

Conscientious Objections to the Use of Animals or Animal Products in Teaching and Assessment Policy

Approving authority	Academic Committee
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Advisor	Research Ethics Officer, Research Ethics and Integrity Office for Research animal-ethics@griffith.edu.au
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Document URL	http://policies.griffith.edu.au/pdf/Conscientious Objections Animals.pdf
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Description	This Policy provides a framework for recognition of and responses to student's ethical or religious objection to animal use at Griffith University.

Related documents

[Student Charter](#)
[Student Misconduct Policy](#)
[Course Attributes and Requirements Procedure](#)
[Qualifications Procedure](#)
[Dissertation Management Procedure](#)
[Student Review and Appeals Policy](#)
[Student Review and Appeals Procedure](#)
[Role Statement Course Convenor](#)
[Student Complaints Policy](#)
[Student Complaints Procedures](#)

Related external codes and guidelines

[Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes 8th edition 2013](#)
[ANZCCART publication Ethical guidelines for students in laboratory classes using animals or animal tissues](#)

Related legislation

[Queensland Animal Care and Protection Act 2001](#)

[\[Scope\]](#) [\[Definition of Animal Use\]](#) [\[Purpose\]](#) [\[Responsibilities\]](#) [\[Procedure\]](#) [\[Complaints\]](#)

1. SCOPE

The *Conscientious Objections to the Use of Animals or Animal Products in Teaching and Assessment Policy* provides guidance in recognising and responding to student's ethical or religious objection to animal use at Griffith University. It should be noted that in some courses animal use is unavoidable and students need to carefully consider their career and study choices.

Animals are only used for teaching when their use is essential to achieve a learning outcome in science and suitable alternatives to replace their use are not available. Although very little animal use is performed at Griffith University for teaching and learning purposes, the University has developed this Policy to meet the requirements of the *Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes 8th edition 2013*.

This Policy does not cover research-only activities.

2. DEFINITION OF ANIMAL USE

For the purpose of this Policy, animal use includes the use of an animal in an activity performed to acquire, demonstrate or develop knowledge or a technique in a scientific discipline, dissection of animals that are already dead, use of animal tissues, use of animal-derived products and the use of animals in field work that are relevant to teaching and assessment.

3. PURPOSE

Griffith University recognises a diversity of values are held by students at the University and endeavours to facilitate, if possible, for students to complete their chosen field of study without compromising their ethical, religious or cultural convictions thus providing for an individual student to request a reasonable adjustment to the requirements when that student has a conscientious objection to a requirement of a course.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

Course Convenors are responsible for:

Ensuring that sufficient information is included in the Course Catalogue Description about the use of animals or tissues to allow students to determine that they can complete the requirements of the course without compromising any associated ethical, religious or cultural convictions.

Teaching staff are responsible for:

Ensuring that students have the opportunity to discuss the ethical and social issues, and legal responsibilities, involved in the care and use of animals for scientific purposes before the use of animals commences.

The General Principles for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes set out in Section 1 of the *Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes 8th edition 2013* as well as ethical guidelines information such as the ANZCCART publication *Ethical guidelines for students in laboratory classes using animals or animal tissues* should also be made available to students.

Students are responsible for:

Making themselves aware of course requirements as set out in the course description, the course profile and other available materials and identify instances where they may be asked to participate in animal use activities to which they have a conscientious objection. Students must raise the matter with the Course Convenor at the earliest opportunity to increase the chances that alternative arrangements can be made.

5. PROCEDURE

Conscientious objection cannot be raised after the activity has been undertaken.

Students with a conscientious objection to a particular activity should not simply be excused from the activity, but instead be given an alternative that meets the same learning outcomes and is equally difficult. Alternatives made available to students with a conscientious objection do not have to be made available to all other students in the course.

The student can request that there be a suitable alternative, but has no right to demand that an alternative is provided or that the alternative takes a particular form. Students should note that in some courses it will not be possible to make alternative arrangements to accommodate a conscientious

objection to animal use activities. Factors that may need to be considered when determining whether alternative arrangements are possible include, but are not limited to:

- The academic integrity of the course
- Whether the course in question is a core or elective
- The practicality of alternative arrangements, including if there is time to put in place alternative arrangements, the impact on resources in assessing and preparing alternatives and developing alternate assessments as may be required
- Whether students would be disadvantaged in the quality of education
- The impact of alternative arrangements on other students

The Course Convenor should ensure that the alternative arrangements made for similar conscientious objections are consistent.

In the event that an alternative teaching activity cannot be designed to satisfy the above considerations, students are encouraged to consult with the relevant Program Director or a Student Adviser about the possibility of other enrolment options. If students choose to remain enrolled in the relevant course, they must participate in all required activities.

6. COMPLAINTS

A student who is dissatisfied with outcome of their request can lodge a complaint in accordance with the *Student Complaints Policy and Procedures*.
