



THE UNIVERSITY
OF LATVIA

The Academic Ethics Codex of the University of Latvia

Appendix
APPROVED
with the Senate decision
No. 170 from 27 October 2008

This document has no amendments

The Academic Ethics Codex of the University of Latvia (hereinafter referred to as – the Codex) incorporates the principles and norms of fair and responsible actions of the community of the University of Latvia (hereinafter referred to as –UL). The goal of the Codex is to promote academic distinction and to facilitate joint action of the UL community for the education and science of Latvia. The Codex is in force during the academic activities and intercommunication in UL. The objective of the Codex is to create an environment that is favorable for acquisition of knowledge, free exchange of opinions and perfection of human personality. The Codex is created in compliance with the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia, as well as with other normative acts.

1. Explanation of used terms

1.1. UL community - all academic personnel, scientific workers, general personnel and students of UL.

1.2. Academic personnel - a physical person with corresponding qualification, who implements the study process.

1.3. Scientific worker - a physical person with corresponding qualification, who carries out scientific activities.

2. Basic principles

2.1. Academic freedom

This principle provides an opportunity to define and implement scientific, educational and self-educational interests in a creative, independent and responsible manner. Academic freedom respects the rights of others for the free expression of their opinion, as well as honesty in the layout and implementation of ideas. Academic freedom is based on the developed critical and creative thinking.

2.2. Fairness and justice

This principle describes the honest, substantiated action based on mutual reliability that prevents from the conflict of interests, deceit, venality, biased evaluation, or from plagiarism.

2.3. Responsibility

This principle means the readiness to fulfill academic liabilities, to envisage the consequences of one's actions, as well as to refrain from the actions, that could do harm to academic activities, collegial relationships and to the society. The responsibility is also related to self-development, to the acknowledgment and correction of mistakes and flaws.

2.4. Loyalty

This principle defines the voluntary inclusion in the UL community, the fair and just observance and protection of its interests through the increase of UL prestige and the facilitation of the brand recognition.

2.5. Respect and collegiality

This principle incorporates the practice of good management in the creation of open, democratic and equal relationships, facilitating cooperation of the members of UL community for the joint responsibility for quality education and scientific work.

3. The principles in action

The principles of the Codex are to be implemented through the joint actions of the UL community. The implementation of these principles improves the quality of education and scientific work, facilitates substantiated respect and trust, prevents the manifestations of the conflict of interest in relation to financial assets and property of UL, as well as prohibits the usage of authority, posts and academic positions in vested interests.

3. 1. The actions of academic personnel and scientific workers

3. 1. 1. Education work

3.1.1.1. The academic personnel and the scientists provide quality education, promote the development of the scientific activity environment, and facilitate the commitment and the wish of students for perfection.

3.1.1.2. The administrative and academic personnel, as well as the scientists of UL, treat the colleagues and students, their ideas and opinions with respect, maintain businesslike, professional and collegial relationships, maintain equality, not tolerating arrogance, discrimination and academic violence. Under academic violence, one understands academically unacceptable behavior or remarks, that arise from the person's power at a position, and that significantly influence the motivation of the representatives of UL community to study or to perform direct work duties.

3.1.1.3. The academic personnel develops creative types of work for students, evaluates the work of students in due time, as well as in a fair and just manner.

3.1.1.4. The academic personnel respect the frankness and trust of the students, not publicly disclosing the information that has been entrusted by the students. When protecting a person's privacy, the academic personnel also refrains from the public discussion of the progress and behavior of its former and actual students.

3.1.1.5. The academic personnel recognizes the mistakes made during the study process or the evaluation of students, and resolves conflicts through direct and open negotiations.

3.1.1.6. During their academic activities, the academic personnel and the scientists refrain from campaigning for any political power, interest group, religious organization etc., in vested interests. During the academic activities, when running for elections, the academic personnel refrain from self-campaigning and from campaigning during communication with colleagues and students.

3.1.1.7. The academic personnel promote the culture of academic behavior and mutual relationships by their own example, within UL and outside it.

3.1.1.8. The academic personnel supports and maintains academic and professional honesty by not creating conditions for the manifestations of academic dishonesty, follows the development process of the student papers, does not allow for plagiarism, cribbing, other kinds of unfair usage of intellectual property, or other kinds of cheating.

