

University of Rochester

Guidance on NSF-Supported Conferences, Workshops, and Symposia Requirements

It is National Science Foundation policy to foster harassment-free environments wherever science is conducted, including at NSF-sponsored conferences, workshops, and symposia. The [NSF Proposal Award Policy and Procedure Guide \(PAPPG\)](#) requires applicants requesting NSF funds for the purpose of carrying out conferences, workshops, and symposia to have a policy or code-of-conduct that addresses sexual harassment, other forms of harassment, or sexual assault, and that includes clear and accessible means of reporting violations of the policy or code-of-conduct. Consistent with [NSF OEGR Bulletin No. 23-02](#), the NSF does not fund travel to conferences that do not have such a policy or code of conduct.

Recipients of NSF funds to carry out conferences, workshops, and symposia must also provide this policy or code of conduct to all event participants prior to the event and at the conference/workshop/symposium itself.

The following message complies with the above NSF requirements and has been approved for distribution by the [University's Office of Equity and Inclusion](#). This message should be provided to all participants prior to and during NSF-supported conferences, symposia, and workshops.

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NSF Code of Conduct Regarding Sexual and Other Forms of Harassment

Dear Conference Attendee:

University of Rochester is committed to creating and maintaining overall an educational, working, and living environment free from discrimination and harassment, including sexual harassment and sexual assault, and retaliation, as described in its [Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment, and Discriminatory Employment/Service Practices \("PADH"\)](#) and [Title IX Policy](#).

Furthermore, in accordance with [National Science Foundation \(NSF\) policy](#) that all NSF-funded research and learning environments (including conferences and workshops) are free from harassment, the University of Rochester seeks to provide a safe and productive meeting environment that fosters open dialogue and the exchange of scientific ideas, promotes equal opportunities and treatment for all participants.

The University's Civil Rights Compliance team, a subset of the University's [Office of Equity and Inclusion](#), investigates alleged violations of the above policies, recommends interim actions where advisable, and coordinates with the University's Office of Research and Project Administration to make any required notifications to the [NSF's Office of Equity and](#)

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[Civil Rights](#), the Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights, and other external agencies as appropriate.

Conference attendees wishing to report an allegation of discrimination, harassment or retaliation, including sexual harassment, may file a complaint with University of Rochester via the [online PADH report form](#); conference attendees who wish to report sexual misconduct should report via the [Title IX Office's online report form](#). Finally, attendees may report any of the above misconduct to the NSF's Office of Equity and Civil Rights.

If a conference attendee has immediate safety concerns and/or wishes to report the matter to law enforcement, they should contact the University of Rochester [Department of Public Safety](#) or local law enforcement.

Sincerely,

The University's Office of Research and Project Administration

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