

Ethical Code of Conduct for Doctoral Students
Doctoral School of Education, University of Szeged

Prepared by:
The students of the Doctoral School

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PREAMBLE

The doctoral students of the Doctoral School of Education at the University of Szeged accept responsibility for upholding the values and interests of research and education throughout their studies. Accordingly, they hold themselves and their present and future colleagues to high moral standards.

Scope of the Code of Ethics

- This Code of Ethics applies to all students enrolled in the doctoral programme at the Doctoral School of Education, University of Szeged, who engage in research or teaching activities.
 - The rules outlined extend to activities both within and outside the university that may affect the institution's scientific and moral reputation.
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General Ethical Principles

- Students of the Doctoral School of Education support the freedom of expression, learning, teaching, and research, while also respecting human dignity and the principle of equal treatment. They reject all forms of discrimination, including those based on race, ethnicity, gender, religion, ideology, political belief, sexual orientation, or other personal characteristics.
 - The community of the Doctoral School of Education is committed to ethical conduct, research integrity, and academic responsibility, and encourages all members to uphold these values.
 - Doctoral students are dedicated to conducting scientific and research activities in a fair, trustworthy, objective, open, unbiased, and responsible manner. They undertake to act following ethical research practices and institutional regulations during the planning, implementation, and dissemination of scientific activities.
 - Students must also respect all other university regulations as well as national and international legal frameworks.
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Institutional Values

- Doctoral students are committed to active participation in both the academic and community life of the institution. This includes regularly attending the professional forums of the Doctoral School, including events organised by the Institute and its research groups (e.g. conferences, professional workshops, interdisciplinary meetings). Through active involvement, they contribute to the enhancement of the institution's academic standards.
 - They support one another's development by providing constructive questions and meaningful feedback during research seminars. They value peer learning, a culture of partnership, and the ethical exercise of critical thinking.
 - They respect the norms of scientific ethics, particularly originality, appropriate use of sources, and transparency in collaboration. They participate in training programmes that promote the principles of ethical research and publication.
 - By attending internal debates and public PhD defences, they provide moral and professional support to their peers, helping to foster a safe and supportive learning and research environment.
 - They are aware of the social impact of their research and are open to addressing the societal application of academic findings, to public dissemination, and to strengthening interdisciplinarity.
 - They respect the dignity of all members of the Doctoral School and are committed to maintaining a non-discriminatory, inclusive, and collaborative community. They promote intergenerational knowledge-sharing and equal opportunities.
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Scientific Ethical Principles

- During research, doctoral students must adhere to the principles of objectivity, fairness, and honesty.
 - They are required to respect the rights and dignity of research participants throughout all academic activities.
 - Students must use the university's resources and infrastructure responsibly.
 - Plagiarism, data manipulation, falsification, and any form of scientific misconduct are strictly prohibited. Doctoral students must properly reference the work of other researchers and respect copyright laws.
 - All research outcomes must be documented and shared with the academic community in a verifiable and reliable manner.
 - Scientific results must be published transparently and ethically, ensuring appropriate recognition of contributors.
 - Students work in close collaboration with their supervisors, and their joint academic work may be published as co-authored outputs.
 - Students of the Doctoral School must adhere to the guidelines set out in the document '*The Use of Generative AI and AI-Assisted Technologies in the Doctoral School of Education*'.
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Research Integrity and Data Management

- Doctoral students must collect, store, and share research data following the highest professional standards.

- Research involving human (or animal) subjects must comply with all relevant ethical and legal regulations.
 - Data obtained during research must be treated confidentially and stored securely.
 - When publicly sharing research results, students must observe both data protection regulations and the ethical standards of academic publication.
 - Before publishing research outcomes, students are required to consult with their supervisor and other members of the research team.
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Professional Conduct and Responsibility

- Doctoral students are responsible for their professional development and should actively strive to expand their knowledge. To this end, they participate in academic forums, workshops, PhD defences, conferences, and all other events that support their academic progress.
 - They approach their peers with a spirit of cooperation and actively support each other's development.
 - They actively participate in the Doctoral School's research seminars and offer constructive feedback to their fellow students.
 - They seek opportunities for collaborative work and co-publish their research findings with peers.
 - They interact with members of the academic community respectfully, fairly, and cooperatively.
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Conflict of Interest and Independence

- The work and research findings of doctoral students must not be influenced by external interests or pressure.
 - Students must disclose all financial support or vested interests transparently.
 - They must avoid any situation that could give rise to a conflict of interest, including financial ties or personal relationships.
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Sanctions and Accountability

- Ethical violations will be investigated by the university's ethics committee, which will take appropriate action when necessary.
 - In the case of serious ethical breaches, a student may be expelled from the doctoral programme.
 - To prevent ethical misconduct, the university offers doctoral students opportunities to discuss ethical concerns through professional consultation.
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Final Provisions

- This Student Code of Ethics may be reviewed and revised regularly to reflect changes in academic life, institutional standards, and societal expectations.
- It is the responsibility of all doctoral students to familiarise themselves with and comply with the contents of this code.
- The university supports dialogue on ethical matters and promotes the reinforcement of academic integrity.

This Student Code of Ethics serves to protect the integrity and reputation of the academic community, ensuring the high standards and academic honesty of the doctoral programme at the Doctoral School of Education, University of Szeged.