



Austrian Student Ombuds Office

AT THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

The Necessity to Teach Research Integrity Values

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Agenda

- * Three suggestions for promoting academic/research integrity among students:
 1. Transparent regulations while avoiding regulatory overreach
 2. Train the trainer
 3. Ongoing exposure to the values of research integrity and socialization into the scientific community

Austrian Student Ombuds Office

- * Established by the **Higher Education Quality Assurance Act 2011**
- * **At the Federal Ministry** of Education, Science and Research
- * **Not bound by any instructions**
- * Responsible for **potential and enrolled students** within the Austrian higher education area (public universities, universities of applied sciences, private universities and university colleges of teacher education, student grant, student accommodation etc.)
- * HEIs are **obliged to give the information** needed and asked to the Austrian Student Ombuds Office
- * **Annual Reporting** to the federal minister responsible and the parliament
- * **Recommendations** to legislator and authorities at the HEI

Facts and Figures

academic year 2022/23

405.271 enrolled students

77 Higher Education Institutions
777 issues

14 SUBJECT FIELDS

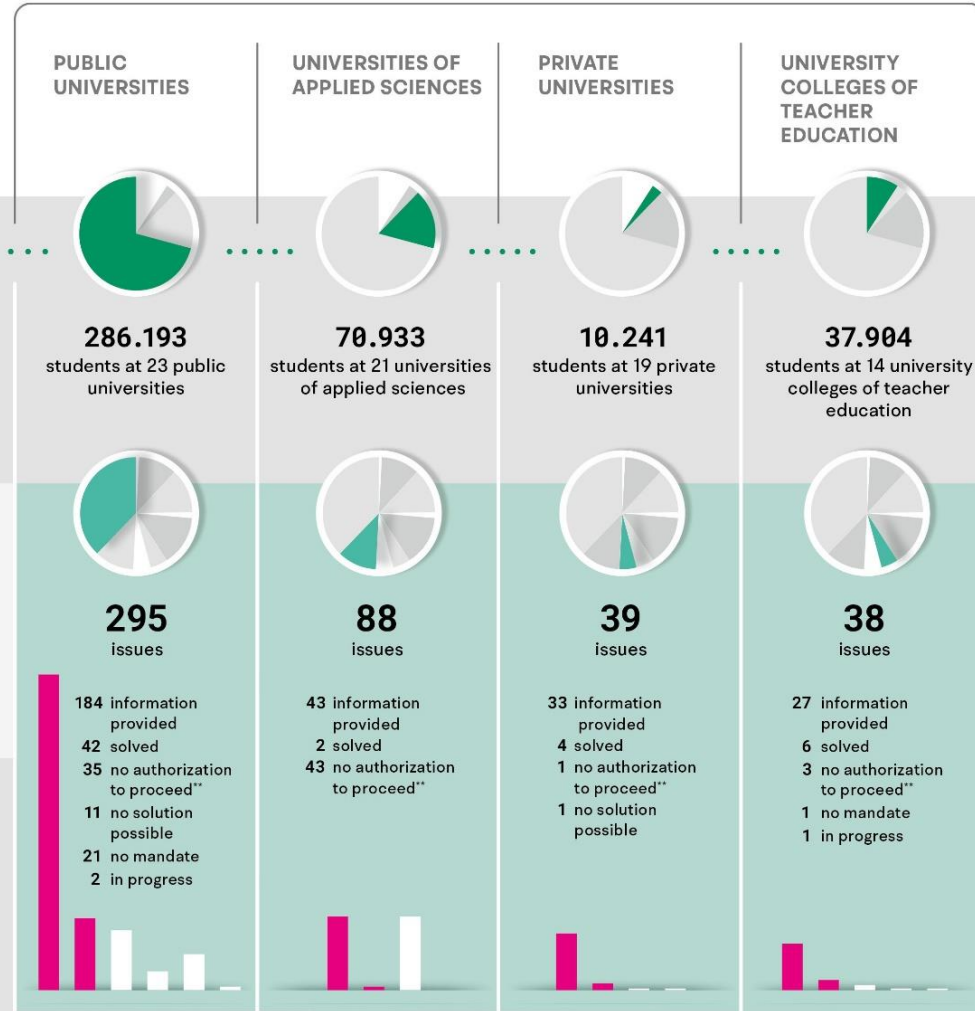
247 study conditions

169 admission
132 others
126 public study grants
118 recognition

88 financial issues
79 academic degrees
57 termination
52 tuition fee
41 disability/illness
36 academic integrity
22 bullying/discrimination
11 dormitory accommodation
9 mobility scheme

