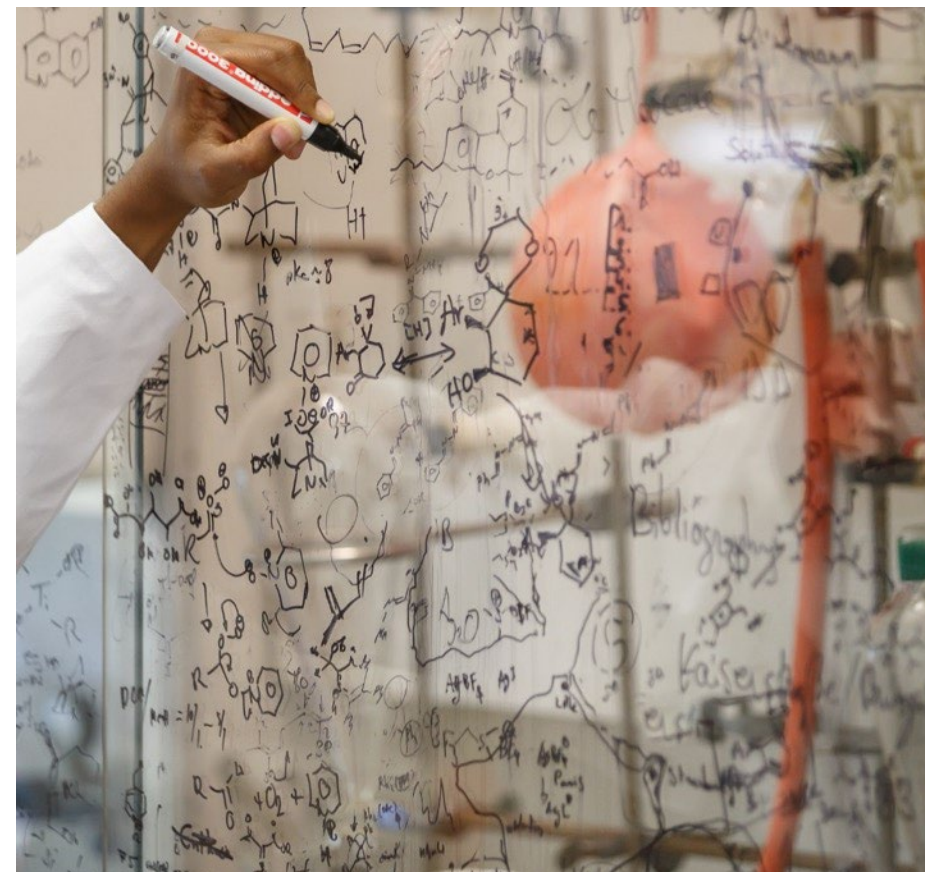# Quality Assurance, Good Scientific Practice @ University of Vienna

Dr. Michael Hofer, Head of Unit for Quality Assurance, 27 Sept. 2023

Quality Assurance in Research

- **International (informed) peer review**
  - Publications | grants
  - Reseacher: 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

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Doctoral Candidates and Quality Assurance

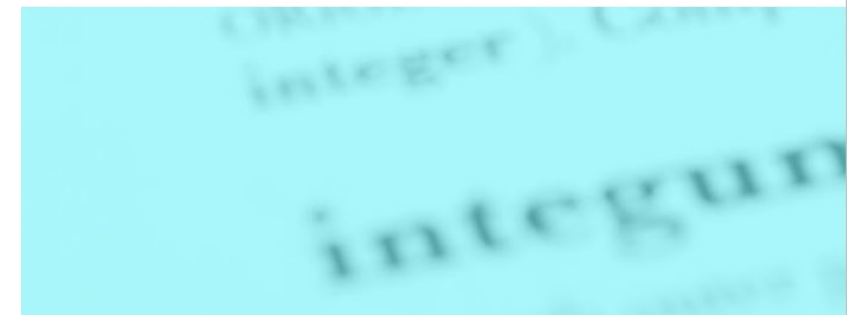|		
Code of Good Practice for Doctoral Schools	Evaluation of Courses, Workshops and Trainings	Survey of Doctoral Candidates
Guideline of Good Academic Practice	Evaluation of Faculties incl. Doctoral Schools	Graduate Survey

Principles of Good Research Practice

- **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.

