

The VIRT²UE approach

A virtue ethics approach to teaching research integrity

The train-the-trainer program has an aspirational approach, and focuses on what it means to be a good and virtuous researcher. Instead of teaching about rules and norms, the training focuses primarily on promoting reflection on personal attitudes and behaviors. Participants learn how to train others to reflect on concrete cases and moral dilemmas in research, and to use tools that foster reflection in others. This will foster skills that enable trainees to integrate the European Code of Conduct in their day-to-day professional life.

Blended learning

The VIRT²UE train-the-trainer program combines online and face-to-face components. Online materials are designed for individual learning and reflection and provide an introduction to the main research issues and philosophical concepts in research integrity. The face-to-face training develops participants' teaching skills and provides opportunities for interactive, reflective and case-based group activities. The online and face-to-face courses are complementary. Online preparation is required for the face-to-face exercises, and the online exercises need to be supported by experiences provided in the face-to-face meetings.

Adaptability

To enable contextualized research integrity teaching across Europe, the VIRT²UE Train-the-Trainer program provides adaptable course material. The exercises represent a toolbox from which trainers can build their own courses tailored to the needs of their students. Trainers are encouraged to adapt the materials and modules, as long as the underlying virtue ethics approach and learner-centeredness are maintained.

The VIRT²UE toolbox will be completely open source and available on The Embassy of Good Science, an online wiki-platform which serves as a hub for all of those committed to 'good science'. The platform's wiki functionalities allow for extra flexibility because trainers can access the training material directly online, suggest changes, and build new modules and share them with a community of trainers.

Program requirements

By registering for the VIRT²UE train-the-trainer program you have the opportunity to become a certified trainer in the field of research integrity and ethics.

Online course

The interactive online modules provide a basic understanding of relevant concepts, like virtues, values, norms, moral dilemmas and moral conflicts. They also provide an overview of the principles underlying the European Code of Conduct on Research Integrity. It is crucial for participants to complete the online course in advance of the face-to-face training in order to acquire a shared understanding of the program's core concepts.

Face-to-face training

In the face-to-face training, participants learn and practice five exercises, supervised by a trainer. Participants meet twice: the first time in a two-day meeting and the second time in a one-day meeting. During the first meeting, participants learn to use the five exercises. Between the two meetings, participants practice the exercises in their own institution or setting. In the second meeting they reflect on their experiences of practicing the exercises and practice selected exercises again under supervision.

Certificate

Program participants receive a certificate when they have completed the online and face-to-face courses and trained ten further researchers. The training of ten further researchers can be completed during or after the duration of the program.

Get in touch

For more information please visit
www.embassy.science/training

or send an email to
trainings@virt2ueconsortium.eu

Overview program and overall time investment:

	Content	Tasks	Time investment
Online course	Introduction to research integrity and ethics, the European Code of Conduct on Research Integrity and the main concepts used during the training and reflection on personal experience.	Complete the online course.	4 hours
First face-to-face meeting	Learning and practicing how to conduct the five exercises.	Complete the assignments in preparation for the face-to-face training.	Assignments: 5 hours Participation in meeting: 16 hours
Interim practice work	Practicing the exercises in own institution/context.	Prepare, organize and practice the five exercises. And filling out a reflection form for each exercise.	5 hours per exercise including feedback form: a total of 25 hours
Second face-to-face meeting	Reflecting on and discussing experiences and practicing selected exercises.	Prepare selected exercises	Preparation: 2 hours Participation in meeting: 8 hours
Total			60 hours