

Conflict of Commitment in Research

This conflict of commitment in research policy has been adopted by the University and is not subject to external requirements.

Investigators' external activities should not interfere with the primary professional commitment of their time and intellectual energies to the education and research programs of The Rockefeller University.

Up to fifty-two (52) days per year may be devoted to external activities provided that an investigator's University work is not adversely affected. Government service and service with not-for-profit institutions do not count against the guideline stated here.

Subject to prior approval, University doctoral students and postdoctoral appointees may engage in extramural activities for compensation, if those activities will further or enhance career growth (e.g., research, scientific advising, teaching, or clinical employment), not negatively impact on future growth (e.g., requiring non-compete clause), and generally not utilize the facilities, equipment, or funds of the University. Careful consideration will be given to a request to engage in an extramural activity for a company in which a Head of Laboratory has a significant financial interest (as defined in the University's Policy on Financial Conflict of Interest¹). Prior approval must be obtained from (i) the requestor's Head of Laboratory and (ii) (a) if the requestor is a student, the Dean of Graduate and Postgraduate Studies, or (b) if the requestor is a postdoctoral appointee, the Vice President for Academic Affairs. With the prior approval of the Vice President for Medical Affairs, an instructor in clinical investigation may provide on-call coverage at The Rockefeller University Hospital for compensation, or volunteer his or her time without pay in clinical activities that enhance his or her career growth.

Requests to engage in activities outside of these guidelines should be addressed to the President or his or her designee and may be approved if extraordinary circumstances warrant.

Consulting arrangements with outside entities cannot compromise the University's rights to intellectual property as established in University policy.

Entities outside the University may not impose restrictions on investigators' rights to disseminate results of research performed at the University in published or other form, except for reasonable delays not to exceed ninety (90) days to allow for patent processing.

As amended by the Academic Council on April 17, 2012, effective August 24, 2012 and reported to the Board of Trustees on June 6, 2012, and as further amended by Academic Council on April 18, 2016 and October 16, 2017.

¹ Consistent with the University's Policy on Financial Interest, this includes a significant financial interest held by a Head of Laboratory's spouse and/or dependent children.