

# Position of the Graduate Council regarding “Good Scientific Practice”

Compliance with the rules of good scientific practice is of central importance for a well-functioning scientific community. As such, it is particularly welcome that TUM has already adopted appropriate guidelines and set up an ombud office, which does not only investigate suspected cases of scientific misconduct, but also acts in an advisory capacity.

However, a culture of good scientific practice is one that exemplifies best practices to its young scientists. This responsibility falls to both TUM as an institution, e.g. within the framework of the design of its degree programs and, in particular, to individual professors. It must also be ensured that third parties are not unnecessarily burdened in the prosecution of scientific misconduct, even when this cannot be guaranteed solely by the confidentiality of the work of the ombudsperson.

On this basis, the TUM Graduate Council has decided on the following positions to promote good scientific practice (GSP):

## **1. GSP Module in All Degree Programs**

An introduction to the principles of good scientific practice should be a compulsory part of every degree program at TUM. This course is to be offered by the respective departments and is to illustrate typical challenges to good scientific practice by way of case studies. It should also include an introduction to the relevant TUM guidelines and institutions (ombud office and advisory services).

## **2. GSP Module at the Start of Doctoral Studies**

The general introduction of GSP during the TUM Graduate School Kick-Off Seminar should be expanded to include an active examination of the issue by the seminar participants, in order to deepen the awareness of its relevance. The general introduction should be supplemented by a discipline-specific event at the individual graduate centers, similar to the GSP module described above.

## **3. Courses for New Employees with Supervisory Responsibilities**

Employees who assume positions involving the supervision of students and doctoral candidates should attend a course offered by TUM that provides information on ways of ensuring adherence to good scientific practice within their own working groups. This includes, for example, exemplary conduct and raising awareness of good scientific practice among their own research group members.

## **4. GSP Review before Publication**

Before any publication in which TUM doctoral candidates and their supervisors are involved, the latter must ensure that the principles of good scientific practice have been observed. We recommend a pre-publication review discussion, dealing not only with the question of authorship, but with all aspects of GSP relevant to the respective type of publication. The TUM should provide a form to document these review discussions.

## **5. Protection for Those Affected by the Scientific Misconduct of Others**

Doctoral candidates who report the misconduct of a supervisor to the ombudsperson must be given special protection. This implies that TUM must ensure that the doctoral candidate is able to continue his or her work, even if this is no longer possible in the previous environment. This includes, in particular, continued financial support and the provision of an appropriate working environment. If further doctoral projects are also at risk as a result of the report of misconduct, protection should extend to all the doctoral candidates concerned.

*The points listed above were unanimously adopted as official positions by the members of the TUM Graduate Council, i.e. by the elected representatives of the doctoral candidates, at the meeting on May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018 under the chairpersonship of Christoph Gschnaidtner and Franziska Löhner.*