

Quality Assurance, Good Scientific Practice @ University of Vienna

Dr. Michael Hofer, Head of Unit for Quality Assurance, 6 Oct. 2022





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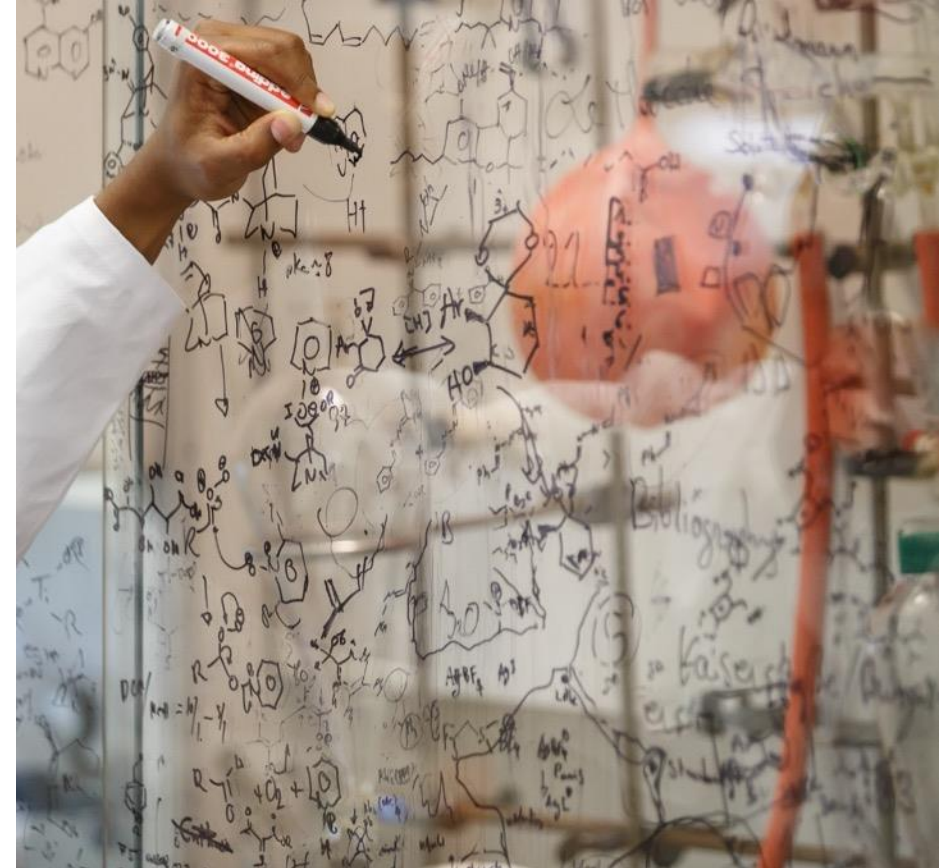
Quality Culture @ UoV in a Nutshell

Quality assurance is the task of **all members of the University** in their respective areas of responsibility to

- achieve top quality in research and teaching
- being successful in international competition

Quality Assurance in Research

- **International peer review**
 - research publications
 - research grants
 - researchers: hiring, promoting and retaining
 - research units (every 7 yrs)
- **Doctoral education & doctoral schools**
- **Supervision | (Peer) Mentoring**
- **Research Integrity | Ethics | Open Science | Responsible Metrics**



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Quality Audit – doctoral education @ UoV

- Swiss Agency AAQ audited the quality assurance system of the Univ. of Vienna in 2022
- One focal topic: quality assurance of doctorate / doctoral schools
- Self-evaluation report & audit report (in German):
<https://qs.univie.ac.at/en/quality-audit/>

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 impacts.



<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.



<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.



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

Guideline UoV for Good Scientific Practice

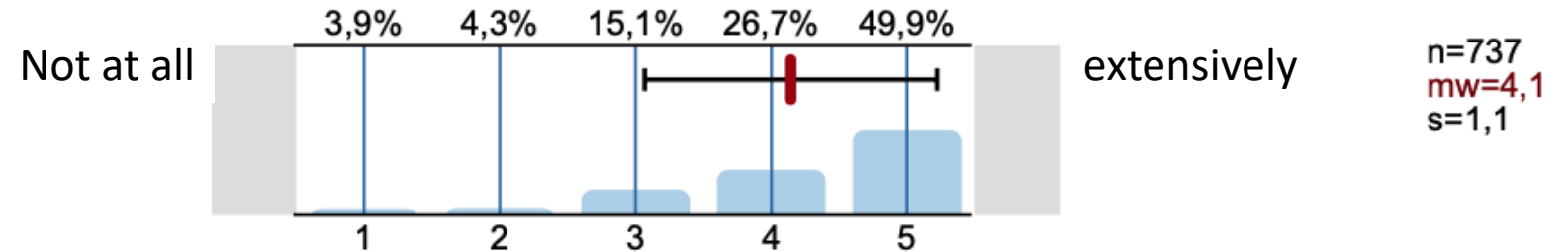
- *The University of Vienna acknowledges its responsibility by instructing **early stage researchers** on the principles of good research conduct and practice.*
- **Compliance with guideline is required through:**
 - Statutes of the University of Vienna: Study law
 - Doctoral thesis agreement
 - Working contract (if employed)



