

Research Integrity at the University of Oslo (UiO)

EMBO Forum on Responsible
Research – Sept. 4th, 2025
Hosted by the CanCell centre

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Background: Policies and Goals

- Strategy 2030

- *«UiO will intensify its efforts to sustain and enhance research ethics and research integrity» and*
- *«A positive and strong research culture based on high scientific standards and ideals must form the premise for all research activities. Knowledge and awareness of research ethical norms is something all academic environments and all levels of the organization must safeguard through systematic training and continuous awareness».*

- Standard for Research Integrity

- adopted by the University Board in October 2021

- Norwegian law:

- The Research Ethics Act
- The Health Research Act

Background: Emerging Challenges

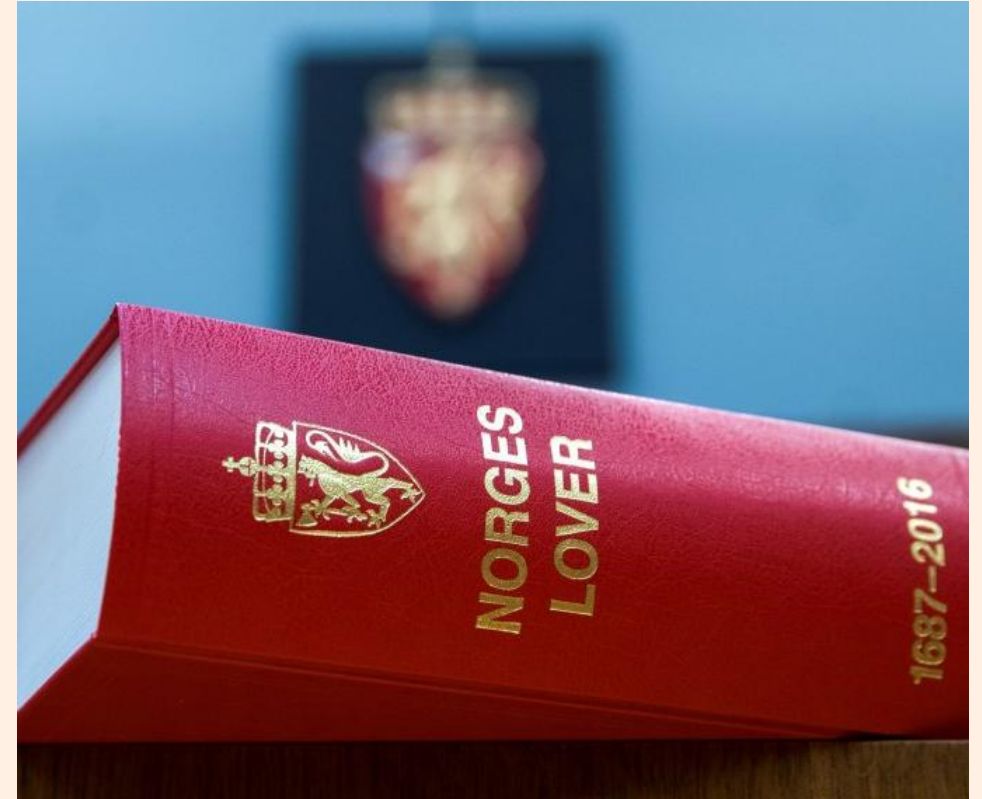
- Cultural variation between countries, subjects and research fields
- Increasing collaboration across disciplines
- Increasing international cooperation
- Rapid technological development
- UiO promote active practice and discussions of research ethics and integrity in day-to-day research activities



The Research Ethics Act of 2017

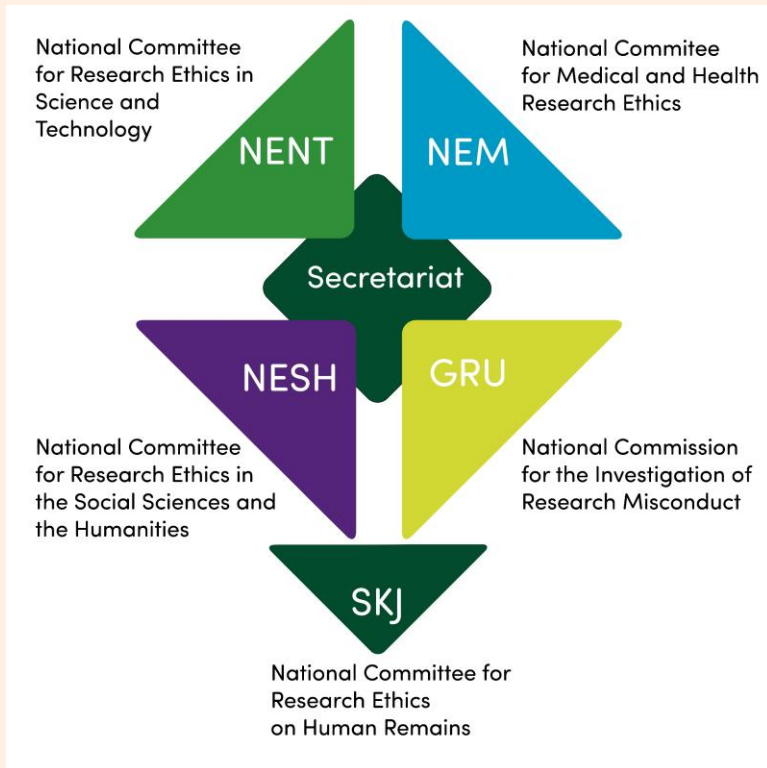
The purpose is divided into five different *themes*, where the law:

