Quality Assurance in Research

• **International (informed) peer review**
  ◦ Publications | grants
  ◦ Researcher: hiring, promoting, evaluating and retaining
  ◦ Research units: evaluated every 7 years

• **Doctoral education & schools**

• **Supervision | (Peer) Mentoring**

• **Research Integrity & Ethics | Open Science | Researcher Assessment – CoARA**

• **Quality Culture = Quality assurance is the task of all members of the University in their area of responsibility**
Doctoral Candidates and Quality Assurance

- Code of Good Practice for Doctoral Schools
- Evaluation of Courses, Workshops and Trainings
- Survey of Doctoral Candidates
- Guideline of Good Academic Practice
- Evaluation of Faculties incl. Doctoral Schools
- Graduate Survey
Reliability in ensuring the quality of research, reflected in the design, the methodology, the analysis and the use of resources.

Honesty in developing, undertaking, reviewing, reporting and communicating research in a transparent, fair, full and unbiased way.

Respect for colleagues, research participants, society, ecosystems, cultural heritage and the environment.

Accountability for the research from idea to publication, for its management and organisation, for training, supervision and mentoring, and for its wider societal impacts.
Research misconduct: FFP

- **Fabrication** is making up results and recording them as if they were real.

- **Falsification** is manipulating research materials, equipment or processes or changing, omitting or suppressing data or results without justification.

- **Plagiarism** is using other people’s work and ideas without giving proper credit to the original source, thus violating the rights of the original author(s) to their intellectual outputs.

These three forms of violation are considered particularly serious since they distort the research record.
Other unacceptable practices include

- **Manipulating authorship** or denigrating the role of other researchers in publications.
- **Re-publishing** substantive parts of one’s own earlier publications, including translations, without duly acknowledging or citing the original (‘self-plagiarism’).
- **Citing selectively** to enhance own findings or to please editors, reviewers or colleagues.
- **Expanding** unnecessarily the bibliography of a study.
- **Exaggerating** the importance and practical applicability of findings.

https://allea.org/code-of-conduct/
Guideline UoV for Good Scientific Practice

- The University of Vienna acknowledges its responsibility by instructing early stage researchers on the principles of good research conduct and practice.

- Compliance with guideline is required through:
  - Statutes of the University of Vienna: Study law
  - Doctoral thesis agreement
  - Working contract (if employed)

https://qs.univie.ac.at/en/services/ombuds-office/
Survey of doctoral candidates @UoV: To what extend did the doctorate teach you the following principles and practice?

My supervisors also support me in writing research proposals for acquiring third-party funding.

My supervisors clearly clarified the authorship in joint academic publications.
Survey of doctoral graduates @UoV: To what extend did the doctorate teach you the following principles and practice?

Absolute honesty with regard to the contributions of partners, competitors and predecessors (correct citing, recognition of other achievements, authorship, etc.)

Correct handling of data (no invention or falsification of data, securing and storing primary data, etc.)
## Responsibilities for investigating research misconduct complaints

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Internal Investigation: Research Misconduct</th>
<th>Internal Investigation: Plagiarism of Doctoral Theses</th>
<th>External investigation</th>
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</table>
| **Responsibility** | **Ombudsperson**: Preliminary inquiries  
**Standing Committee**: Investigation | **Studienpräses** | **Austrian Agency for Scientific Integrity (OeAWI)** |
| **Contact** | **ombudsstelle@univie.ac.at**  
T: +43-1-4277-18006  
(Claudia Stermsek) | **buero.studienpraeses@univie.ac.at**  
T: +43-1-4277-12151  
(Roswitha Esberger) | **sabine.chai@oeawi.at**  
T: +43-0-1-7106821  
[or via anonymous system]** |
| **Guidelines** | **Guideline Office of the Ombudsman for Ensuring Compliance with Good Academic Practice** | **Guideline Office of the Ombudsman for Ensuring Compliance with Good Academic Practice** | **Guidelines Good Scientific Practice; Rules of Procedure** |
Internal Investigation: Research Misconduct

1. Reporting Suspicion
   - to Office
   - Report to Ombudsperson

2. Preliminary Investigation
   - by Ombudsperson
   - Report to Rector

3. Investigation
   - by Standing Committee
   - Report to Rector
Ombudspersons and Standing Committee (appointed by the Rector for 2023-2025)

- Univ.-Prof. Dr. Alexander Somek (Ombudsperson, Chair of Standing Committee)
  Faculty of Law
- Univ.-Prof. Mag. Dr. Konrad Fiedler (Deputy Ombudsperson)
  Faculty of Life Sciences
- Univ.-Prof. Mag. Dr. Gerhard Langer (Deputy Ombudsperson)
  Faculty of Historical and Cultural Studies
- Univ.-Prof. Dipl.-Pol. Dr. Michaela Pfadenhauer (Deputy Ombudsperson)
  Faculty of Social Sciences
- Univ.-Prof. Dr. Martina Zemp (Deputy Ombudsperson)
  Faculty of Psychology
Overview of **cases (investigation)** in the past five years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>fabrication, plagiarism</td>
<td>authorship, negative review, plagiarism</td>
<td>plagiarism, research infrastructure</td>
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</tbody>
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