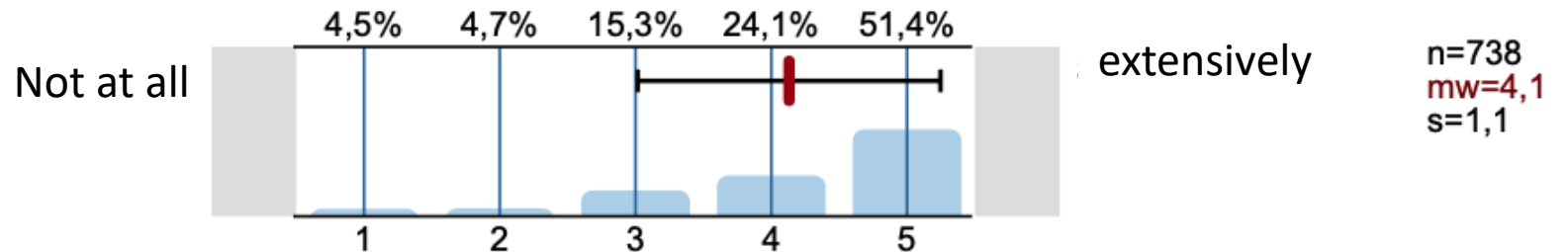
<https://qs.univie.ac.at/en/services/ombuds-office/>

Survey of doctoral graduates @UoV: To what extend did the doctorate teach you the following principles and practice?

Principles of good research practice



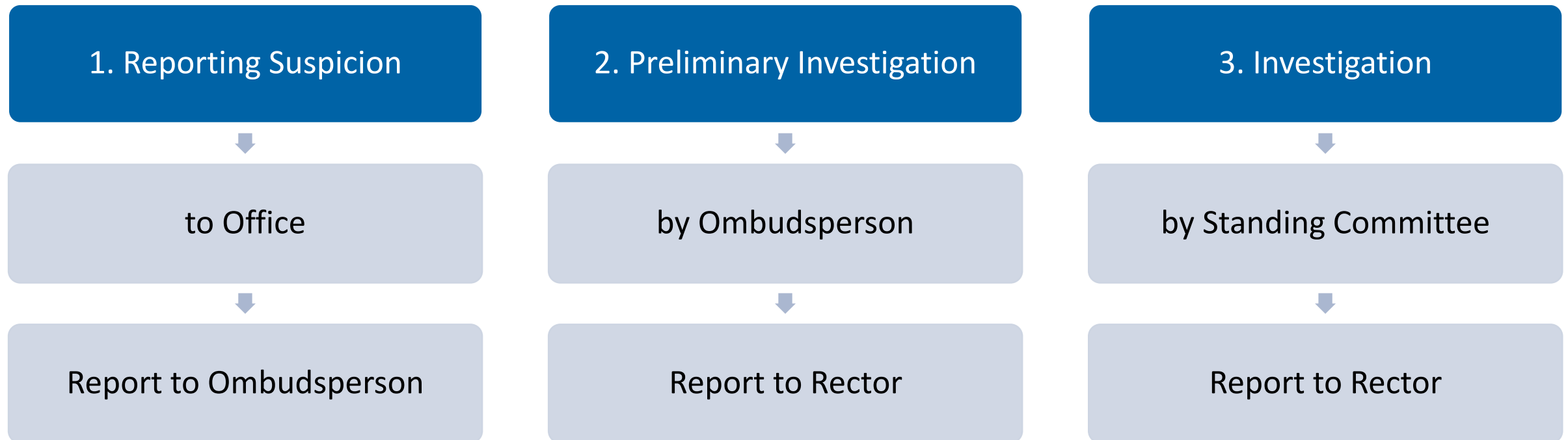
Correct handling of research data



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 <i>Office of the Ombudsman for Ensuring Compliance with Good Academic Practice</i> | Guideline <i>Office of the Ombudsman for Ensuring Compliance with Good Academic Practice</i> | Guidelines <i>Good Scientific Practice; Rules of Procedure</i> |
| 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



Ombudspersons and Standing Committee (appointed by the Rector for 2020-2022)

- **Univ.-Prof. Dr. Alexander Somek (Ombudsperson, Chair)**
Faculty of Law
- **Univ.-Prof. Mag. Dr. Isabella Moll (Deputy Ombudsperson)**
Centre for Molecular Biology
- **Univ.-Prof. Dipl.-Pol. Dr. Michaela Pfadenhauer**
Faculty of Social Sciences
- **Univ.-Prof. Mag. Dr. Michael Jursa**
Faculty of Philological and Cultural Studies
- **Univ.-Prof. Torsten Möller, PhD**
Faculty of Computer Science

Overview of cases in the past five years

| | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 |
|---------------|------|----------------------------|--|---|---|
| #cases | 0 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 1 (transferred to OeAWI) |
| topics | -- | fabrication, plagiarism | authorship, negative review, plagiarism | plagiarism, research infrastructure | sloppy science, political pressure |

Contact

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Evaluation

- Faculties & Centres
- Administration & Service
- Evaluation of Courses
- Individual Persons
- Extension Curricula
- Further Evaluations

Quality Audit

- Background & Requirements
- Quality Assurance System
- Quality Audit 2022

Analyses

- Surveys
- Student Surveys
- Graduate Surveys
- Graduate Tracking
- Professorial Appointment §98
- Tenure Track Procedure
- Peer Reviewers
- Evaluation Concepts

Services

- Ethics Committee
- **Ombuds Office**
- Scientific Advisory Boards

About us

- Team
- How to find us
- News & Events
- Cooperations
- Legal Foundations
- Downloads

Contact

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The Unit for Quality Assurance supports the University of Vienna in its endeavour to ensure a high level of quality in its teaching and research activities and in its programmes of study. It contributes to the further development of the university quality assurance system and the concomitant quality criteria, methods and instruments. The ongoing endeavour to adhere to international standards promotes a culture of quality and strengthens the University of Vienna's ability to be responsible for and manage its own affairs.