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 Parent Policy: [Research Policy](#)

## Delay of Research Publication Procedure

<b>Office of Administrative Responsibility:</b>	Vice-President (Research and Innovation) Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
<b>Approver:</b>	Vice-President (Research and Innovation) Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
<b>Scope:</b>	Compliance with this University procedure extends to all members of the University community

### OVERVIEW

Research funds from an external body such as government, industry, foundation, business or professional organization are meant to further the goals of the University of Alberta and those of the faculty member in terms of research or creative activity. The University recognizes that one of the main purposes of university research is the discovery and dissemination of new knowledge. Consequently, there is a need for the free exchange of ideas or information and for the right and the obligation to publish the results of the research. The University prohibits secret or classified research.

The financial interests and publication rights of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, when the contribution warrants, should be clarified prior to their involvement with a given project. University policy requires all theses to be made freely available to the public after convocation unless circumstances justify a period of delay.

University research, therefore, which is pursued under conditions which restrict publication either in terms of content or beyond limits established from time to time by the General Faculties Council is not compatible with University policy. The University expects that research results will normally be published without any time restrictions.

## PURPOSE

To outline the conditions under which delays to publish research results may be acceptable to the University.

## PROCEDURE

### 1. CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE UNIVERSITY WILL ACCEPT A REQUEST TO DELAY PUBLICATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS:

- a. Where the research results are part of a thesis - delay of a maximum of 12 months, except when a student requests a further delay. In this case, approval must be sought in accordance with the Graduate Program Regulations outlined in the University Calendar.
- b. Where the research results contain confidential information of the **sponsor** or where a patent is to be sought - delay of a maximum of 12 months
- c. In the case of **clinical trials** only - delay of a maximum of 24 months from the “**data lock**” point in the clinical trial

### 2. APPROVAL OF EXCEPTIONS

Any exceptions to the time limits outlined in Sections 1b and 1c above must be approved by the Office of the Vice-President (Research and Innovation).

## DEFINITIONS

Any definitions listed in the following table apply to this document only with no implied or intended institution-wide use. <a href="#">[▲Top]</a>	
<b>Sponsor</b>	An external agency that provides funds to the University. A company or agency paying for/requesting the research.
<b>Clinical Trials</b>	Research investigations in which people volunteer to test new treatments, interventions or tests as a means to prevent, detect, treat or manage various diseases or medical conditions. Clinical trials may involve people in multiple sites and in different countries.
<b>Data Lock</b>	Action taken to prevent any further changes to the clinical trial database. A database is locked after all queries have been resolved and it is determined by the sponsor and/or study coordinating centre that the data are ready for analysis.

## RELATED POLICIES, FRAMEWORKS, AND PROCEDURES

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