



16 April 2025

National Institutes of Health

Office of Science Policy

[SciencePolicy@od.nih.gov](mailto:SciencePolicy@od.nih.gov)

**Policy Statement on Stellenbosch University's Commitment to comply with DURC / PEPP guidelines**

Stellenbosch University confirms its commitment to comply with the United States Government Policy for Oversight of Dual-Use Research of Concern and Pathogens with Enhanced Pandemic Potential (henceforth referred to as the Policy).

- 1) Stellenbosch University established policies, procedures and practices that enable the identification and ongoing oversight of Category 1 and Category 2 research through appropriate principal investigator (PI) and institutional review entity (IRE) review.
- 2) Stellenbosch University's Research Ethics Committee: Biological and Environmental Safety (REC: BES) will fulfil the role of IRE and is appropriately constituted and authorised to conduct this review. Members of the REC: BES were trained in the requirements and responsibilities relating to the Policy on 25 March 2025.
- 3) Stellenbosch University will certify when seeking funding that it fully follows the research oversight framework under the Policy.
- 4) Stellenbosch University will establish appropriate mechanisms for a PI to refer an existing project to the REC: BES if, at any time, the research uses a biological agent or toxin that is consistent with sections 4.1.1-4.1.2 or 4.2.1-4.2.2 of the Policy.
- 5) Stellenbosch University has identified the Manager: Research Ethics (Animals, Biosafety and Permit Compliance) as the Institutional Contact for Dual Use Research (ICDUR) who will serve as an institutional resource regarding oversight of Category 1 or Category 2



research. The ICDUR will serve as the liaison (as necessary) between Stellenbosch University and the federal funding agency.

6) Stellenbosch University will develop education and training resources on research oversight for Category 1 or Category 2 research. These resources will be included in existing modules on research ethics covering biological and environmental safety.

7) Stellenbosch University commits to ensure that the resulting biological agent or toxin from Category 1 and Category 2 research are properly accounted for and destroyed when no longer needed, in accordance with national regulations which form part of the Occupational Health and Safety Act (Act 85 of 1993):

- General Safety Regulations (GNR.1031 of 30 May 1986).
- Facilities Regulations (GNR.924 of 3 August 2004).
- Hazardous Chemical Agents (GNR.280 of 29 March 2021. Notice R.283, Government Gazette 44366).
- Hazardous Biological Agents (GNR.1390 of 27 December 2001).
- National Environmental Management: Waste Act (no 59 of 2008).
- Management of Hazardous Waste Products (SU Council Policy)  
<https://susdev.sun.ac.za/files/2022/10/Management-of-Hazardous-Waste-Products-Policy.pdf>
- Wastewater and Industrial Effluent By-Law (PG 7227; LA 56448).
- Stellenbosch University. Management of Hazardous Waste Products. 2011. Stellenbosch University Council. Accessed on: 6 March 2025.  
<https://sunrecords.sun.ac.za/controlled/C4%20Policies%20and%20Regulations/Management%20of%20hazardous%20waste%20products.pdf>

8) Stellenbosch University commits to report instances of failure in following this Policy within 30 calendar days of receipt of notification or being made aware of such failure.

9) Stellenbosch University will annually provide a formal assurance to relevant federal funding agencies that it operates consistently with the Policy.



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Date signed 16.4.25