software (e.g., Ouriginal/Urkund & Drillbrit). Any similarity beyond the **UGC-mandated limit of 10%** shall be subject to review and corrective measures.
- 3. Handling Research Misconduct:** The Board shall have the authority to investigate allegations of ethical violations, misconduct, or academic dishonesty and recommend appropriate disciplinary actions as per **Clause 10 of the UGC Plagiarism Regulations**.
- 4. Ethical Clearance for Human and Animal Research:** Scholars conducting studies involving human participants or animals must obtain clearance from the Board, adhering to **ICMR and CPCSEA guidelines**.

5. **Confidentiality and Data Integrity:** The Board shall enforce strict confidentiality protocols to protect sensitive research data and intellectual property.

6. Grievance Redressal Mechanism

Any scholar or faculty member with concerns regarding research ethics may file a formal complaint with the Board. The complaint shall be reviewed within **30 days**, and appropriate action shall be taken in accordance with **UGC and institutional disciplinary regulations**.

7. Reporting and Compliance

The Board shall submit an **Annual Research Ethics Compliance Report** to the Vice-Chancellor and the UGC, detailing the number of proposals reviewed, cases of ethical misconduct handled, and policy recommendations for enhancing research integrity.

8. Implementation and Amendments

This policy shall come into effect immediately upon approval by the Academic Council and the Board of Governors. Amendments to this policy may be proposed by the PREB and shall be subject to approval by statutory bodies of the University, in alignment with **Section 12(d) of the UGC Act, 1956**.

Conclusion

Mahatma Gandhi University, Meghalaya, reaffirms its commitment to fostering an ethical and transparent research environment. Through the Ph.D. Research Ethics Board, the University shall maintain the highest standards of academic integrity, ensuring that all research conducted under its aegis adheres to the principles of ethics, accountability, and scientific excellence.