



# Council of Graduate Schools

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### **Enhancing Scholarly Integrity in Graduate Education, Globally**

#### **Agreement reached on action agenda for international collaboration**

At the first global meeting on graduate education to focus on research ethics, higher education leaders agreed to a set of statements and action items on integrating training in scholarly integrity into graduate education.

Representatives from the U.S., Canada, Europe, Australia, China, Hong Kong, and Botswana met in Florence, Italy in September to initiate discussion on the need to strengthen scholarly integrity within the context of the growing globalization of graduate education and research.

This was the second annual “Strategic Leaders Global Summit” sponsored by the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), and was made possible by support from ProQuest. Last year’s [meeting in Banff](#), Canada resulted in the “[Banff Principles](#)” to broadly guide international collaboration in graduate education; this year’s summit focused on “best practices” specific to promoting scholarly integrity.

The consensus points reached were:

- Scholarly integrity is a core value of all universities and requires systematic attention.
- Challenges to scholarly integrity are universal, diverse and evolving.
- Issues of scholarly integrity cut across institutional, inter-cultural, and international contexts.

The strategic leaders also agreed that these three items are needed:

- A common frame of reference that addresses the continuum of educational and training objectives from scholarly integrity to compliance.
- Leadership at all levels to prepare future scholars, researchers, and professionals to demonstrate integrity in all aspects of their careers as scholars and to meet powerful pressures that undermine integrity.
- Exchange of best practices and resources (including codes of conduct, regulatory frameworks, curricular materials, and instruments for assessment and evaluation).

[more]

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Finally, participants agreed on five specific action items that organizations and/or universities should consider as they enhance and pursue international collaborations:

- Build scholarly integrity into existing structures that prepare future faculty and future career professionals.
- Develop and maintain an open source, online website for facilitating resource and best practice exchange.
- Utilize international joint degree, dual degree, and other collaborative program structures for integrating educational activities to advance scholarly integrity.
- Identify mechanisms that explicitly address:
  1. universal and global issues in scholarly integrity, and
  2. ethical issues that may arise from the mobility of scholars (including priority areas of digital publishing and plagiarism in an international environment).
- Develop collaborative mechanisms for addressing plagiarism in an international context.

CGS has taken leadership both in studying [international graduate education](#) issues and in promoting [scholarly integrity](#) in graduate education, as part of its [Responsible Conduct of Research](#) initiatives.

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*The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) is an organization of over 500 institutions of higher education in the United States and Canada engaged in graduate education, research and the preparation of candidates for advanced degrees. CGS member institutions award 94% of the doctoral degrees and 80% of the master's degrees in the U.S.\* The organization's mission is to improve and advance graduate education, which it accomplishes through advocacy in the federal policy arena, research, and the development and dissemination of best practices.*

\* *Graduate Enrollment and Degrees: 1996-2006* (Council of Graduate Schools, 2007)