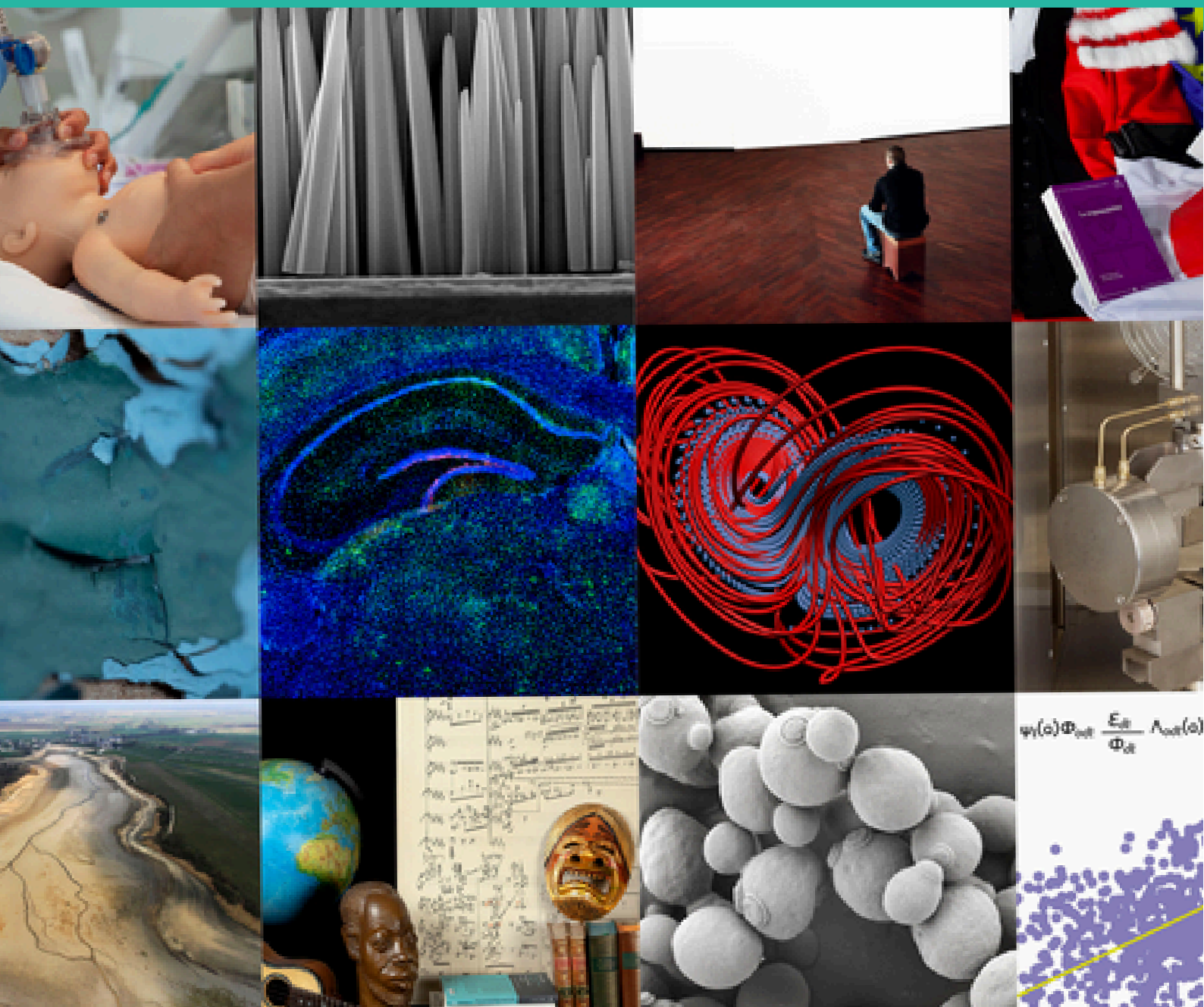


# Research charters at the university of Tours



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# Researcher Code of Ethics

## **Preamble**

Ethics can be defined as the set of rules and duties that govern a profession and the conduct of those who practise it, and is understood to apply primarily to the rules of individual conduct and collective functioning expected within a public institution.

## **Requirements inherent to ethics**

The University of Tours reaffirms its commitment to academic freedom, which must be enjoyed by the entire scientific community. Staff, in turn, abide by the principles of professional ethics and ethics in the exercise of their teaching and research functions in accordance with the provisions of the Education Code, the Research Code and the traditions of academic ethics, in accordance with Article L952-2 of the Education Code.

