

 BOND UNIVERSITY	BOND INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY POLICY
Policy Owner	Provost
Contact Officer	Director of Research Services
Endorsement Authority	Provost
Date of Next Review	30 August 2025

1. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

Bond University is committed to providing a safe workplace for staff, students and visitors to the campus. Biosafety is one component of the Workplace Health and Safety program within the University. Biosafety is also essential for attracting and maintaining a viable research program and ensuring eligibility for external funding such as National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) funded research grants.

The Bond Institutional Biosafety Committee (BIBC) is established as described in the Bond University Institutional Biosafety Committee Terms of Reference. Its role is to provide executive oversight of biosafety across all Bond University facilities including research and practical teaching that involves potentially infectious and/or biohazardous agents. The BIBC has been properly constituted under the Gene Technology Act 2000 and Gene Technology Regulations 2001 and in accordance with the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator's Guidelines for the Accreditation of an Organisation.

The BIBC enables Bond University to meet its obligations as a safe and responsible employer with:

- The Queensland Work Health and Safety Act 2011;
- The Office of the Gene Technology Regulator as required by the Gene Technology Act 2000 and the Gene Technology Regulations 2001;
- The Australian Quarantine Inspection Service; and
- AS2243.3 Safety in Laboratories: Microbiological Safety and Containment

This Policy applies to all Bond University staff and students, including Honorary or Adjunct staff undertaking research, teaching, consulting or other work in the University's name.

2. AUDIENCE AND APPLICATION

Bond University Staff, Students & External Committee Members and Applicants

3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Role	Responsibility
Bond Institutional Biosafety Committee	Provide executive oversight of biosafety across all Bond University facilities including research and practical teaching that involves potentially infectious and/or biohazardous agents.

4. POLICY STATEMENT

- 4.1. Bond University Researchers will not undertake research into genetically modified organisms (GMOs) other than those dealings which are identifiable under the Gene Technology Act 2000 and the Gene Technology Regulations 2001, as Exempt, or Notifiable Low Risk Dealing (NLRD).
- 4.2. Bond University undertakes to ensure that laboratory-based teaching and research work is conducted in accordance with all the relevant requirements of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (Qld)* and will ensure its researchers and teaching staff comply with relevant Australian Standards governing laboratory safety.
- 4.3. Bond University teaching and research staff must seek approval from the BIBC and, where appropriate, the Bond University Human Research Ethics Committee (BUHREC) or equivalent authority prior to undertaking any new laboratory-based research or teaching activity.

Bond University and its staff will comply with the [Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 \(Qld\)](#) and the [Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes](#). Animals used for scientific purposes will be treated in accordance with the relevant Federal and State legislation and regulations.

5. COMPLIANCE

Bond University, BIBC, researchers and teachers all have responsibility for compliance with the [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#) and Bond University regulations, policies and procedures. The OGTR may request co-operative compliance by a license holder to remedy a breach or, in certain circumstances, may direct compliance by written notice in accordance with directions powers within the Act.

Non-compliance must be reported to the relevant officer, as identified in the [Research Misconduct Policy](#), who acts as the institutional gatekeeper and liaison with an external Animal Ethics Committee approved by the Biosafety Committee. Complaints will be handled in accordance with Section B: of the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research. Non-compliance could result in fines, possible imprisonment, suspension of all or part of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) funding to Bond University and suspension of registration as a scientific user. Failure to comply with such a direction is a criminal offence.

6. DEFINITIONS, TERMS, ACRONYMS

For the purpose of the Policy:

Biohazard	Refers to specimens of human or animal or plant origin and/or potentially infectious material or work practices that can be the source of injury, harm or ill health.
Biological safety	Is a collective term for procedures and practices that are followed to minimise the risk of infection and other health effects from handling or being exposed to biological materials.
Gene technology	Study involving the manipulation, modification and transfer of genes or segments of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) or Ribonucleic acid (RNA).
Genetically modified organism (GMO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ An organism (plant, animal, bacteria or virus) that has had its genetic material altered either by duplication, insertion or deletion of one or more new genes, or by changing the activities of an existing gene;▪ An organism that has inherited particular traits from an organism (the initial organism), being traits that occurred in the initial organism because of gene technology;▪ Anything declared by the Gene Technology (GT) regulations to be a genetically modified organism, or that belongs to a class of things declared by the GT regulations to be genetically modified organisms.
Imported biological materials	Refers to imported pathogenic or potentially pathogenic biological material as regulated by Department of Agriculture and Water Resources-Biosecurity.
Pathogenic micro-organism	Refers to an organism capable of causing disease in a host e.g. pathogenic micro-organisms, namely Risk Groups 2 (ranging from moderate individual to limited community risk to high individual and community risk to High Risk) or higher as per Australian Standard AS 2243.3.
Potentially infectious agents	Refers to agents capable of invading a susceptible host, multiplying in it and causing a disease for e.g. plant and animal pathogens, use of animal blood products, knackery specimens, cadavers and non-food certified abattoir specimens.
Researcher	Includes higher degree by research (HDR) students.
Specimen of human or animal origin	Refers to use of cheek scrapings, tooth scrapings, throat swabs, nasal swabs, blood group testing, measurements of enzymes in body fluids, tears, saliva, urine, blood, other body fluids or material, body parts, cell lines of human origin.

7. RELATED DOCUMENTS

The Biosafety Procedure Manual

[The Queensland Work Health and Safety Act](#)

[Queensland Biotechnology Code of Ethics: Update of the Code of Ethical Practice for Biotechnology in Qld \(2015\)](#)

[The Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#)

[Research Code of Conduct Policy \(RES 4.5.1\)](#)

[Research Misconduct Policy \(RES 4.5.5\)](#)

[Bond University Animal Research Ethics Policy \(RES 4.5.3\)](#)

[Bond University Human Research Ethics Policy \(RES 4.5.2\)](#)

[University Policies and Procedures](#)

[The Work Health and Safety Act 2011 \(Qld\)](#)

[The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources-Biosecurity](#) (nee AQIS)

[Office of the Gene Technology Regulator \(OGTR\)](#)

[Gene Technology Act 2000 \(Cwlth\)](#)

[Gene Technology Regulations 2001 \(Cwlth\)](#)

[AS2243.3 Safety in Laboratories: Microbiological Safety and Containment](#)

As well as other regulations or standards referred to by regulations such as: [The Security Sensitive Biological Agents Regulatory Scheme](#), [The Department of Defence Strategic Goods List](#), [Notifiable plant and animal pests](#)

8. MODIFICATION HISTORY

Date	Sections	Source	Details
30 August 2022	4.1	BURC	Reworded paragraph.
2 April 2019			
16 February 2016			Date First Approved

APPROVAL AUTHORITY: Vice Chancellor