Approving University Official(s): Academic Council
Responsible Unit: Provost
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Research Policy

Purpose

This policy establishes a clear and consistent framework for Research Policy (the "Policy") at Yorkville University ("Yorkville"). It provides guidance to ensure alignment with the institution's operational, academic, and regulatory obligations, and supports Yorkville's commitment to set out the principles that guide the conduct of research and identifies governance and administrative responsibilities for research and scholarly activities.

Scope

This policy applies to all individuals conducting research at Yorkville.

Definitions

Academic staff – An employee in a department supporting the academic mission of Yorkville but not a faculty member.

Creative activity – A type of scholarly activity that involves art, artistic creation, and/or artistic production.

Faculty member – An employee – sessional, full-time, or part-time - whose primary duties include teaching and advising students, participating in curriculum development, review, and renewal, contributing to the governance of the academic program, campus, and university, and maintaining an active program of scholarly endeavours.

Indigenous research – Research in any field or discipline that is conducted by, grounded in, or meaningfully engaged with First Nations, Inuit, Métis or other Indigenous Peoples and Nations, communities, societies or individuals, and their wisdom, cultures, experiences or knowledge systems, as expressed in their dynamic forms, past and present.[1]

Research – For purposes of this policy, *research* is synonymous with *scholarly activity*.

Researcher – Any faculty member, student, or member of staff conducting research and engaging in scholarly activities at Yorkville.

Scholarly Activity – Yorkville has adopted the definition of scholarly activities that encompass the four domains defined by Boyer's (1990) Model of Scholarship:

- *Scholarship of Discovery* means the complex application of activities seeking to satisfy curiosity and the quest for new knowledge.
- *Scholarship of Application* means the deployment of knowledge and expertise to address real-world problems and benefit society.
- *Scholarship of Integration* means synthesizing and connecting knowledge across disciplines, fields, or time.
- *Scholarship of Teaching and Learning* means the systematic study of and development of methods to improve teaching effectiveness, curriculum development, and pedagogy.

Policy Statement

1. Principles:
    a. Yorkville is primarily a teaching university. It recognizes that research contributes to the continuous improvement of teaching and learning by creating an environment in which faculty members and academic staff maintain currency in their disciplines and constantly renew curriculum and pedagogy, keeping pace with new knowledge. Research also contributes directly to improved teaching practices and enhanced learning when it focuses on the scholarship of teaching and learning.
    b. Yorkville recognizes its obligation as a university to facilitate the transfer, mobilization, and application of the knowledge and expertise of its faculty, academic staff, and students, making that knowledge and expertise available to society. Faculty members are encouraged to publish and mobilize research. Yorkville particularly supports the mobilization and application of research related to teaching and learning and professional practice.
    c. Yorkville is committed to freedom of inquiry and freedom of expression in research activities. Therefore, Yorkville values, encourages, and supports all forms of research, scholarship, and creative endeavour from all disciplines.
    d. Yorkville is committed to responsible and ethical conduct of research. Therefore, Yorkville has created policies related to academic integrity, responsible conduct of research, and ethical conduct of research involving humans.
    e. Yorkville has adopted the Boyer model of scholarly activity as the framework for contextualizing and recognizing research and scholarly activities. This model identifies four co-equal types of research activities: Scholarship of Discovery; Scholarship of Application, Scholarship of Integration, and Scholarship of Teaching and Learning.
    f. Yorkville recognizes that scholarly activity encompasses Indigenous ways of knowing and supports research that emerges from Indigenous worldviews, languages, and interconnected relationships with the land and all beings.
2. Priorities:
    a. While encouraging and supporting all forms of research, scholarship, and creative endeavour, Yorkville prioritizes research related to the scholarship of teaching and learning and research related to the scholarship of application regarding professional practice.
    b. Activities related to the scholarship of teaching and learning are prioritized to support the educational mission of Yorkville.

    c. Scholarship of application related to professional practice is prioritized in recognition of Yorkville's expertise in practitioner-oriented degree, certificate, and diploma programs leading to professional careers.
3. Requirements related to research:
    a. All research conducted at Yorkville shall comply with policies related to the responsible and ethical conduct of research and the management of research funds.
    b. Indigenous research at Yorkville will include meaningful engagement with Indigenous Peoples, communities, societies, or individuals and will be grounded in Indigenous knowledge systems, wisdom, cultures, or experiences in the research.[2]
    c. Research conducted at Yorkville shall comply with all applicable federal, provincial, and funding agency laws, regulations, policies, guidelines, and standards.
    d. Yorkville alone has the legal capacity to enter into research contracts and research agreements which bind it.
    e. Funds to support research activities, whether provided by Yorkville or an external funding agency, are not the property of the individual researcher; they belong to or are entrusted to Yorkville for specific purposes.
4. Commitments in support of research:
    a. Yorkville shall appoint a suitably qualified Director of Academic Research to administer this and related policies and procedures and to provide services and advice to researchers.
    b. Yorkville shall make available funds to support research activities by faculty members and academic staff, as set out in Support of Scholarly Activity policies and procedures.
    c. Yorkville shall make available funds to support the mobilization of research and knowledge transfer, as set out in Faculty Professional Development policy and procedures.
    d. Yorkville shall maintain a Research Ethics Board to review all proposed research projects involving human participants, as set out in Ethical Conduct and Research Involving Humans policy and procedures.
    e. The Yorkville shall develop an Indigenous Knowledges Policy and Guidelines to facilitate and guide the development of agreements, protocols, and practices for the protection and respectful engagement with Indigenous knowledge, intellectual property, and wisdom.

Related Information

- Responsible Conduct of Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activities Policy. (In development.)
- Responsible Conduct of Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activities Procedures. (In development.)
- Conducting Research at Yorkville University - Institutional Approval Policy.
- Conducting Research at Yorkville University - Institutional Approval Procedures .
- Indigenous Knowledges Policy and Guidelines. (In development.)
- Support for Scholarly Activity Policy.
- Support for Scholarly Activity Procedures.

- Support for Scholarly Activities Committee Terms of Reference.
- Faculty Professional Development Policy.
- Faculty Professional Development Procedures.
- Ethical Conduct of Research Involving Humans Policy.
- Ethical Conduct of Research Involving Humans Procedures.
- Yorkville University Research Ethics Board Terms of Reference.

Contacts

For questions regarding this policy, please contact:

Department/Office Name: Director of Academic Research, Dr. Thu Le
Email: oar@yorkvilleu.ca

Note: Names and structures of Yorkville offices or governing bodies may change over time. Such changes do not affect the validity of this policy. To confirm the current responsible office or body, contact the Office of Regulatory and Government Affairs at academicgovernance@yorkvilleu.ca.

Revision History

Version Code	Date	Summary of Changes	Authorized by (Title)
1.0	August 28, 2025	New policy	Academic Council
1.1	September 25, 2025	Updated to new template	-