1. sets requirements that all research is carried out in accordance with research ethical norms,
2. makes demands on the researcher,
3. makes demands on the institutions that conduct research,
4. lays down requirements for how misconduct cases are to be handled, and
5. regulates the national and regional research ethics committees



UiO Standard for Research Integrity – relevant norms and guidelines

Norwegian guidelines – The National Research Ethics Committees



- *The Standard describes set of norms for research integrity relevant for UiO*
- *Nine main recommendations*
- *Read more about the Standard [here](#)*

International guidelines:

- [All European Academies: The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#) – ALLEA (2023)
- [Montreal Statement on Research Integrity in Cross-Boundary Research Collaborations](#) - The Montreal Statement
- [Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals](#) – The Vancouver Recommendations

Research Integrity Training – Course for UiO researchers

- A course developed by researchers for researchers
 - ❑ Course content developed by ethics experts at UiO 2022-2023
 - ❑ Pilots run in 2023 – first ordinary course Jan 2024
- Goals for the course
 - ❑ Spreading UiOs Standard of Research Integrity and relevant norms, guidelines and legislation
 - ❑ Promoting active practice of research ethics and training the «ethical muscle» of researchers
 - ❑ Increased understanding of concrete research ethical issues that may arise in the conduct of research, and of typical risk factors and signs of vulnerability.
- Course content:
 - ❑ Digital module covering relevant norms and guidelines, systems for research ethics at UiO, etc.
 - ❑ Physical course day with case discussions in **interdisciplinary** groups



Research Integrity Training

Introduction



Module 1A: Legislation

Here you will learn about the Research Ethics Act and other central legislation you are obliged to follow as a researcher.



Module 1B: National and international guidelines and sets of norms

Here you will learn more about the responsibilities you have as a researcher and to whom you have these responsibilities. The module also looks at the responsibilities of research leaders and the institution.

For more info, visit [the course websites](#)

How to approach UiO regarding issues of research ethics?

- Search information
 - [UiO's websites on research ethics](#), Forum for research ethics and the research integrity course
- Seek advice
 - The Science Ombudsman or the Research Ombudsman at the Institute for Clinical Medicine
- Report possible breaches of research ethics
 - [Research Ethics Committee](#) or [Commission for Research integrity](#) (for clinical medicine) via [«web form»](#)
- Reporting possible breaches is not the same as reporting bullying or harassment
 - SPEAK UP! Notification system for employees

The Ombudsmen



- The Science Ombudsman – for all university fields except clinical medicine:
 - ❑ Grethe Netland, g.k.netland@admin.uio.no - more info on [the ombudsman's website](#)
- The Research Ombudsman at the Department for Clinical Medicine
 - ❑ Kristian Bjøro, kristian.bjoro@medisin.uio.no – more info on [the ombudsman's website](#)

- Independent and impartial body for all academic staff
- Handles inquiries and matters in confidence
- Scientific ethical expertise
- Has a good overview of and experience with guidelines and regulations at UiO

The ombudsmen can:

- Provide guidance, advice and solutions
- Mediate, if both parties wish
- Assist in communication with management
- Assist with registration to the integrity committee.

- **Professionally independent** and cannot be instructed in individual cases.
- At least three members, one of whom must be external.
- Necessary **competence** in research, research ethics and law
- In cases of possible violations, always decide whether:
 - a) the researcher has acted scientifically fraudulently or not,
 - b) whether there is a system error at the institution and
 - c) whether the scientific work should be corrected or withdrawn.
- Clear preponderance of probability for the actual circumstances of scientific misconduct
- Principle of **contradiction** for all parties
- Drafting **a statement**
- The statement is sent registered and reported with a copy to the institution which cannot change it
- Only access to appeal to GRU for those who have been found scientifically fraudulent

