

ETHICAL GUIDELINES FOR COLLABORATION WITH EXTERNAL ENTERPRISES

Adopted by:	The Board of UiT The Arctic University of Norway (UiT)	Date: 27.10.2016
Unit responsible:	AFU/POA	ID: 2016/5832

Purpose

The university has a responsibility to perform its activities in line with recognised ethical principles (cf. Section 1-5 (1) of the *Act relating to universities and university colleges*). The purpose of these guidelines is to ensure that enterprises with which UiT The Arctic University of Norway (UiT) enters into agreements are operated in accordance with the same principles.

A condition for collaboration is that the project is in the academic interests of UiT, and that such collaboration is necessary to implement the project.

Applicability

These guidelines apply to all units at UiT.

Responsibility and authority

The person with authority to enter into the agreement has the overarching responsibility for ensuring that an ethical assessment is undertaken of the collaboration partners and of the collaboration itself.

Conditions for collaboration with companies

Pursuant to Circular F-07-13 from the Ministry of Education and Research *Reglement om statlige universiteter og høyskoleers forpliktende samarbeid og erverv av aksjer* (Regulations regarding binding collaboration and acquisition of shares by State universities and university colleges), the following criteria apply for collaboration with external enterprises:

- a) The collaboration must be in the academic interests of the institution, and the activity must strengthen the institution's ability to perform its primary tasks.
- b) Academic environments internally at the institution must be involved in the collaboration. One of the main objectives of entering into the collaboration must be that the quality of the activity at the internal academic environments improves because of the collaboration.
- c) The institution must ensure that the collaboration does not weaken the institution's academic freedom.
- d) The collaboration must be administered in such a way that it safeguards the institution's financial interests.
- e) The institution cannot subsidise the activity of the collaboration enterprise, whether directly or indirectly. The collaborating enterprise must cover all the costs that result from its activity.

Furthermore, any collaboration must not be at variance with the provisions of the *Act relating to universities and university colleges*, *Guidelines for administration of supported and commissioned research activities at UiT* og *Regulations for securing and management of work results at UiT* and other conditions that apply for UiT.

Assessment criteria for exclusion of collaboration with external enterprises

UiT must not establish collaboration with enterprises that operate in such a way that involves serious breach of basic ethical norms. The following are regarded as breaches of fundamental ethical norms:

- gross or systematic violations of human rights
- child labour

UiT must not enter into joint projects with those parts of an enterprise that have been convicted of, or are under suspicion of, the following violations of fundamental ethical norms:

- corruption
- production of weapons, the normal use of which violates fundamental humanitarian principles

UiT must not collaborate with those parts of an enterprise actively involved in acts of war.

Furthermore, UiT must not enter into any collaboration where the nature of the collaboration violates fundamental ethical norms, including:

- violation of human rights
- child labour
- corruption
- negative impacts on climate and the environment
- production of weapons, the normal use of which violates fundamental humanitarian principles

Assessment process

An enterprise wishing to enter into a collaboration agreement with UiT must be assessed as follows:

1. The collaboration should initially be assessed at the faculty that wishes to enter into the collaboration. This assessment must be done in writing. Collaboration agreements can normally be entered into at the faculty without being assessed by the University Director.
2. If the enterprise is on the Government Pension Fund Global's list of excluded companies or its list of companies that are under observation, or if there are other reasons for doubt about the enterprise and/or the nature of collaboration, the matter must be forwarded to the University Director.
 - a. The faculty wishing to enter into the collaboration must forward the following documents:
 - i. A brief description of the project – what is the purpose of the collaboration?
 - ii. The unit's assessment of the academic benefits and the importance of the collaboration
 - iii. Declaration by the enterprise about which part of the company is covered by the collaboration, as well as the company's ethics policy
 - b. The University Director will assess the planned joint project and the collaborating enterprise. The enterprise is submitted for the assessment and given the opportunity to provide feedback on this.
 - c. The University Director will submit an information item to the Board on an annual basis if he/she has assessed ethical issues concerning collaboration.

Collaborating enterprise's duty to notify

The collaborating enterprise must notify UiT immediately if any changes in the collaborating enterprise's organisation and/or activity can result in violations of UiT's ethical guidelines. In such case, UiT will assess whether the collaboration can continue.

Transparency

The assessment of collaborating enterprises must be openly available.

- Circular [F-07-13](#) *Reglement om statlige universiteter og høyskoleers forpliktende samarbeid og erverv av aksjer* (Regulations regarding binding collaboration and acquisition of shares by State universities and university colleges)
- [Guidelines](#) for observation and exclusion from the Government Pension Fund
- <http://www.nbim.no/no/ansvarlighet/utelukkelse-av-selskaper/>