1187 assignments to subject fields

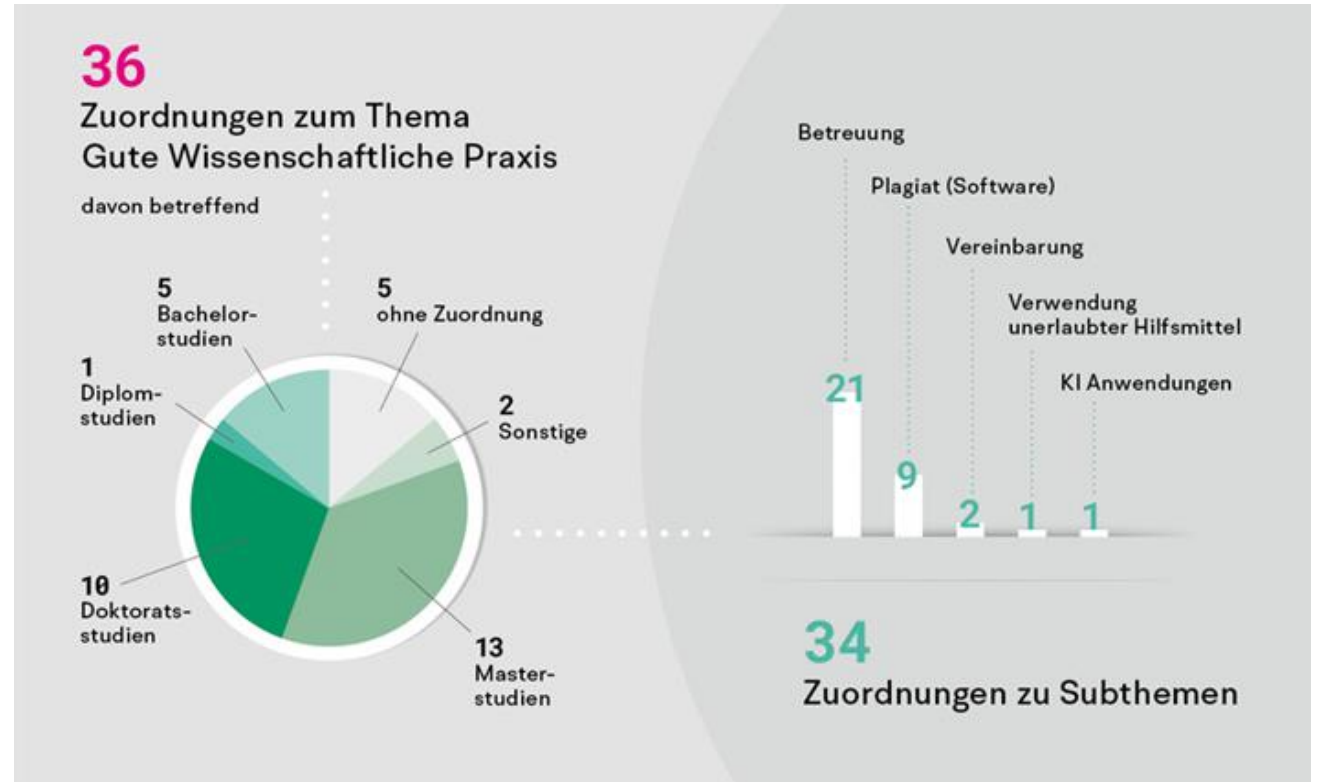
AUSTRIAN STUDY GRANT AUTHORITY
114 issues
STUDENT DORMITORIES
11 issues
OTHER INSTITUTIONS*
107 issues
UNKNOWN INSTITUTIONS
85 issues



* other public authorities, international higher education institutions, private institutions, etc.

** Due to a missing consent form, the request could not be processed.

Subject field in focus: Academic integrity



Proposals to legislator

Proposals

Proposals to the legislator

Research integrity and good scientific practice

- * Formulation and revision of a legal basis in the substantive laws (UG/HG/FHG/PrivHG)
- * Mandatory supervision agreements
- * Establish a single point of contact for students
- * Compulsory courses on research integrity in every curriculum
- * Raising awareness among new and existing employees
- * Provide statistics on proceedings related to scientific misconduct

Universities Act 2002 / Teacher Education Act 2005

- * Clarifying of the deadline for the recognition of scientific and artistic work
- * Clarification of what constitutes a lasting or serious threat under § 68 (1) lit. 8 Universities Act

University of Applied Sciences Act

- * Aligning deadlines for awarding academic degrees
- * Obligation to state reasons for refusal of applications for recognitions
- * Adjustment of the rules for recognition

Propos Annual

- * Determina the semest
- * Obligation as an Instit
- * Limitation
- * Waiving of
- * Obligation
- * Expansion
- * Clarifying according
- * Recovery o
- * Review of In non-con

Propos educat

- * Early Issu

Performance Agreement

Full integration into university governance and teaching should lead to greater awareness among students and faculty and set high standards in this area.

