

Good Scientific Practice - JGU Ordinance of 13 February 2023

“Good scientific practice” refers to careful academic work that is performed according to the applicable academic standards of the respective faculties without deception or falsification.

The principles of good scientific practice include, among other things, the conscientious handling of the intellectual property of other people, the securing and safekeeping of primary data, and the accurate presentation of the data obtained without any “massaging” or concealing of undesired results. There are also standards for cooperating with and in work groups, for dealing with colleagues, and for nurturing young researchers, which are to be lived up to in daily academic life.

Infringements against “good scientific practice” are described as “academic misconduct”. However, this is not necessarily the consequence of a conscious disregard of the applicable principles. While plagiarism or the conscious falsification of results – including, in extreme cases, even the invention of entire studies – are clearly examples of misconduct, the question of who should be named as co-authors when publishing an article cannot always be clearly and immediately answered.

Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz has, therefore, issued an [ordinance](#), updated in which sets out the central guiding principles and stipulates the responsibilities within the university with respect to the communication of the principles of good scientific work. It also contains procedural rules for dealing with suspicion of dishonest academic behavior and sanctions in cases of proven misconduct. This ordinance can be supplemented by the individual faculties and adapted to the special characteristics of the respective subjects.

A person with a central role in ensuring and maintaining the standards of scientific practice is the “Ombudsperson” for Research Practice at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz. The ombudsperson is not only to be consulted in suspected cases of misconduct, but also advises all academics, especially young academics and students, who unwittingly become involved in a process entailing academic misconduct.