3.1.2. Scientific work

3.1.2.1. The scientific work is based on intellectual honesty, and it is performed in the highest quality possible, with concern for the development of the branch and science in total, making development in the well-being of society. During the scientific work, the occurrence under research is analyzed in detail and in more extensive interconnections, not allowing for tendentiousness and selective interpretation.

3.1.2.2. The academic personnel and the scientists treat the achievements of colleagues, as well as the performance and ideas of the students, in a just manner and with respect.

3.1.2.3. The scientific workers treat the persons, who are involved in a research, in a fair manner, do not harm them and respect the confidentiality of the acquired information.

3.1.2.4. The academic personnel and the scientists treat other intellectual property in a fair manner and with respect, not allowing for plagiarism and cheating.

3.1.2.5. The academic personnel and the scientific workers have a diverse knowledge of the newest achievements in the corresponding branch, and share their knowledge with other colleagues and students, not withholding their knowledge. The scientific work is based on diverse information, where the achievements of one person are not singled out.

3.1.2.6. The academic personnel and the scientific workers do not involve themselves into transactions and scientific activities that weaken academic freedom and independence. The academic personnel and the scientific workers refrain from involving themselves into transactions that harm the prestige of UL and science in general.

3.1.2.7. The academic personnel and the scientific workers, both on their own initiative and in response to the appeal from the representatives of mass media or other members of the public, express their opinion on the important problems and actual issues of society, as well as bring forward the problems, that are to be solved now and in the future.

3.2. The action of students

3.2.1. The studies form a duty with highest priority for the students. The students do not use work or other foreseeable circumstances as a justification for unsettled liabilities.

3.2.2. The students of UL treat each representative of the UL community, his ideas and opinions with respect, maintain businesslike and collegial relationships, and observe equality, not tolerating arrogance, discrimination and violence.

3.2.3. The students share the responsibility for the study process and its quality, dedicate all efforts towards the acquisition of knowledge during lectures, practical studies and independent work, and fulfill the academic liabilities in a fair manner.

3.2.4. The students observe academic etiquette during address, mutual relationships and in their behavior.

3.2.5. The students support and maintain academic and professional honesty, do not allow for plagiarism, cribbing, other kinds of unfair usage of intellectual property, or other kinds of cheating.

3.2.6. The students are helpful in collegial and mutual way. They provide for the cooperative implementation of academic objectives.

3.2.7. The students provide only genuine data about themselves, without fraudulence and deception in relation to others.

3.2.8. The students must not harm the rights of others to acquire education or to carry out work by using the property and study aids of UL. They must not use deception or prohibition with other representatives of UL community in relation to the usage of the property and study aids of UL.

3.2.9. In relation to the scientific work, the students observe the same principles and norms of ethics, as the scientists (Paragraph 3.1.2 of this Codex).

3.2.10. The students evaluate the activities of the academic personnel and the study process in total, in a fair and just manner.

3.3. Actions of the general personnel

3.3.1. Any employee of the general personnel fulfills his official duties in a fair and responsible manner.

3.3.2. The general personnel observe the respectful culture of mutual relationships.

3.3.3. The general personnel facilitates information turnover in a fair manner and in due time, as well as ensures its credibility and confidentiality.

4. The implementation of the Ethics Codex

4.1. The implementation of the Codex depends on the activities, decency, self-supervision, self-control and self-improvement of each representative of the UL community.

4.2. The UL management ensures the availability of the Codex.

4.3. The administrative and academic personnel of UL promote the implementation of the principles and norms of the Codex by their own example, as well as with the improvement of normative acts and work organization in UL.

4.4. The implementation of the Codex is facilitated and supervised by the Academic ethics commission of UL that reviews the violations of academic ethics in compliance with the Provisions on the Academic ethics commission of UL.

4.5. The Academic ethics commission of UL expresses an opinion, supports the action, that corresponds to the Codex, reprobates the Codex violations and proposes actions for their elimination to the UL rector.

4.6. Any representative of the UL community is welcome to inform the Academic ethics commission of UL about the violations of the Codex in a fair and just manner.

4.7. Any representative of the UL community has the rights to submit proposals on the improvement of the Codex and its implementation to the Academic ethics commission of UL.