

Code of Ethics for Doctoral Students at the Institute of Paleobiology PAS

Chapter 1 General Provisions

§ 1

1. The obligations of doctoral students and the nature of their activities define the scope of the ethical standards that every doctoral student is required to uphold.

2. Any behavior by a doctoral student that undermines the trust of the academic community or doctoral students society, or in the Institute of Paleobiology Polish Academy of Sciences (hereinafter: the Institute), constitutes a violation of this Code. This includes, in particular, actions that may call into question the credibility of the research conducted by doctoral students or School employees, the validity of its results, or the integrity of the doctoral student community as a whole.

§ 2

In cases not covered by this Code, the doctoral student should follow internal regulations issued by the authorities of the Doctoral School and the Institute, and act in accordance with the *Code of Ethics for Researchers*.

§ 3

The Code defines the scope of ethical standards that a doctoral student is obliged to follow.

§ 4

The principles expressed in this Code apply to the doctoral student during their teaching activities, public outreach efforts, and research work.

§ 5

A doctoral student shall be characterized by:

1. conscientiousness in conducting research;
2. impartiality and independence from any external influence in their work, research, and reflections;
3. responsibility for undertaken actions, expressed words and opinions, including public behavior and gestures;
4. courage in research and in presented conclusions, even if those contradict existing

- practices, but only if criteria of scientific validity are met;
5. openness to collaboration with participants in scientific discourse;
 6. reliability and credibility of the research presented.

Chapter II

Conducting Research

§ 6

A doctoral student is obliged to collect and process research materials carefully and to exercise due diligence in their storage to prevent tampering. Data should be managed and stored in a way that facilitates the reuse of digital research materials after publication, for example in accordance with the FAIR Data Principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable; <https://www.go-fair.org/fair-principles/>), where applicable to the student's work. All research equipment and Institute property must be handled with care. Research and analyses must be conducted in accordance with the Institute's IT policies to ensure the security and management of all electronic data and associated files or outputs.

§ 7

Scientific research should be conducted in accordance with safety regulations.

§ 8

Funds allocated for research must be used rationally, guided by common sense, logic, and in compliance with applicable laws.

§ 9

Research should be conducted in a manner that respects the intellectual property rights of other scholars and researchers.

§ 10

Fabrication of research results, falsification, or plagiarism is highly unethical and strictly prohibited.

Chapter III

Teaching Practice and Science Communication

§ 11

Doctoral students, in consultation with their supervisor, may engage in additional activities such as teaching, collaborating with public or private institutions, or participating in science communication events, if it does not negatively impact their research or obligations to the Doctoral School.

§ 12

1. A doctoral student may undertake teaching practice within their field of study. This requires the consent of the supervisor, the Doctoral School coordinator, and the internship coordinator at the host institution. After completing the teaching practice, the student must submit a form signed by the supervisor, internship coordinator, and themselves.
2. A doctoral student engaged in teaching practice shall follow the instructions of the teaching coordinator. The teaching conducted shall align with the content and scope of the course and reflect the technical conditions available.
3. During teaching practice, doctoral student shall act in a respectful and professional manner, in accordance with academic standards and the principles set out in §5 of this Code.

§ 13

Doctoral students are recommended, in consultation with their supervisor, to engage in science communication activities, including organizing lectures or workshops, publishing popular science articles, maintaining science blogs, or using social media to disseminate research findings.

§ 14

Science communication must be accurate, reflect the current state of knowledge, and be tailored to the audience. Doctoral students should aim to raise public awareness about the role and impact of science on everyday life.

§ 15

During public engagement activities, doctoral students are obliged to present information accurately and in line with the principles of scientific methodology. Oversimplification that misleads the audience must be avoided, and credibility of content must be ensured.

§ 16

All additional and public engagement activities must respect copyright and intellectual property laws. Doctoral students must follow proper citation practices and ethical use of sources.

Chapter IV

Relations with Doctoral School Authorities, Institutes, and Affiliated Entities

§ 17

Doctoral students are obliged to show respect toward the authorities of the Doctoral School and its component institutes.

§ 18

Doctoral students must comply with resolutions and regulations issued by the Doctoral School and the Institute.

§ 19

A doctoral student is obliged to appear when asked by the Doctoral School or Institute authorities. The absence should be promptly explained.

§ 20

When conducting activities on behalf of the Doctoral School or the Institute, the doctoral student must correctly indicate their affiliation through logos or statements. The same applies when cooperating with external organizations.

§ 21

When cooperating with multiple institutions, the doctoral student shall indicate such collaboration in relevant documentation, in particular in scientific publications, research reports, grant applications, and other official research-related documents. All involved institutions must be clearly identified.

Chapter V

Participation in the Doctoral Community and Academic Life

§ 22

Any disputes between doctoral students or between doctoral students and staff of the Doctoral School institutes should first be resolved amicably. If the disagreement cannot be solved, the matter should be referred to the study coordinator, and if necessary, to the Doctoral Student's Rights Ombudsman at the National Representation of Doctoral Students (KRD).

§ 23

A doctoral student shall act in solidarity with other doctoral students and members of the academic community.

§ 24

Doctoral students should offer assistance, share advices and opinions to fellow students and staff of the institutes.

§ 25

1. Every doctoral student should participate in the organizational life of the Doctoral School and the Institute, including activities of the doctoral student council through its governing bodies.
2. Every doctoral student should see themselves as a welcomed member of the doctoral community and contribute positively to it, while also helping others feel included.

§ 26

The doctoral student is obliged to act in accordance with the principles of this Code and promote them among the academic community.

Warsaw, 02.06.2025 r.

Director
of the Institute of Paleobiology PAS