

**INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA**

---

**IIUM BIOSAFETY POLICY (IBP)**

---

In exercise of the powers conferred by Article 5 (1) of the Articles of Association of International Islamic University Malaysia and in the spirit of the Biosafety Act, 2007 and Biosafety (Approval and Notification) Regulations, 2010 and other related regulations, the Board of Governors (BOG) of International Islamic University Malaysia (the University) makes this policy.

**OVERVIEW**

In line with *maqasid al shariah*, the University is committed to safeguard human health and environment as well as to ensure the Biosafety towards promotion of the health, safety and wellbeing of all university community members and prevention of occupational injuries and illnesses.

This Policy provides the mechanisms to administratively manage and control Biosafety of biological materials and conduct. Proper implementation of the policy will serve to protect the members of university community, the public and the environment from the risks of biological materials.

**DEFINITIONS**

“Biological materials” means natural materials that include organic matter, chemical substances present or produced in a living organism, biomass, body fluid, cellular components, tissue and viable materials;

“Biological toxins” means poisonous substances that are produced by living cells or organisms and are capable of causing diseases when introduced into the body tissues but is often also capable of inducing neutralizing antibodies or antitoxins;

“Biosafety” means the containment principles, technologies and practices that are implemented to prevent the unintentional exposure to biological agents and toxins, or their accidental release;

“BOG” means the Board of Governors of the University as prescribed under the IIUM constitution;

“BSO” means the Biological Safety Officer (BSO) who is appointed by Rector to assist in assuring compliance to the Biosafety Act 2007, the Biosafety (Approval and Notification) Regulations, 2010 and other related regulations pertaining to LMO/rDNA, infectious and potentially infectious agent/materials and biological toxins related research conducted at the University;

“Chairperson” means Head of IBBC or his designate appointed by Rector. The Chair should represent the IBBC and have knowledge and experience in scientific research pertaining to LMO/rDNA, infectious and potentially infectious agents/materials and biological toxins;

“Containment zone” means a designated area that allows for the containment, confinement and manipulation of animal, plant or organism that harbours LMO/rDNA, infectious and potentially infectious agents/materials and biological toxins, which requires good microbiological techniques within its perimeter;

“IBBC” means the Institutional Biosafety and Biosecurity Committee (IBBC), which is a formal expert committee of University undertaking biotechnology work that involves the use of any LMO/rDNA, infectious and potentially infectious agent/materials and biological toxins;

“Infectious agents/materials” means agent capable of producing infection by infiltrating other living things;

“Living Modified Organism (LMO)” means any living organism that possesses a novel combination of genetic material obtained through the use of modern biotechnology;

“Principal Investigator (PI)” means the lead scientist who takes direct responsibility for the technical and/or scientific direction of a project, the relevant course coordinator and service laboratory director;

“Recombinant DNA molecule (rDNA)” means as either:

- i) Molecules that are constructed outside living cells by joining natural or synthetic DNA segments to DNA molecules that can replicate in a living cell, or
- ii) Molecules that result from the replication of those described in above;

“Rector” means the Rector of the University who is appointed under International Islamic University Malaysia constitution;

“Secretary” means who is appointed by Rector to prepare minutes of meetings and report as well as maintaining all IBBC documents;

“University” means the International Islamic University Malaysia as constituted and established under Section 5A(2) of the Universities and University Colleges Act, 1971;

“University community” means any person who is a student, staff or any other person employed by the university.

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of IIUM Biosafety Policy (IBP) is to help University to comply with Biosafety Act and Regulations, and other related regulations applicable to the University community who deal with biological materials.

**POLICY STATEMENT**

With this policy, university is committed to prevent, or where that is not possible, to minimize, risk to human health and to the environment arising from activities involving biological materials and to set appropriate standards for control of those risks.

This policy applies to the deliberate handling, use, transport, storage and disposing of living modified organism/ recombinant deoxyribonucleic acid (LMO/rDNA), infectious and potentially infectious agent/materials and biological toxins in all laboratories and containment zone in IIUM.

**THE UNIVERSITY'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS PROVIDING SAFE WORKING ENVIRONMENT**

The University shall not tolerate any substandard practices in dealing with biological materials by the staff and/or any person associated with the University.

The University is committed to:-

- I. Form Institutional Biosafety and Biosecurity Committee (IBBC)
- II. Appoint Chairperson, Secretary, Biosafety Officer (BSO) and members of IBBC
- III. Support Biosafety management program implementation
- IV. Take action against any person found to breach Biosafety Act and Regulations, and other related regulations.
- V. Take all appropriate actions to rectify any mistakes, mishandling, misused or accident related to Biosafety.

**SCOPE OF IBP**

IBP is established to regulate the release, importation, exportation and contained use of LMO/rDNA materials, infectious and potentially infectious agents/materials and biological toxins, and the release of products of such materials, with the objectives of protecting human, plant and animal health, the environment and biological diversity, and where there are threats of irreversible damage, lack of full scientific evidence may not be used as a reason not to take action to prevent such damage, and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The given procedures as reflected in IIUM Biosafety procedures and guidelines shall be operative based on the purpose and objective of their existence.

**RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Rector shall provide executive leadership, dissemination and implementation of this policy as well as other standards and procedures applicable to the Biosafety Act and Regulations, and other related regulations regarding LMO/rDNA, infectious and potentially infectious agents/materials and biological toxins.

The Deputy Rector (Research and Innovation) shall be responsible to the Rector for the implementation of this policy.

IBBC shall establish and monitor the implementation of this policy and its procedures; and also other regulations on LMO, infectious and potentially infectious agent/materials and biological toxins.

Deans of the relevant Kulliyah/Institute and Director of relevant Divisions and Centres shall be responsible for ensuring that all of their employees and students receive appropriate information and training necessary for them to work and conduct their research safely and in accordance with this policy, Biosafety Act and Regulations and other related regulations.

University community shall follow all biosafety practices and establish good laboratory techniques when dealings with LMO/rDNA materials, infectious and potentially infectious agents/materials and biological toxins as deliberated in IIUM Biosafety and Biosecurity Guidelines and other related guidelines and manuals.

**APPLICATION**

This policy applies to all members of the University community undertaking biotechnology work that involves the use of any LMO/rDNA, infectious and potentially infectious agent/materials and biological toxins, on or off University property.

IIUM shall ensure the staff must register the projects or activities related to biohazardous biological materials with IBBC using the respected forms that can be found in the IIUM Biosafety and Biosecurity Guidelines. Notification or Approval from the committee is required before the staff can carry out the said activities.

Implementation of this policy is according to the IIUM Biosafety and Biosecurity Guidelines and other related guidelines and manuals.

**NON-COMPLIANCE**

Non-compliance to this policy may result in suspension, limitation or termination of the research project and activities along with other relevant orders from IIUM.