

A new law, the act on responsibility for good research practice and the examination of research misconduct applies from 1 January 2020. Misconduct in research is now investigated by a National board on investigation of misconduct in research.

In the new law, misconduct in research is defined as a serious departure from good research practice in the form of fabrication, falsification or plagiarism that is committed intentionally or by gross negligence in planning, conducting or reporting research. Further deviations from good research practices that damage the integrity of the research process or of researchers are handled by the local educational institutions.

The law also states that the researcher is responsible for following good research practice in their research. The University has the overarching responsibility for research being conducted according to good research practice.

The following applies at the University of Gävle

Employees who become aware of, or suspect misconduct in research, must report it to the Vice Chancellor. The University's Committee for Good Research Practice makes an initial assessment of whether the suspicion applies:

- Misconduct according to the definition in the law, if so the matter is forwarded to the National Board.
- Other deviation from good research practice, if so the matter is forwarded to the Dalarna University for investigation.

Good research practices

There are several principles accepted by the research community for good research practice, one example being the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity (ALLEA). According to ALLEA good research practice and integrity is based on the following principles (copy-pasted from ALLEA):

1. Reliability in ensuring that the quality of research, reflected in the design, the methodology, the analysis and the use of resources.
2. Honesty in developing, understanding, reviewing, reporting and communicating research in a transparent, fair, full and unbiased way.
3. Respect for colleagues, research participant, society, ecosystems, cultural heritage and the environment.
4. Accountability for the research from idea to publication, for its management and organization, for training, supervision and mentoring, and for its wider impacts.

One way to prevent dishonesty in research is to have an open climate and an active discussion about best research practices and awareness of research integrity to promote a culture where misconduct is unthinkable.