

Overview: Ethics at BOKU



Ethics platform

Discourse about ethical questions at BOKU

- Strengthens awareness for ethical questions and ethical (inter)action at BOKU
- Development of ethical guidelines in research, teaching and in dealing with each other
- Reflection of actions taken at BOKU regarding 3rd mission

Ethics-Charta of the BOKU

<https://boku.ac.at/ethikplattform>

August 2022

Ethics committee

Ethics statements for research projects

- Checks research proposals regarding:
- The rights, safety and wellbeing of participants
 - Compliance with the animal welfare law

Ethics statement to submit with project proposal or with manuscript

<https://short.boku.ac.at/ethik>

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Animal-welfare body

Giving advice on animal experimentation

- Gives advice on:
- animal-welfare issues
 - 3Rs (replace, reduce, refine)
 - preparing the application

Follows development and outcome of projects

Based on Tierversuchsgesetz (TVG 2012) and Directive 2010/63/EU

<https://boku.ac.at/tierschutzgremium>

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The ethics platform



- Established 2011, part of the senate
- Around 55 members; representants of the senate, the rectorate, of the departments and the centers (IDR, gWN, ZfB), ÖH BOKU and the employee representative councils
- The ethics platform is a discourse forum enabling and supporting systematic participative and constructive reflection regarding actions taken at BOKU. Main tasks are:
 - Identification, awareness raising and discussion of ethical questions related to BOKU's actions and ongoing development of ethical guidelines related to research, teaching and dealing with each other
 - Planning of public events: talks, discussion, training related to ethical topics
 - Initiation and coordination of working groups dealing with BOKU specific ethics topics; Publishing position papers supporting the opinion formation at BOKU; Identifying potential need for discussion related to work being done at BOKU; Upon need, discussion of ethical aspects in intended research; Supporting public relations work; Website; Ethics-networking
- Documents: BOKU-Ethics-Charta (ethical principles & operational values regarding working and studying at BOKU)
- Contact: Dipl.-Ing. Caroline Hammer, office of the ethics platform | ethikplattform@boku.ac.at

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The ethics committee



- Established in October 2020, based on section C1 of the BOKU Statute
- BOKU researchers can submit an application if they need an ethics statement, e.g. for:
 - Submitting a project proposal → Requirement of the funding agency
 - Submitting a manuscript → Requirement of the journal
- The ethics committee issues statements based on an assessment of the submitted application:
 - For research projects involving human subjects: ensuring that the rights, the safety, and the well-being of participants are adequately protected
 - For research projects involving animals: ensuring that the provisions for the implementation of the animal welfare law are adequate
- Further information on the website: <https://short.boku.ac.at/ethik>
 - Check lists, FAQ, steps from submission to statement
 - Dates of meetings (application submission min. 2 weeks prior)
 - List of the members of the ethics committee
- Contact: Mag.^a Johanna Ecker, Office of the ethics committee | ethikkommission@boku.ac.at

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The animal-welfare body



- Established in 2013: According to Tierversuchsgesetz 2012 (§21 TVG 2012)
 - Every university as „user“ performing animal experimentation must set up an animal-welfare body
- Tasks of the BOKU animal-welfare body
 - Giving advice on animal welfare (acquisition, accommodation, care and use)
 - Advising staff on replacement, reduction and refinement (3Rs) in animal experimentation: replace and reduce the use of animals, refine conditions, promote alternatives to animal experimentation, reduce pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm to the animals
 - Giving advisory opinion on the application for project authorization
 - Following the development and outcome of projects
- For further information visit our website: <https://boku.ac.at/tierschutzgremium>
 - Meetings as and when required
 - List of members of the animal-welfare body
- Contact: tierschutzgremium@boku.ac.at

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