The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity
REVISED EDITION 2023
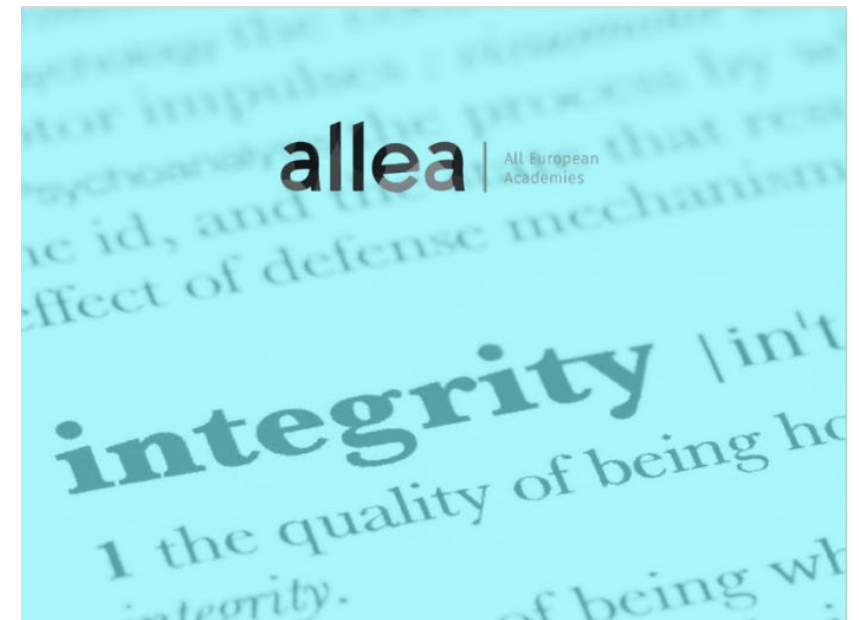
https://allea.org/code-of-conduct/
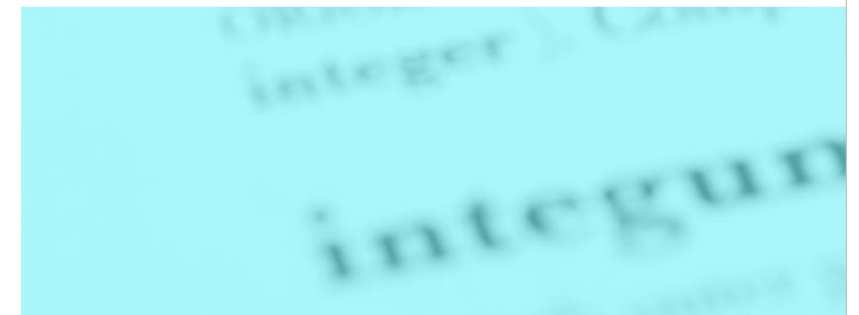
Research misconduct: FFP

- **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.

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The European
Code of Conduct for
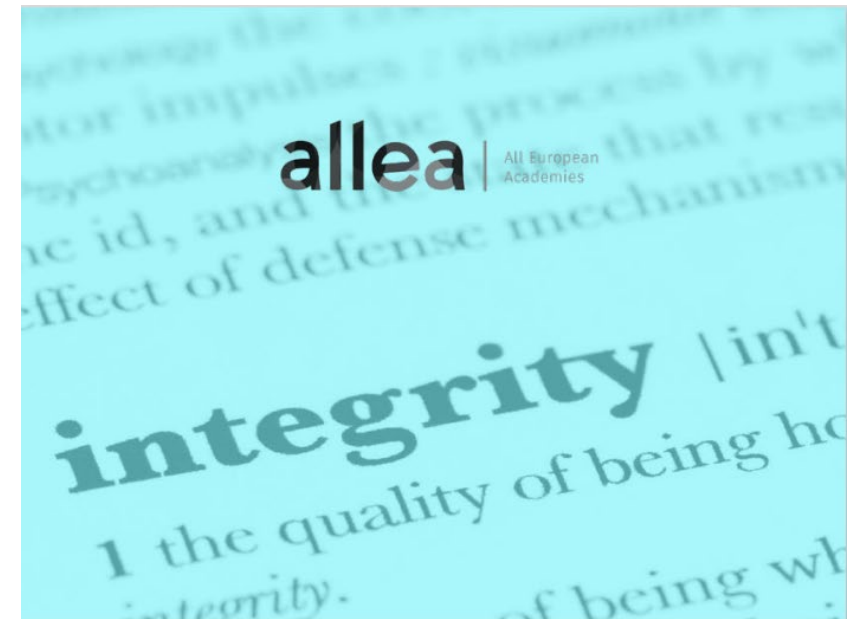Research Integrity