Each member of the scientific community working at the University of Tours must strive to act with dignity, impartiality, integrity and probity, complying with the principle of neutrality and the principle of secularism, and refraining from expressing opinions in the exercise of their duties. Law 2016-483 of 20 April 2016 on the ethics and rights and obligations of civil servants reiterates the founding principles applicable to all employees of public institutions.

All members of the scientific community at the University of Tours must ensure that they do not place themselves in a situation of conflict of interest, which the legislator has defined as "any situation of interference between a public interest and public or private interests, which is likely to influence or appear to influence the independent, impartial or objective exercise of a function". Consequently, the University of Tours pays particular attention to the declaration of interests, according to specific procedures depending on the activities concerned.

Ethical principles are particularly important in the recruitment procedures for staff at the University of Tours.

Public officials are also subject to a principle of exclusivity, which includes certain exceptions\*. They are therefore prohibited, except in cases provided for by law or the statutes, from engaging in any professional activity outside their employment in the administration.

### **To contact the ethics officer at the University of Tours:**

[christian.garbar@univ-tours.fr](mailto:christian.garbar@univ-tours.fr)

For further information, please visit:

<https://www.univ-tours.fr/deontologie-2>

\* See the dedicated page to regulations on multiple activities in higher education and research:

<https://utnet.univ-tours.fr/fr/espace-rh/je-suis-enseignant-chercheur-ou-enseignant/je-suis-enseignant-chercheur/les-modalites-de-cumul-d-activites.html>

# Scientific Integrity Charter

## **Preamble**

Scientific integrity refers to all the requirements that must govern scientific research activities in order to ensure that they are honest, robust and rigorous. The practice of science requires knowledge of integrity requirements, their implementation on a daily basis and their promotion. Only practices that are irreproachable in terms of integrity can guarantee the quality of research and maintain society's trust in the scientific community.

This Charter applies to all researchers, whether permanent or not, who contribute to scientific research and who are committed to conducting, disseminating and promoting high-quality, credible work that complies with the requirements of ethics and scientific integrity.

Scientific integrity within the meaning of this Charter refers to the definition and promotion of good research practices, the investigation of misconduct and its treatment. The definition of requirements takes into account any features specific to a scientific field or discipline.

## **Requirements inherent to scientific integrity**

### *Reliability*

The detailed description of the research protocol, in laboratory notebooks or any other medium, must allow for the reproducibility of experimental work or the verification of the research processes implemented. All raw data (which in principle belong to the institution responsible for the research) and the analysis of the results must be stored in such a way as to allow for their verification.

The results must be communicated in their entirety, objectively and honestly. All or part of the results must not be exaggerated in an unjustified manner. Conclusions must be based on a critical and balanced analysis of the results. The fabrication of data or results, as well as the falsification of data or results obtained, are serious breaches of scientific integrity.

### *Authenticity*

All research work is based on previous studies and results. The use of these sources must be duly acknowledged by explicit referencing in all scientific production, publication and communication.

Plagiarism, defined as the total or partial appropriation of an idea or content (text, image, table, data, programme, etc.) without appropriately citing its sources, constitutes a serious breach of scientific integrity, which may expose its author to disciplinary sanctions. Under certain conditions, plagiarism constitutes an offence of counterfeiting and may also be subject to criminal penalties.

The use of generative artificial intelligence tools must be completely transparent. Scientific work that relies, even partially, on their use must explicitly mention it.

The signature on a publication attests to the author's genuine involvement and commits them to the published content.

When evaluating any document written by a researcher (project, publication, file, etc.), the researcher responsible for the assessment must demonstrate the necessary impartiality by declaring any conflicts of interest and recusing themselves if they identify a potential conflict of interest that is incompatible with the impartial exercise of the assessment. They are required to comply with the confidentiality of exchanges and refrain from using the data communicated during the evaluation, even when this work has not yet been published.

### *Investigations of misconduct and consequences*

Suspected breaches may be reported to the Scientific Integrity Officer(s) (SIO) designated for this purpose. Reports are treated impartially and confidentially. The SIOs investigate the case in accordance with the adversarial principle and investigate the alleged facts. They draw up a report presenting the conclusions of the investigation and, where appropriate, make recommendations. This report is submitted to the authority responsible for research at the institution. It is solely up to this authority to decide whether to make its conclusions public and what action to take, particularly in terms of disciplinary and/or criminal proceedings.

