

Outline of measures regarding Good Research Practice at BIFOLD

Mission Statement

Good research practice (GRP) is fundamental to all areas of research; particularly so in an excellence driven research institution such as BIFOLD to fulfill the high expectations for reliable and reproducible results and to strengthen confidence in research as a whole. BIFOLD is committed to leading by example in this regard.

In 2011, the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity was developed by All European Academies (ALLEA) and the European Science Foundation with principles for good research practices. Since the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) published its Code "Guidelines for Good Research Practices" and put them into force on August 1, 2019, all universities must implement the Code's guidelines in a legally binding manner in order to receive funding from the DFG. BIFOLD, as part of the TU Berlin, is therefore legally bound to these "Guidelines for Good Research Practices". Based on these principles, BIFOLD will enact projects and measures to foster GRP within the institute and among its researchers.

Objectives

- 1) BIFOLD adheres to the standards of reproducibility and open science and will foster the use of reproducibility & open science among its members.
- 2) BIFOLD will develop and publish guidelines for GRP. These guidelines will enable non-discriminatory research designs and technologies based on ethical principles which will set obligatory standards for all its members.
- 3) BIFOLD will offer GRP training for its researchers at all career stages, placing additional focus on requirements particular to the fields of Machine Learning (ML) and Database Management (DM).
- 4) Once the legal prerequisites for BIFOLD to become a cross-university central institute are in place, two Persons of Trust will be introduced at BIFOLD, who can be contacted for confidential counseling in cases of research and ethical misconduct. They will offer low-threshold consultation.
- 5) The Persons of Trust will integrate to form a network with other actors both at the university and in Berlin. If there is concrete evidence of severe unethical behavior or violation of the standards of good research practice, they will hand the case over to the institutional Ombudspersons of TU Berlin.