REVISED EDITION 2023
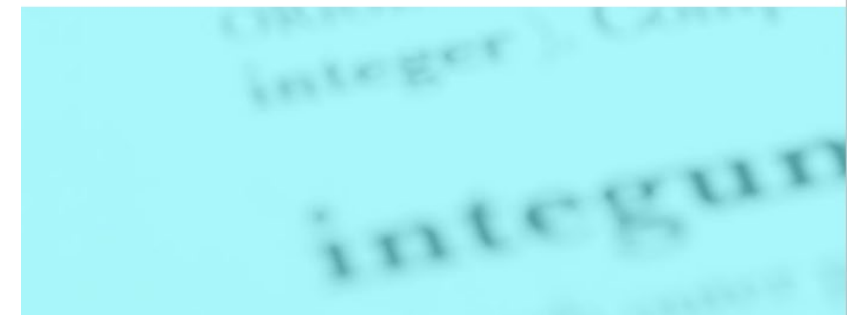
https://allea.org/code-of-conduct/

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.

The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity

REVISED EDITION 2023

https://allea.org/code-of-conduct/

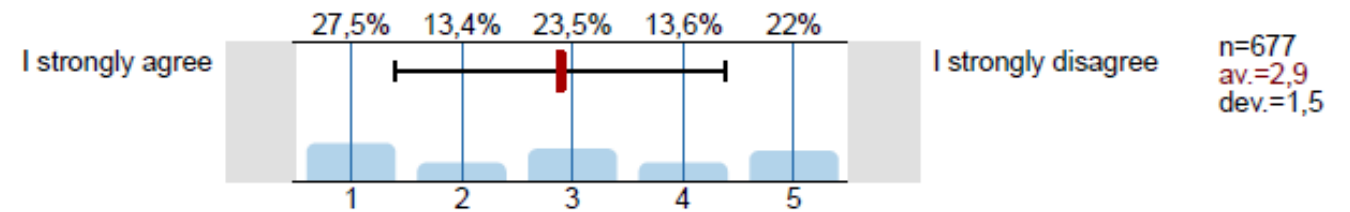# Guideline UoV for Good Scientific Practice

- *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/
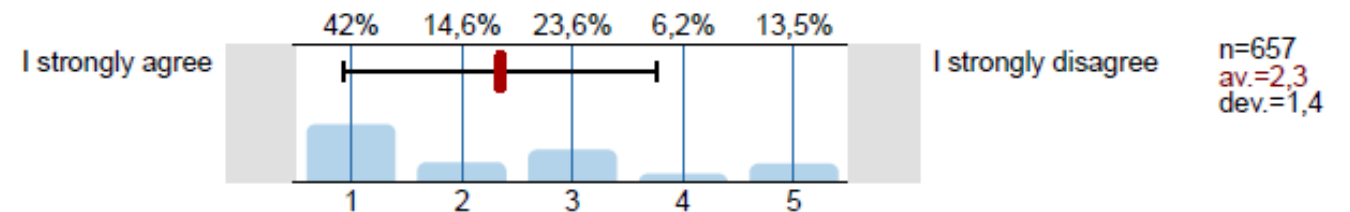
Survey of doctoral <u>candidates</u> @UoV: To what extend did the doctorate teach you the following principles and practice?

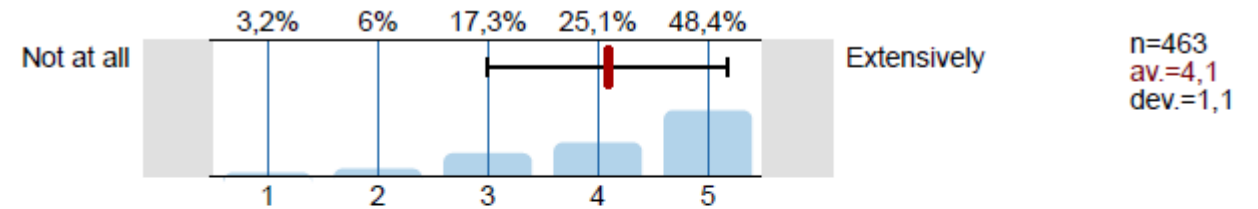My supervisors also support me in writing **research proposals for acquiring third-party funding**.

I strongly agree — 27,5% 13,4% 23,5% 13,6% 22% — I strongly disagree

n=677
av.=2,9
dev.=1,5

My supervisors clearly clarified the **authorship** in joint academic publications.

