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Parent Policy: Research Policy

Delay of Research Publication Procedure

Office of Administrative Responsibility:	Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies Office of the Vice-President (Research)
Approving Authority:	Dean, Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies Vice-President (Research)

Purpose

Research funds from an external body such as government, industry, foundation, business or professional organization are meant to further the goals of the University of Alberta and those of the faculty member in terms of research or creative activity. The university recognizes that one of the main purposes of university research is the discovery and dissemination of new knowledge. Consequently, there is a need for the free exchange of ideas or information and for the right and the obligation to publish the results of the research. The University prohibits secret or classified research.

The financial interests and publication rights of graduate students and postdoctoral scholars, when the contribution warrants, should be clarified prior to their involvement with a given project. University policy requires all theses to be made freely available to the public after convocation unless circumstances justify a period of delay.

University research, therefore, which is pursued under conditions which restrict publication either in terms of content or beyond limits established from time to time by the General Faculties Council is not compatible with university policy. The university expects that research results will normally be published without any time restrictions.

The purpose of this policy document is to outline the conditions under which delays to publish research results may be acceptable to the university.

Definitions

The attached definitions table outlines the terms used in this procedure that are not otherwise defined herein and any specific rules of interpretation that apply.

Scope

This procedure applies to all members of the University Community participating in activities or functions governed by this procedure and its parent policy.

Procedure

1. CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE UNIVERSITY WILL ACCEPT A REQUEST TO DELAY PUBLICATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS:

    1.1. Where the research results are part of a thesis - delay of a maximum of 12 months, except when a student requests a further delay. In this case, approval must be sought in accordance with the Graduate Program Regulations outlined in the University Calendar.

    1.2. Where the research results contain confidential information of the Sponsor or where a patent is to be sought - delay of a maximum of 12 months.

    1.3. In the case of **Clinical Trials** only - delay of a maximum of 24 months from the "**Data Lock**" point in the Clinical Trial.

2. APPROVAL OF EXCEPTIONS

    Any exceptions to the time limits outlined in Sections 1.2 and 1.3 above must be approved by the Office of the Vice-President (Research).

Definitions Table

Any definitions listed here apply to this procedure only with no implied or intended institution-wide use. Capitalized words and phrases used in this procedure that are not otherwise defined herein shall have the same meanings ascribed to them in the Research Policy.

Clinical Trials	Research investigations in which people volunteer to test new treatments, interventions or tests as a means to prevent, detect, treat or manage various diseases or medical conditions. Clinical trials may involve people in multiple sites and in different countries
Data Lock	Action taken to prevent any further changes to the clinical trial database. A database is locked after all queries have been resolved

	and it is determined by the Sponsor and/or study coordinating centre that the data are ready for analysis.
Sponsor	An external agency that provides funds to the University. A company or agency paying for/requesting the research.

Parent Policy Suite

- Research Policy
- Delay of Research Publication Procedure
- Research Administration Roles and Responsibilities Procedure
- Research Records Stewardship Guidance Procedure
- Research Records Stewardship Guidance Procedure Appendix A: Research Records Management and Preservation Guidelines
- Research Records Stewardship Guidance Procedure Appendix B: Research Records Classification Guidelines

Related Policy Documents

- Postdoctoral Fellows Policy

Related Links

- Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies
- Graduate Program Manual
- Office of the Vice-President (Research)
- University of Alberta Calendar, Section 204.4.3

History

January 12, 2015	Approved.
February 27, 2026	Editorial amendment. Formatting, office name and links.

For questions surrounding policy document interpretation or implementation, please contact the Office of Administrative Responsibility.

The official version of this document may be obtained from https://www.ualberta.ca/policies-procedures/index.html