

3 - Integrity Champions

(for young researchers)

Referents: Martine Peters, Marian Popescu & Michelle Bergadaà

Method : 2 days of training in Geneva. Role-playing ; Group case studies (25 real cases) and remote case studies (Serious Games) ; Debate about the acquired knowledge and interaction . Interaction with IRAFPA experts.

Follow-up of the certification

Confidential advice at the request of certified peoples, self-training and remote validation of skills. Yearly validation of the certification each year by completion of a test case.

Skills acquired for certification

1) Understanding changes in the work context

The law of "publish or perish", electronic communications, Open Science, roles of scientific journals...

2) Existing ethical guidelines in Europe

Changes (digital and globalization) have occurred rapidly and integrity guidelines are being developed. To know those already in force in Europe.

3) Recognize the different profiles of delinquency

Fraudsters, manipulators, cheaters or "bricoleurs": how to react to their characteristic behaviour (attack, denial, escape...).

4) Reframing situations

Contextualize cases of plagiarism or scientific fraud involving complex conflict situations: doctoral students, professors, administrators, authors, co-authors, journals, etc.

5) Mediation levers

Acquire the basic knowledge to be a mediator: legal, organizational, political...

6) Structuring the central problem and dimension analysis

Map the core concept, dimensions and observables, then identify case priorities (importance and urgency.)

7) Determine the consequences of the behaviour

Determine the impact of fraudulent behaviour on collateral victims: publishers, readers, colleagues, institution, etc.

8) Identify the deep attitude of the parties

Have each party express what it wishes to become and do in order to define the framework of the mediation space.

9) Get out of shame and accusation

Reframe the heart of the problem (plagiarism, changes in the order of authors, scientific fraud, etc.) to formulate specific requests.

10) Develop the means to solve the situation

The solution needs to be fair and balanced to be accepted and to pacify the situation (apology letter, addition of an author, withdrawal of an article...)

4 - Plagiarism expertise

(for librarians and linguists)

Referents: Michelle Bergadaà & Yelena Saltini

Method : 1 day of training in Geneva, analysis of remote test files, Interaction with IRAFPA experts.

Follow-up of the certification

Monitoring progress at the end of years 1 and 2. Annual anonymous document tracking shared by all certified persons. Revalidation of certification after 3 years.

Skills acquired for certification

1) Define the texts to be analyzed

The list of texts relating to reported plagiarism is not exhaustive. Once the plagiarists' mode of operation is detected in one text, it is easily recognized in all other writings.

2) The choice of samples analyzed in a text

Reliability, validity and robustness: samples will be representative of the entire text from which they are extracted.

3) Use of detection software

They will not be able to detect all cases of plagiarism, but they will provide useful leads for expert reports.

4) The production of comparative tables

The three-column tables present excerpts from parallel texts. It will compare extracts from the plagiarized text with extracts from the source texts and comments.

5) Qualification of the operating mode

The procedures and clues relating to the intentionality of plagiarism will be qualified in one or more of the 4 types of the Institute's taxonomy.

6) The ten consequences of plagiarism

Referring to the ten consequences identified by the Institute, the expert will draw up a list of those to which the expert's case relates.

7) Identification of harm

Determine the formal damages: to the plagiarist's victims, to the reader who suffers a violation of his fundamental right of access to the origin of the sources, to the organization (public image), etc.

8) Establish reparation measures

Announce the associated responsibilities in the event of deviant conduct: alleged negligence or complicity.

9) Propose remedial measures

Suggested actions will be proportionate to the facts of uncovered plagiarism, the contextual circumstances of the conduct disclosed and the fundamental principles of fairness.



Organisation

Executive Committee

Michelle Bergadaà, President, professor, Geneva School of Economics and Management, University of Geneva, Switzerland.

Pierre Hoffmeyer, Secretary general, emeritus professor, former Chair of the Department of Surgery, University of Geneva, Switzerland.

Pierre-Jean Benghozi, in charge of "Certifications", professor, Ecole polytechnique, Paris, France, and University of Geneva, Switzerland.

Jean-Baptiste Soufron, lawyer, former secretary general of the National Digital Council (CNNum), Paris, France.

Scientific Council

Jacques Hallak, "International Organizations" council, Brussels, Belgium.

Hervé Maisonneuve, "Publishers" council, Consultant in scientific writing Former associate Professor of public health, Paris, France.

Martine Peters, "Bachelor & Master degrees" council, professor, UQO, Canada.

