

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

You should read this policy in conjunction with the **Academic Misconduct Procedure**.

This policy applies to any student and any qualification of Falmouth University, whether offered solely by the University or in conjunction with any academic, professional or other institution in the United Kingdom or elsewhere, irrespective of the mode of study. The policy applies equally to Foundation, undergraduate and postgraduate students.

The Academic Integrity Policy is managed by the Quality Assurance and Enhancement (QAE) team, which is responsible for the effective development, implementation and management of the University's policies, procedures and processes. QAE may be contacted at QAE@falmouth.ac.uk.

If you are studying at a partner institution, the implementation of this policy may be managed by the equivalent team at your institution. Your institution will publish details as appropriate. For students of partner institutions, where this document refers to QAE, please refer to your institution's guidance for information about the applicable equivalent.

1 Academic Integrity

- 1.1 Academic integrity refers to honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility in scholarship and is a fundamental value in higher education. All students have a responsibility to ensure they comply with the principle of academic integrity.
- 1.2 The requirement for academic integrity applies to all work submitted by all students for both formative and summative assessment. It includes – but is not confined to – essays, dissertations, prints, designs, images, performances, artefacts, projects and computer programs.
- 1.3 To comply with the principles of academic integrity your work should be:
 - a) **Correctly and fully referenced**

All use of another person's work or ideas must be attributed and the sources identified, including where you have paraphrased or summarised. You must make sure that you use the correct techniques for citation and referencing as outlined in the assessment brief. As well as referencing sources in your bibliography, you must use the correct citation in the main body of the work (inverted commas, indentations, Harvard referencing, etc.). This practice applies to literary, graphical, electronic, oral and any other media that you may have used in completing your assessment.

The FX Plus Study Hub has a full range of resources to support your studies, including referencing and citation advice: www.studyhub.fxplus.ac.uk/referencing.

A breach of this requirement is known as **plagiarism** (clause 3.1a).

b) Produced by you, and only you

You are responsible for producing the work you submit for assessment and you must only take credit for work which is your own.

Where you are submitting work produced for an assigned collaborative project and/or group work, your assessment submission should be a clear and accurate reflection of your individual contribution to that project. Any contribution to your submission by others must be permitted by the assessment brief, and explicitly and appropriately acknowledged.

A breach of this requirement is known as **collusion** or **commissioning**, depending on the nature of the offence (clause 3.1b and 3.1c).

c) Original and unique

Every assessment that you submit must be a new piece of work; you should never submit the same piece of work twice either in part or as a whole.

A breach of this requirement is known as **duplication**, sometimes referred to as **self-plagiarism**, **auto-plagiarism** or **multiple submission** (clause 3.1d).

d) Honest and trustworthy

All work you produce should be reliable and honest. Any research represented in reports or projects must have been carried out by you; data must be factual and true, and obtained by fair and ethical means.

Your behaviour is equally governed by this requirement: for example, if you submit a claim for extenuating circumstances, the statements you make to support your claim must be honest.

A breach of this requirement is known as **misrepresentation** (clause 3.1e).

- 1.4 The Academic Skills (ASK) team provides free and individual advice on the skills required for academic study and correct referencing techniques. Please see www.falmouth.ac.uk/ask-academic-skills for more information, or contact ASK@fxplus.ac.uk.

For students studying at a partner institution, please contact your institution's equivalent library services for information about study skills.

- 1.5 The University uses plagiarism detection software to aid in the identification of academic misconduct. In submitting work for assessment, you are agreeing to your work being checked and retained by this software.

2 Poor Academic Practice

- 2.1 Poor academic practice is the failure to meet the appropriate standards of academic integrity through lack of attention to detail in correct citation and referencing practice and/or inappropriate minor collaboration with another student.

2.2 Poor academic practice is identified and managed by your course team without recourse to the formal Academic Misconduct Procedure. An assessor is likely to judge that an offence constitutes poor academic practice where:

- a) it is your first offence; and
- b) you are in your first year of undergraduate study and/or you have only just started studying in the United Kingdom; and
- c) the issue relates to a fairly minor matter of referencing and/or collaboration with another student; and
- d) there is compelling evidence that the issue arose from a genuine lack of understanding of academic integrity requirements.

This list is not exhaustive.

2.3 Should poor academic practice be identified, your mark and feedback for the work will reflect the errors, and highlight the areas in which you need to improve. The assessor may advise you to attend ASK sessions and direct you to resources to improve your academic practice. Failure to engage with feedback and/or the resources provided by the course team and/or the services offered by the University may not be used to excuse further offences.

2.4 **It is your responsibility to ensure that your work complies with the principle of academic integrity** and the University offers multiple sources of support for developing strong academic skills (clause 7). If you do not address your errors, repeat offences of poor academic practice may lead to more serious allegations of academic misconduct. It is therefore important that you take note of any feedback and recommendations from your course team about how to meet the standards of academic integrity in your assessments.