- * **training standards**
- * technology standards
- * information and transparency standards
- * organizational standards
- * regulatory standards
- * standards for supervision

Every three years each university concludes a **performance agreement** with the federal government

Teaching values of research integrity

- * **Challenge:** lack of knowledge regarding the best ethical approach
- * **Rule based**
 - * Identifying and following a set of ethical rules or principles
 - * Two difficulties:
 - * Conflicts of rules
 - * Motivating action
- * **Virtue based**
 - * Developing a good character and internalizing certain virtues
 - * No motivation problem but even harder to decide conflicts
- * **Combination**

Teaching values of research integrity

- * Current focus:

- * Teaching rules and citation technics
- * **Lack in conveying why research integrity is important**
- * Students experience **research integrity** often **as a burden**

1. Transparent regulations while avoiding overreaching

- * Rule-based

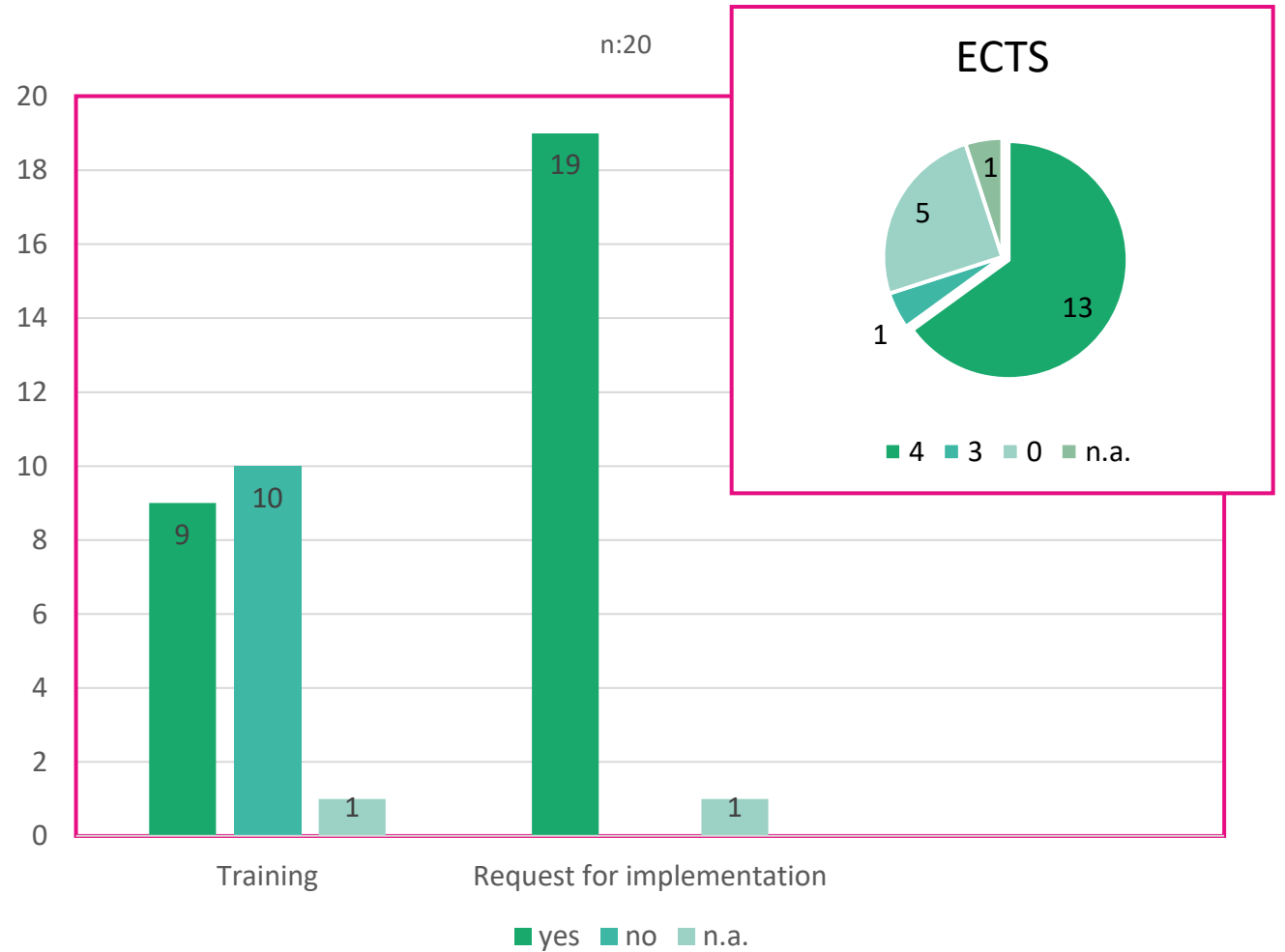
2. Train the trainer

- * Combination of rule-based and virtue-based

3. Ongoing exposure to the values of research integrity and socialization into the scientific community

- * Virtue-based

Evaluation: Peer-Mentoring



Conclusion

1. Transparent regulations while avoiding regulatory overreach
 - * Latest amendment to the legal basis
2. Train the trainer
 - * Performance agreement
3. Ongoing exposure to the values of research integrity
 - * Performance agreement

No paradise but first steps to change the culture in Austria

Thank you for your Attention!

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