

Kyushu University Policy on Conflicts of Interest

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1. Purpose

Based on the missions and principles advocated in Kyushu University's Education Charter and Research Charter, Kyushu University, as one of Japan's core universities, aims to promote higher education that meets global expectations, engage in research activities in diverse and interdisciplinary fields, and become a center of education and research at the world's highest level.

Today, we have entered a new era of knowledge, and there is a growing call for universities to make active contributions to society by effectively utilizing their research by collaborating with industry, academia and government in addition to contributing to society with a long-term perspective through educational and research activities. With this in mind, Kyushu University is working to further new developments in industry-academia-government collaboration, such as "Comprehensive Collaboration" and international cooperation between industry and academia focusing on Asia, in order to quickly and pragmatically provide research results in response to society's needs.

When a university works to further industry-academia-government collaboration, it is natural and appropriate that the university and its board members and employees (the "staff members") legitimately benefit from certain companies, or that they necessarily undertake some amount of responsibility towards certain companies. At the same time, because a university's position is different from that of any given company, a staff member's benefits and responsibilities stemming from their relationship with a company may clash with those that are due to the university. This is commonly known as a *conflict of interest*. Because it is inevitable that conflicts of interest will arise from industry-academia-government collaboration, universities that participate in this kind of activity need to manage their conflicts of interest on a daily basis in order to maintain society's trust. Failure to act appropriately when managing conflicts of interest may undermine society's trust in universities and ultimately interfere with the furtherance of industry-academia-government collaboration.

Therefore, to promote sound industry-academia-government collaboration and build an environment in which staff members can cooperate with industry, academia and government with peace of mind, Kyushu University has implemented its policy on conflicts of interest. This provides basic principles regarding conflicts of interest, the definition of *conflict of interest*, a system to manage them and other necessary matters.

2. Basic Principles of Conflict of Interest Management

(1) As its third mission after education and research, Kyushu University aims to make a direct contribution to society and actively work to further industry-academia-government collaboration.

(2) Kyushu University has in place internal rules for conflicts of interest and has set up a conflict of interest management system so staff members can participate in industry-academia-government collaboration with peace of mind.

(3) Kyushu University will seek understanding and cooperation regarding conflict of interest management from industry and other partners in its industry-academia-government collaboration efforts, and act carefully and respond appropriately to circumstances that may

lead to a conflict of interest so that none of the parties involved will lose society's trust.

(4) Conflict of interest management at Kyushu University does not always require measures that restrict industry-academia-government collaboration, but does require certain measures if it appears to be necessary to secure society's trust.

3. Definition of *Conflict of Interest*

Kyushu University defines a *conflict of interest* as follows, and places conflicts of interest under management. Unless otherwise specified, the term *conflict of interest* as used in this policy is defined according to the broad definition below.

(1) Conflict of interest (broad definition)

A concept that covers both a conflict of interest as per the narrow definition and a conflict of responsibilities.

(2) Conflict of interest (narrow definition)

(i) Conflict of interest on an individual level

A conflict between the benefit gained by an individual staff member and that staff member's responsibility to Kyushu University.

(ii) Conflict of interest on a university (organizational) level

A conflict between the benefit gained by Kyushu University and its responsibility to society.

(3) Conflict of responsibilities

A situation in which it is impossible for a staff member to fulfill both their responsibility to Kyushu University and their responsibility to a company.

4. Managerial Structure

(1) Conflict of Interest Management Committee

A Conflict of Interest Management Committee is established to deliberate on the basic principles and specific matters relating to conflict of interest management. The Conflict of Interest Management Committee has at least one external specialist, such as a lawyer, as a member.

(2) Conflict of Interest Management Advisor

A Conflict of Interest Management Advisor is appointed to provide appropriate guidance and advice to staff members who are facing problems involving actual situations that constitute a conflict of interest.

In case of conflict between the English translation of the Policy on Conflicts of Interests and the Japanese original, the latter shall prevail.