

	<b>BOND INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY POLICY</b>
Policy Owner	Provost
Contact Officer	Provost
Approval Authority	Provost
Date of Next Review	October 2028

**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 Agents](#) 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 (OGTR) 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 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:

<b>Biohazard</b>	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.
<b>Biosafety</b>	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.
<b>Gene technology</b>	Study involving the manipulation, modification and transfer of genes or segments of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) or Ribonucleic acid (RNA).
<b>Genetically modified organism (GMO)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 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;</li> <li>▪ An organism that has inherited particular traits from an organism (the initial organism), being traits that occurred in the initial organism because of <a href="#">gene technology</a>;</li> <li>▪ Anything declared by Gene Technology Act to be a genetically modified organism, or that belongs to a class of things declared by the Gene Technology Act to be genetically modified organisms.</li> </ul>
<b>Potentially infectious agents</b>	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.
<b>Researcher</b>	Any individual or group of persons who conduct research at or on behalf of the University, including higher degree by research (HDR) students.

## 7. RELATED DOCUMENTS

[Biosafety Manual](#)

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

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

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

[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 Committee Policy \(RES 4.5.3\)](#)

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

[University Policies and Procedures](#)

[Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry-Biosecurity and Trade](#)

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

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

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

As well as other regulations or standards referred to by regulations such as: [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
October 2025	1, 4.3, 5, 6, 7	URC	V2.1 Grammatical edits and link updates.
30 August 2022	4.1	URC	V2 Reworded paragraph.
2 April 2019			V1.1
16 February 2016			Date first approved

**Approval authority:** Vice Chancellor