I strongly agree — 42% 14,6% 23,6% 6,2% 13,5% — I strongly disagree
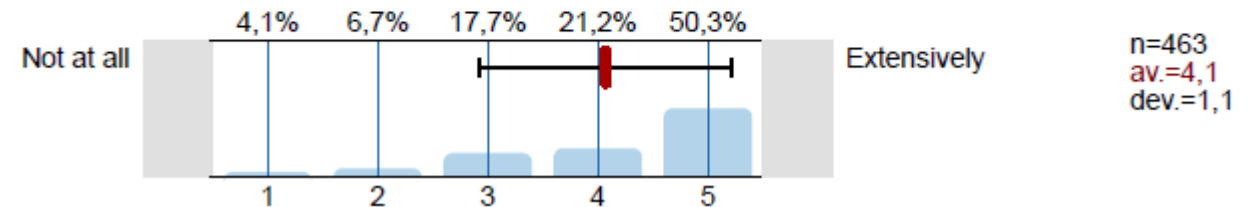
n=657
av.=2,3
dev.=1,4

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.)

Not at all | 3,2% | 6% | 17,3% | 25,1% | 48,4% | Extensively
1 2 3 4 5
n=463
av.=4,1
dev.=1,1

Correct handling of data (no invention or falsification of data, securing and storing primary data, etc.)

Not at all | 4,1% | 6,7% | 17,7% | 21,2% | 50,3% | Extensively
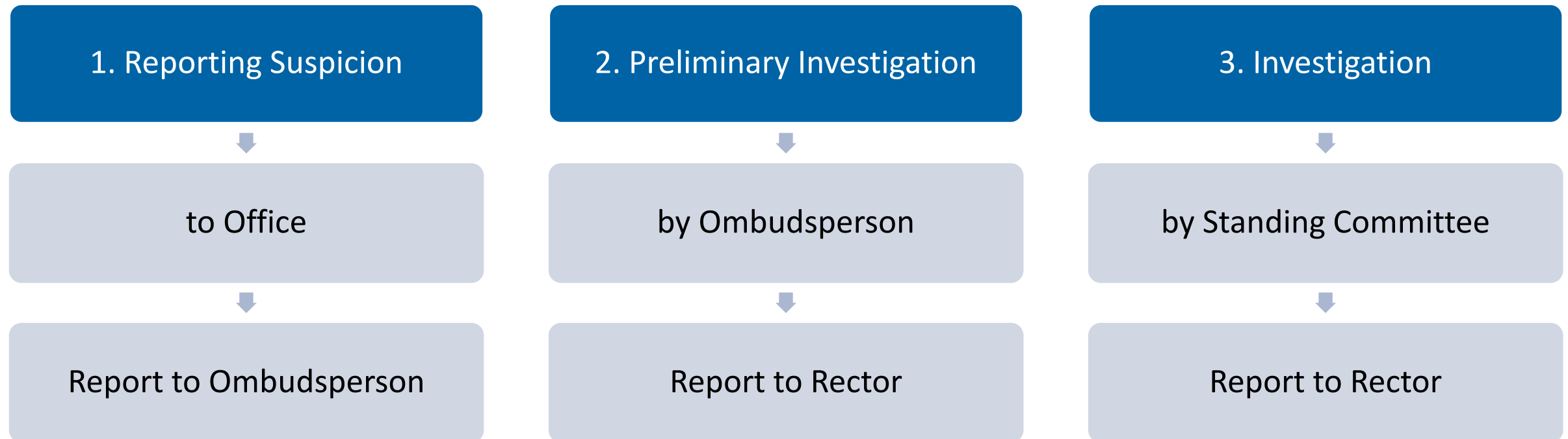1 2 3 4 5
n=463
av.=4,1
dev.=1,1

Responsibilities for investigating research misconduct complaints

	Internal Investigation: Research Misconduct	Internal Investigation: Plagiarism of Doctoral Theses	External investigation
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*
Link	https://www.qs.univie.ac.at/en/services/ombuds-office/	https://studienpraeses.univie.ac.at/infos-zum-studienrecht/sicherung-der-guten-wissenschaftlichen-praxis/plagiat/ (in German)	https://oeawi.at/en/investigation/

Internal Investigation: Research Misconduct

1. Reporting Suspicion	2. Preliminary Investigation	3. Investigation
to Office	by Ombudsperson	by Standing Committee
Report to Ombudsperson	Report to Rector	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 <u>cases</u> (investigation) in the past five years

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
#cases	1	0	2	3	3
topics	idea theft	--	fabrication, plagiarism	authorship, negative review, plagiarism	plagiarism, research infrastructure

Contact

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