

Good Research Practice and Academic Integrity at JGU

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OVERVIEW

- Regulations applicable at JGU
- Typical forms of academic misconduct
- Relevance for PhD candidates
- Training and counselling opportunities at JGU
- FAQs
- Resources

REGULATIONS APPLICABLE AT JGU

■ DFG Code of conduct – Guidelines for safeguarding Good Research Practice

- Purpose: “safeguarding **public confidence in the research endeavour** while ensuring that policies and guidelines are in place to **protect complainants** and to foster the principle of the **presumption of innocence** to the extent possible” (p. 5)
- Special provisions for **early career researchers** and their **supervisors**
 - Education in the principles of good research from the earliest possible stage on (cf. p. 9)
 - “Researchers at all career levels regularly update their knowledge” about good research practice (p. 9/10)
 - “Suitable supervisory structures and policies” have to be established (p. 12)
- **19 guidelines**

which have to be implemented by every university and research organization in Germany eligible for DFG funding

 - **General principles**
 - **Key steps of good practice**
 - **Procedures for handling non-compliance** (cf. p. 5)

REGULATIONS APPLICABLE AT JGU

■ Rules and regulations

■ Charter of the Johannes Gutenberg-University regarding Good Scientific Practice

- Annex to the JGU *Grundordnung*
- Deals with rules of good research practice, academic misconduct and the bodies dedicated to the investigation of suspected academic misconduct (**ombudsperson, committee**)
- Obligations of **working group leaders**
 - conduct themselves in an exemplary manner, responsible for adequate supervision, conflict resolution and quality assurance
- Obligations of **early-career researchers**
 - abide by the rules of good research practice and avoid academic misconduct. In cases of doubt, they have to seek the advice of their working group leader, experienced scientists or the ombudsperson (cf. Art. 4, p. 93)

REGULATIONS APPLICABLE AT JGU

- Rules and regulations concerning research data
 - [JGU Guideline on the handling of research data](#)
 - [DFG Guidelines on the handling of research data](#)
 - [Further information](#) (JGU Expert Team on Research Data)

TYPICAL FORMS OF ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

(ACCORDING TO THE DFG GUIDELINES, THE JGU CHARTER
AND THE [CODE OF PROCEDURE OF THE MAX PLANCK SOCIETY CONCERNING SUSPECTED ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT](#), NON-EXHAUSTIVE)

- **Violations of intellectual property**
 - plagiarism, dubious practices of co-authorship, theft of ideas...
- **Data manipulation, fabrication or theft**
- **Selective use or publishing** of data and results that support one's hypothesis
- **Impairment of the research activity of others**
 - sabotage or unauthorized withholding of resources
- Breach of **confidentiality** or non-declaration of **conflicts of interest** in review and selection processes
- **Concealing the misconduct of others** or neglect of supervisory obligations
- ...

RELEVANCE FOR PHD CANDIDATES

- PhD thesis is often the **first major research project**
- **Huge amounts of data, references and ideas** have to be managed
→ practices that had worked during BA or MA studies are often insufficient for the PhD phase
- Even **unintentional violations of academic standards**
can have serious consequences for the PhD project and the subsequent academic career
- **High pressure** to quickly obtain and publish results
- **High dependence on supervisors** and their research practices
- **Different practices in different national and disciplinary cultures**
(especially relevant to international PhD candidates and interdisciplinary PhD projects)

TRAINING AND COUNSELLING

■ Training

- University Library: [Workshops and self-learning courses](#)
 - Reference management software (like Citavi and EndNote)
 - Correct citations: how to work with the ideas of others and how to avoid plagiarism
- [General Postgraduate Program/Allgemeines Promotionskolleg](#): Workshops on academic integrity
- Annual [Research Data Management Day](#) at JGU

■ Individual counselling

- [Competence Center for Academic Integrity](#)
- [Research Data Experts](#) (on data management and publication)

IN CASES OF SUSPECTED MISCONDUCT

- Ombudspersons for Research at JGU
 - Prof. Dr. Alfred Hornung
 - Prof. Dr. Hans Zischler

QUESTIONS FREQUENTLY ASKED BY PHD CANDIDATES

- How do I avoid **unintentional plagiarism**?
- How can I react if **my PhD supervisor reuses my ideas** without proper citation?
- Questions concerning **co-authorship** with other researchers and especially with the supervisor(s)
- How to avoid **self-plagiarism** and to correctly re-use material that I have already published or used for instance in a MA thesis?

RESOURCES

- [JGU Website on Good Academic Practice](#)
- [DFG Leitlinien zur Sicherung guter wissenschaftlicher Praxis](#)
- [DFG Code of conduct – Guidelines for safeguarding Good Research Practice](#)
- [Grundordnung der Johannes Gutenberg Universität](#)
 - (mit Anlage „Ordnung der Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz zur Sicherung guter wissenschaftlicher Praxis in Forschung und Lehre und zum Verfahren zum Umgang mit Vorwürfen wissenschaftlichen Fehlverhaltens“)
- [Verfahrensordnung der Max Planck Gesellschaft](#) bei Verdacht auf wissenschaftliches Fehlverhalten

- [Universitätsbibliothek Mainz: Kurse](#)
 - Workshops and self-learning materials on citation, plagiarism, reference management...
- [Kompetenzstelle Akademische Integrität](#)
 - Toolboxes for lecturers and students, individual counselling...
- [Research Data Experts](#) at JGU