

Written Assignment on Responsible Conduct of Research

In order to complete the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) part of Fundamentals Module 1 and to improve their learning outcome, the PhD students must submit an assignment in which they **describe and discuss 1-2 RCR concepts or areas presented in the course curriculum in relation to their own research project.**

List of possible RCR concepts or areas to address (not exhaustive):

- Authorship conflicts about e.g. co-authorship
- Inappropriate handling of data
- Academic freedom in relation to publication of results
- Communication to a wider public
- Sharing data and/or results with other researchers
- Handling of potential conflicts of interest
- Any other relevant RCR issue

Content of assignment

The assignment must include the following three aspects:

- A very brief description of own research project.
- Description of 1-2 concepts or areas within RCR presented in the course curriculum that could cause problems, conflicts and/or dilemmas for researchers.
- Discussion of an actual or envisioned situation that the PhD student has experienced or might experience during their own research where the described RCR concepts or areas would be relevant. The assignment should focus on grey areas, unclarities, problems with implementing guidelines, etc. It must include a discussion on how the situation could be handled in relation to the PhD student's own situation.

In order to pass the assignment, the PhD student must:

- Demonstrate an understanding of central and basic concepts, rules and issues as presented in the course curriculum.
- Describe causes of researchers' problems, conflicts and/or dilemmas in relation to the chosen concepts/areas within RCR.
- Describe an actual or envisioned situation in relation to your specific research project that is a concrete example of the chosen problem, conflict and/or dilemma within RCR.
- Describe and discuss possible ways to handle the problem, conflict and/or dilemma described in relation to your specific research situation.
- You may draw on various sources in your assignment, but at least one reference must be made to the curriculum (cf. above).

Format

The assignment can be written in English or Danish. Please include your full name on the first page.

The main text (excluding references) should not exceed **two pages**. The PhD student may write about the three mentioned aspects in the order they prefer.

References

It is a requirement that proper and direct references to the curriculum are included in the assignment. The curriculum is an eBook, which you can find on <http://ifro.ku.dk/rcr.pdf/>. References to slides from the presentations will not be accepted. The references must be made in text (via parentheses), as footnotes or as endnotes. The reference must include author, year of publication, and page number. Other sources can be included in the assignment as well and should be referenced as the curriculum. If you draw on additional sources, a reference list must be included. The references and an eventual reference list must have a format similar to references in scientific papers.

Deadline and how to submit the assignment

You must upload the assignment to Absalon (an e-learning platform) in Word or PDF format. The deadline for submission of the assignment will be approx. two weeks after the course. The exact submission deadline will be announced in connection with the course. To late submitting will count as an attempt.

Assessment

The assignment will be assessed by teachers from the course within two weeks after the assignment deadline (the month of July is exempted). The focus will be on the assessment criteria described above.

Assignments will be marked in Absalon by the assessor as either 'Complete' (✓) or 'Incomplete'(X). It is your responsibility to check in Absalon whether you need to re-submit.

Non-satisfactory assignment

If the assignment is marked 'Incomplete', the PhD student will receive written comments on how to improve the assignment. Within two weeks, the PhD student must submit a revised assignment to Absalon **and** inform the relevant teacher of the resubmission, including information on which course the PhD student attended. Too late resubmission will also count as an attempt.

The PhD student has three attempts to pass the assignment. If the assignment is not passed after three attempts, the PhD student must take the RCR course again. Failure to meet a deadline results in a failed attempt. To ensure a fair assessment, all non-satisfactory assignments will be evaluated by two course teachers. The assignment and the course is governed by the PhD rules and regulations at [SCIENCE](#) and [SUND](#).

Confidentiality

Assignments are confidential for all other than the assessors and the course responsible¹. After the deadline for appeals, assignments will be deleted from Absalon.

Questions

Questions about the assignment must be directed to the relevant teacher. Usually either:

Mads Palludan Goddixsen: mpg@ifro.ku.dk

Robin Engelhardt: re@ifro.ku.dk

For any other questions about the Fundamentals course, please contact Fundamentals team at phdfundamentals@science.ku.dk

¹ Exceptions: 1) If the student files a formal complaint about the assessment, other administrative and scientific employees at UCPH may also read the assignment to be able to assess the complaint. 2) If an alleged case of scientific misconduct that has taken case at UCPH is described in the assignment the course responsible may, after consultation with the ph.d. student, decide to bring the case to the knowledge of the University management.