

The University of Osaka Policy on Conflicts of Interest

The document below is an English translation of Policy on Conflicts of Interest, originally composed in Japanese. The English version of the Policy has been provided merely as a reference for international researchers and employees. Therefore, it should not be considered an official document.

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1. Purpose

Under our motto of “Live Locally, Grow Globally,” the mission of the University of Osaka is to contribute to research, education, and society as a whole. In the coming “Age of Knowledge,” the role that the University of Osaka is called upon to play will grow ever more important, and in turn we will be called upon to make an even greater contribution to society.

Aiming at the progress of humanity and the development of our region, The University of Osaka shares its research findings with the public and gives back to the community, and we seek to become a university open to the world around us. Deploying high-level research to achieve industrially meaningful knowledge and know-how as intellectual property to be shared in common by humankind, and giving back to the community through the industry-academia-government collaboration initiative, The University of Osaka understands contributing to the promotion of industry as one of its most important missions.

The purpose of a university is the pursuit of truth, while the purpose of business is the legitimate pursuit of profit; therefore, in order to successfully implement the industry-academia-government collaboration initiative, it is necessary for each partner to transcend its differences from the others in purpose and role, and to cooperate in a spirit of respect for each other’s position. However, in activities and initiatives of this type, conflicts of interest arise for the University and for the University of Osaka’s faculty members, etc.

Therefore, while proactively moving forward to contribute to society through initiatives such as the industry-academia-government collaboration, it is required to be fully aware that conflicts of interest unavoidably arise, and must be handled appropriately.

The purpose of this policy is to lay out a basic approach and a handling of the issue of conflicts of

interest, thus giving The University of Osaka's faculty members, etc. a clear understanding of the distinctive features of conflicts of interest, and putting in place an environment in which, on the basis of this understanding, they are enabled to move forward impartially and positively in contributing to society through initiatives such as those involved with the industry-academia-government collaboration initiative.

2. Defining Conflict of Interest

(1) Conflict of interest (COI) in a narrow sense

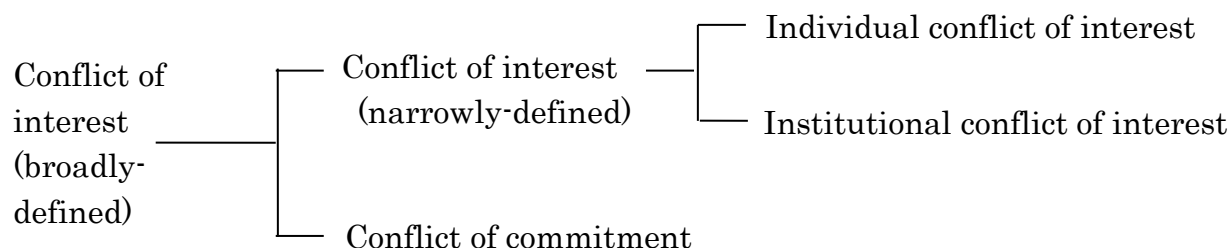
Conflict of interest (COI) in a narrow sense is a situation in which faculty members' personal interests in industry-academia-government collaboration activities conflict with their responsibilities at the university in terms of education and research. Conflicts of interest in the narrow sense include Individual COI and Institutional COI.

(2) Conflict of commitment

Conflict of Commitment is a situation in which, faculty members' external activities interfere with the person's responsibilities to the university.

(3) Conflict of interest issues

A conflict of interest arises when an The University of Osaka's faculty member act (or are suspected of acting) in ways that prioritize his/her personal interests and responsibilities.



In this policy, management of conflicts of interest applies to broadly-defined conflicts of interest in which narrowly-defined conflict of interest are combined with conflict of responsibility.

3. Basic Approach Toward Managing Conflicts of Interest

The University of Osaka shall strive to dispel any concerns that may arise from the promotion of industry-academia-government collaboration, so that industry-academia-government collaborative activities with companies do not distort the educational and research activities conducted by the University, and so that faculty members can conduct industry-academia-government collaborative activities with a higher level of motivation. In managing conflicts of interest, The University of Osaka shall be aware of how society views us, ensure transparency, fairness, and reliability, and fulfill our accountability to society.

In addition, The University of Osaka respects its students' free will when students are put to engage in industry-academia-government collaboration activities.

4. Handling Conflict of Interest

To prevent acts of conflict of interest and to manage the resolution of acts of conflict of interest in the unlikely event that they occur, The University of Osaka has put in place a management system for conflicts of interest in addition to drawing up Regulations on Conflict of Interest Management and Guidelines for Conflict of Interest Management. By establishing the management system and regulations, etc., The University of Osaka takes necessary measures such as collecting information related to conflicts of interest, conducting awareness activities, and providing consultation services related to conflicts of interest, as well as disclosing them inside and outside the University. In addition, each department head shall provide guidance to its department members, etc. to ensure that any issues related to conflicts of interest do not occur. Please note that a separate set of guidelines on conflict of interest in clinical research has also been drawn up.