



Research integrity is a professional, ethical and legal responsibility! (cf. ECoC 2017, p. 3)

Description and background

This learning unit:

Gives (future) researchers time to reflect on personal values

Challenges (future) researchers to confirm the importance of professionalism

Emphasises self-awareness as an important cornerstone for researchers

For insight into the learning progress after Path2Integrity sessions, please send an email with your two-letter group code to evaluation@path2integrity.uni-kiel.de.

This unit has been prepared for all learning groups with a university degree.



An advocate for research integrity

Anna Wójcicka

Keywords

Self-awareness; professionalism; ethical and legal responsibility; research values

Learning objectives

- 1** *Raise self-awareness about your own research integrity*
- 2** *Outline professional values for your own research*
- 3** *Make a research pledge to follow research principles together with the dialogue group*

Learning stages

- 1** *Reflect on research integrity cases*
- 2** *Connect to your own research*
- 3** *Reflect on research integrity*
- 4** *Phrase a research pledge*

“Just as we, as researchers, introduce people to the world, they will see this world through our eyes. And it is crucial that we base everything we present on solid evidence that we gather in the course of our scientific work.”
(Anna Wójcicka, an advocate for research integrity)





1 Reflect on research integrity cases:

Homework (before the unit starts) or reading session

Together with the rest of your class, go online and answer the questionnaire with everyone starting at the same time:

<https://path2integrity.eu/limesurvey/index.php/238122?newtest=Y&lang=en>

Your two-digit group code is required to link relevant data in an anonymised manner. Before you begin, repeat the group code you created earlier and use it in the questionnaire. How sure or unsure were you in answering this time? Discuss any interesting cases in class.

2 Connect to your own research:

Use post-its or similar and write down research integrity issues you have already experienced or issues you will likely face in future. Use one post-it per research integrity issue.

Stick the post-its on a wall in your classroom, putting similar issues one beside the other. You can use the eight categories from the ECoC to help organise them. Together, review whether your issues are research integrity issues or something else. Take down all the post-its not related to research integrity, as well as the ones you are not sure about.



Research integrity categories

Researchers with research integrity produce reliable research results and are able to comprehensively convey how their research network is interlinked, by referring to the standards of their research discipline.

The ECoC's categories describe the many faces of research integrity (cf. ECoC 2017, pp. 5–7):

1. Research environment
2. Training, supervision and mentoring
3. Research procedures
4. Safeguards
5. Data practices and management
6. Collaborative work
7. Publication and dissemination
8. Reviewing, evaluating and editing.

3 Reflect on research integrity:

Go through your class' research integrity issues. Read them and consider what values somebody might need in order to overcome these issues. Write these down and compare them with your own values. Which of these values do you also have? Write the values that match on post-its and stick them on the wall.

Everybody picks somebody's value from the wall. Describe this value to your class by giving an example of various actions conducted by a researcher who embodies this value. Let the individuals who wrote down the values add any examples of researchers' actions, if they want.

4 Phrase a research pledge:

Stick the values back up on the wall in a row. Consider how you can express a promise to follow these values in one statement.

Be creative. Rearrange the post-its and try to create a statement. Rearrange them and try again... Put together multiple possible statements. Which one do you prefer and why?

Decide together which statement you would choose as researchers and then copy it in your notebook. Using your statement, make your Path2Integrity research pledge to follow research principles!