### *Promoting a culture of integrity*

The University of Tours is committed to pursuing a policy that complies with European and international standards of scientific integrity. It is developing an institutional and collective environment conducive to the deployment of scientific practices that respect scientific integrity. Researchers must refuse and be protected from all forms of threats, intimidation, incitement and pressure in their scientific research, which must remain disinterested, dispassionate and independent. Throughout their professional careers, researchers are kept informed and receive up-to-date training in scientific integrity.

**To contact the scientific integrity advisors at the University of Tours:**

[integrite-scientifique@univ-tours.fr](mailto:integrite-scientifique@univ-tours.fr)

# Researcher Communication Charter



In recent years, communication around public research has become increasingly important. This is reflected in the implementation of SAPS (Science Avec et Pour la Société - Science With and For Society) policies in institutions, but also in the funding of applications and calls for public projects, in which specific communication requirements are often included in the objectives or deliverables. This trend is also increasingly reflected in requests from the media and public authorities, as well as in the statements made proactively by many researchers in the public sphere.

This type of communication is therefore particularly important in raising awareness of the scientific process and its rigour, but also in promoting the quality and diversity of the work and disciplines present at the University of Tours. However, any external communication can have an impact on the institution's image and reputation.

This "Researcher Communication Charter" therefore aims to provide a common framework in response to these challenges, while strengthening the university's scientific communication.

## 1. RESPONSABILITIES

### *Rights and duties in public speaking*

Article L952-2 of the Education Code clearly states that:

"Teacher-researchers, teachers and researchers enjoy full independence and complete freedom of expression in the exercise of their teaching duties and research activities, subject to these strictions imposed on them, in accordance with university traditions and the provisions of this code, by the principles of tolerance and objectivity.

Academic freedoms are the guarantee of excellence in French higher education and research. They are exercised in accordance with the constitutional principle of independence of teacher-researchers."

Any public statement, whether made in the press, to peers or to public decision-makers, is likely to affect the image of the University of Tours.

These rights therefore come with various responsibilities. When researchers speak in their capacity as university staff, they shall:

- Act in accordance with the principle of neutrality and the duty of discretion and secularism inherent to public service employment.
- Agree to the rigour and transparency inherent to the scientific process. (1)

## 2. RIGOUR

### *Accurately understand the context of a request*

Every request, whether media-related or not, is motivated by the requester's desire to obtain rigorous expertise with scientific backing. It is therefore advisable to list a number of preventive measures before agreeing to speak. You should:

- Assess your level of knowledge on the proposed subject to ensure that the request falls within your field of expertise.

(1) Refer to the University of Tours' Charters of Ethics and Scientific Integrity.

- Ensure that you have relevant and reliable data, or that you can cite the sources or references that will be mentioned during your speech.
- Consider any potential conflicts of interest and, if necessary, be transparent about them.
- Verify the identity and relevance of the applicant, their position, their editorial line if they are a media outlet, or previous requests made by a scientist.

These requirements do not call into question the freedom of expression enjoyed by members of the scientific community, like all citizens, when they speak on their own behalf.

### 3. TRANSPARENCY

#### *Present your role and the context of your statement*

For each statement, the researcher must present the context of their intervention. This must be done in a fully transparent manner, whether in person (media requests, conferences, elected officials' committees) or online.

#### The special case of social media

Social media has become a very important channel for scientific communication. This charter also serves as a reminder that any statement made on these platforms should be considered a public statement, especially on so-called professional networks such as LinkedIn, X or Bluesky, where the links between the researcher and the University of Tours are most often mentioned.

#### The case of artificial intelligence

When it comes to communication and promoting certain research work or projects, artificial intelligence tools can help with writing, translation, and generating illustrative images or tables. As with the presentation of sources or references, any use of AI for a document generated by this technology should be mentioned. This can be done as follows: "[Type of content] generated using artificial intelligence".

#### **Communicating about your work (publication, funding, project, event, etc.)**

This charter does not replace any joint work that may be carried out with the Communications Department of the University of Tours.

The University's Communications Department can assist you in promoting your projects. It is necessary to contact them well in advance (two months) in order to develop an appropriate communications plan.

Contact: [comrecherche@univ-tours.fr](mailto:comrecherche@univ-tours.fr)

The Communications Department is also available to assist you prior to any public statements, and you can send them any media coverage that may result: press articles, conference summaries, audiovisual interviews. These can then be included in the University of Tours' weekly press review, which is not exhaustive but can be enriched by feedback from researchers.

Contact: [communication@univ-tours.fr](mailto:communication@univ-tours.fr)