

Frequently asked questions complaints procedure Academic Integrity Committee (CWI)

1. Will the report about my complaint be published?

In principle, Vrije Universiteit (VU) publishes nothing, except for the anonymized reports on the Universiteiten van Nederland (UNL) website. If a case has been brought to the attention of the media through no action of VU, it may decide to make certain information public. VU exercises restraint and discretion in this respect.

2. Can I also submit a complaint directly or must I go to a confidential counsellor first?

You can submit a complaint directly to the Executive Board (EB). However, it is advisable to contact one of the confidential counsellors first. They can advise you on the correct procedure for submitting a complaint.

3. Is there also a female confidential counsellor?

Yes, there are also female confidential counsellors.

4. Why is it taking so long to handle my complaint?

The CWI does its very best to handle every complaint as well and as quickly as possible. Delays can occur because another complaint is given priority or because certain information is found that requires further investigation. The CWI makes no statements about the timelines for handling complaints.

5. Why was my complaint declared inadmissible, even though I have not been heard by the CWI?

It is possible that your complaint is admissible, but does not come under the academic responsibility of VU. This is the case, for instance, if the complaint does not concern a scientific publication or if the publication in question was not produced under the academic responsibility of VU, but under that of another organization.

6. Can I also submit an anonymous complaint?

You can indicate that you wish to remain anonymous to the CWI and EB. Your name, position and contact details must be known to at least one of the confidential counsellors. The confidential counsellors guarantee confidentiality and will never disclose your details.

7. Where can I submit a complaint about a member of the EB?

You can submit your complaint to the Supervisory Board of VU, via the secretary drs. M.A.C. Vermeulen (Annemarie): m.a.c.vermeulen@vu.nl.

8. I am not a staff member of VU or VUmc. Can I still submit a complaint against a staff member of VU or VUmc?

Yes. The guidelines for submitting a complaint are exactly the same for you as for a staff member of VU or VUmc. It is advisable to contact one of the confidential counsellors first, for instance a confidential counsellor of the cluster of faculties comprising the academic field to which the complaint relates.

9. I am not a staff member of VU or VUmc. Can I also go to a confidential counsellor?

Yes. The guidelines for submitting a complaint are exactly the same for you as for a staff member of VU or VUmc.

If your question is not listed above, please contact Nathalie Trifkovic, n.trifkovic@vu.nl, +31 (0)6 38 17 07 57.