Marian Popescu, "Doctoral programs" council, professor, University of Bucharest, Romania.

Scientific Collaborators of the Institute

Yelena Saltini, assessment and expertise, responsible-academia.org

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International Institute for Research and Action on Academic Fraud and Plagiarism

Certifications Guiding Principles

Our objectives

- Avoid institutional omertà on a constantly increasing scourge
- Prevent the abuse of plagiarism and scientific fraud
- Avoid abusive or slanderous denunciations
- Pacify the academic communities who are usually frustrated by the cases of fraud and plagiarism revealed.

4 certifications

They consist of a preliminary training (1 to 3 days), a permanent contact with certified people or institutions and a control every 2 years.

- Commissions of Inquiry
- Responsible Institution
- Integrity Champions
- Experts in charge of plagiarism files

Based on

- 15 years of experience
- More than 300 cases of mediation and international expertise

1 - Commissions of Inquiry

Referent: Pierre-Jean Benghozi

Method: 2 days of training in Geneva. Group and remote case studies. Debate on acquired knowledge. Interaction with IRAFPA experts.

Follow-up of the certification

Assistance in the implementation of the program. Confidential advice at the request of the certified people. Monitoring progress at the end of years 1 and 2. Annual anonymous document tracking shared by all certified persons. Verification of certification after 2 years.

Skills acquired for certification

- 1) Register a complaint of fraud and/or plagiarism**
Conduct a prompt and objective investigation to prevent complainants from feeling unfair and rumours from spreading.
- 2) Set up an ad hoc committee**
Refusing to entrust the investigation to an internal commission: pressure, lack of serenity, biased conclusions...
- 3) Select Committee Members**
Complementarity of members: a doctor in law, one or two specialists in the relevant field, an expert in fraud or plagiarism.
- 4) Facts, facts, always facts**
Collect case documents appropriately: distinguish reliable and factual documents (see certification 4) from emotionally overwhelming writings.
- 5) Qualify the fault(s)**
Establish the seriousness of the fraud or plagiarism: distinguish the extent of the intentionality of the perpetrator.
- 6) Contextualize the case**
Then conduct stakeholder hearings to contextualize the relationships between stakeholders, and identify associated responsibilities.
- 7) Determining offending behaviour**
Determine the impact of fraudulent behaviour on collateral victims (e.g. publishers, readers, etc.)
- 8) Establish potential remedies for stakeholders**
Formulate specific recommendations for institutional leaders who will then have to act.
- 9) Conclude the investigation**
The objective of the conclusion is the pacification of communities while restoring equity between individuals, actors and organizations.
- 10) Communicate on the investigation**
Prepare an annual summary of (anonymized) cases investigated: quantity and nature of sanctions. Communicate it.

2 - Responsible Institution

Referent : Michelle Bergadaà & Pierre-Jean Benghozi

Method: 3 days on site training, 3 days remote support, 2 days device validation. Case studies, discussion of knowledge gained, interaction with IRAFPA experts.

Follow-up of the certification

Assistance in the implementation of the program. Confidential advice at the request of certified persons. Control of processes and progress at the end of the year 1. Revalidation of certification after 2 years, on site.

Skills acquired for certification

- 1) Commitment of responsible bodies**
All persons occupying a decision-making position at the highest level and representative of the entity shall be considered as responsible bodies.
- 2) Financial organization**
Academic institutions will define a realistic budget adapted to the implementation of the guiding principles and related mechanisms.
- 3) Integrity Program Team**
Changing the habits and processes of an academic institution cannot be imposed. The team will be constituted on the basis of the complementarity of the profiles that the situation calls for.
- 4) Development of academic integrity charters**
The charters for students, teachers and researchers will describe prevention and information measures in terms of integrity and the institution's specific mechanisms.
- 5) Internet and external communication**
Awareness leads to understanding, acceptance and conviction. Communication will be the first step.
- 6) Control with and without specialized software**
The software will be a preventive aid. They will be part of the functionalities that institutions will have to rely on.
- 7) Teacher and student training**
The policy to combat fraud and plagiarism should provide organisation of ad hoc training for researchers and students.
- 8) Setup and conduct commissions of inquiry**
Refer to Institute Certification 1.
- 9) Establish a sanctions grid**
Sanctions will be defined in relation to the extent of fraud and/or plagiarism. They must be fair and equitable to be useful individually and collectively.
- 10) Communicate and develop evolutive systems**
The institution should decide on the type of information to be communicated to stakeholders (anonymity should be required.)