



Activities of Research Integrity Advisers

Recommendations of the Finnish National Board on Research Integrity TENK for Research Integrity Advisers and related background organisations¹

The Research Integrity Adviser system was started up on TENK's initiative at the beginning of 2017. More than 60 research organisations in Finland have appointed a total of more than one hundred Research Integrity Advisers.

The system was founded on a need to reinforce awareness among the internationalising researcher base of the responsible conduct of research in Finland and lower the threshold to seeking personal advice on research integrity within research organisations. Research Integrity Advisers carry out their advisory duties alongside their own work.

Objectives of the activities of Advisers at the organisational level:

- Promoting the responsible conduct of research (RCR)
- Offering research integrity advice and the opportunity for confidential discussion within the organisation
- Improving the identification and prevention of misconduct in research
- Increasing familiarity with TENK's activities and guidelines, as well as the procedures for handling allegations of misconduct in the responsible conduct of research (the RCR process)
- Lowering the threshold to making RCR notifications when severe misconduct is suspected

¹ Approved at TENK's meeting on 14 December 2017. The recommendations are an evolving document, which will be updated whenever necessary. For further information about the activities of Advisers, contact Senior Adviser Iina Kohonen at iina.kohonen@tenk.fi.

Recommended title for Advisers in Finnish, Swedish and English:

- tutkimuseetiikan tukihenkilö, [ORGANISAATION NIMI]
- stödperson för forskningsetik vid [ORGANISATIONEN]
- Research Integrity Adviser at [ORGANISATION]

Adviser's range of duties:

- Working in the field of research integrity and RCR related to the scientific community
 - Not field-specific research ethics, such as preliminary ethical reviews (although the Adviser should ideally be aware of the presence and activities of field-specific research ethics committees within the organisation)
 - Not matters relating to student misconduct
- Advising and supporting researchers and other employees, mainly within the Adviser's own organisation, on the principle of lowering the threshold:
 - If an RCR violation is suspected, providing guidance on the RCR process and directing personnel towards the senior director within the relevant organisation (rector, chancellor, director)
 - Advising on drafting a written RCR notification if necessary
 - Providing parties with advice and support related to the process, including when the RCR process is underway
- Regularly communicating on the Adviser's activities within the organisation, including in English
- Attending networking events and training arranged by TENK
- Acting as a contact person between researchers and TENK
- (If it so desires, the organisation may also allocate further duties in the area of research integrity to the Adviser)