3 Academic Misconduct

3.1 Any action by a student which gives, or attempts to give, an unfair advantage in an examination or assessment, or which threatens to undermine the integrity essential to scholarship and research, is known as academic misconduct.

3.2 Students who compromise the principle of academic integrity threaten the reputation and quality of the University's awards. The University takes allegations of academic misconduct very seriously. Allegations of academic misconduct will be investigated and, in proven cases, penalties will be applied. Where academic misconduct is proven, it will remain on your student record and may be divulged as part of referencing and accreditation processes as required by law.

3.3 Professional Statutory and Regulatory Bodies

Where your course is accredited by a PSRB, your course team may have further obligations to fulfil with regards to investigating and reporting academic misconduct, including disclosing any proven offences against you to the relevant PSRB. The PSRB may take appropriate action in the context of their professional rules and codes of conduct, separate to any penalties or actions taken by the University.

- 3.4 All students are required to ensure they are familiar with the University's regulations and the expectations made of them, i.e. **an allegation of academic misconduct will not be dismissed on the grounds that the offence was committed unintentionally.**

Support is available, and should be sought, in the event of assessment-related stress. You should contact your course team in the first instance, and make use of the Extenuating Circumstances policy if necessary. Student Support and the FXU Students' Union are also available for impartial advice and support:

- Student Support: studentsupport@falmouth.ac.uk | 01326 255 329
- FXU Students' Union: advice@fxu.org.uk | 01326 255 861

For students studying at a partner institution, please contact your institution's equivalent support services for information and advice.

4 Definitions of academic misconduct

- 4.1 You should ensure that you understand and familiarise yourself with the terms that are used to describe different forms of academic misconduct in continuous and final assessment, including assessment by exhibition. These include (but are not limited to) the following:

- a) **Plagiarism:** the unacknowledged use of another's work or ideas, whether published or unpublished. Such unattributed use is plagiarism whether obtained from articles, books, essays, papers, reports, performances, data, projects, or any other material originated by another person, no matter the medium used by the source. It is plagiarism whether the medium is literary (for example essays, reports), graphical (for example designs, graphics, diagrams), electronic (for example computer programs), oral (for example presentations) or any other medium specified within an assessment brief.

Examples of plagiarism include but are not confined or limited to:

- unacknowledged verbatim copying from a text book, article, web resource or other source;
 - unacknowledged copying through the paraphrasing or summarising of another's work by altering word order, omitting words, phrases or sentences and inserting linking words or phrases over a paragraph or a number of paragraphs;
 - using the creative ideas of others in written or visual work without appropriate acknowledgement;
 - making significant use of unattributed quotations from sources.
- b) **Collusion:** when work is produced by more than one person without prior authorisation and/or is presented for assessment as if it is the work of a single individual without acknowledging the contribution of others.

Copying another student's work, or allowing another student to copy your work, either in part or in full, also constitutes collusion.

Group projects or pairings are distinctive features of many courses at the University,

and the University encourages collaborative work both within and between different courses. Such work is not collusion, as long as the work submitted for assessment is a clear and accurate reflection of your individual contribution to a collaborative project. Group work must explicitly and appropriately acknowledge the contribution of others or collusion may be deemed to have occurred.

- c) **Commissioning:** asking a third party to produce a piece of work on your behalf, whether for payment or not, which you then submit as your own work, is called commissioning. It is also sometimes referred to as **contract cheating**, and is an incredibly serious offence.

Third parties may include web-based companies or auction sites (essay mills, sharing websites (including essay banks), or individuals such as a colleague, friend, lecturer or relative. If a student of the University has produced a piece of work specifically for submission by another student, without acknowledgement, both students concerned will be subject to disciplinary action.

Companies offering commissioning services exploit the pressure students feel to achieve for their own profit. Such companies may claim to produce work that is 'plagiarism-free', or that the use of such services is acceptable and common practice, but don't be fooled: submitting an assessment that you did not create as though it is your own work is a severe offence of academic misconduct.

Use of commissioning services may result in your expulsion from the University – don't risk it. Seek advice from Student Services if you have any concerns about your assessments.

- d) **Duplication:** also known as 'multiple submission', 'auto-plagiarism' or 'self-plagiarism'. Duplication occurs when if you submit work that is identical or substantially similar in content to work you have previously submitted for assessment. Duplication may occur across academic years or within the same academic year, across modules or within the same module, and across institutions or within the same institution.

Exceptionally, on occasion and as a referral, you may be required to re-submit for assessment a previous piece of work, reworked to demonstrate how you have improved it. It will be clear from the referral brief given to you whether such reworking is required, and in this instance, it would not constitute duplication.

- e) **Misrepresentation:** making false statements and the falsification of data. It is applied when the data reports, projects or any other form of submission is based on work that you purport to have carried out yourself, but which has actually been invented by you, altered, copied or otherwise obtained by unfair means.

A false declaration in order to receive special consideration by an Assessment Board, to obtain extensions to deadlines, or exemption from work is also considered to be misrepresentation.

5 Definitions of academic misconduct in formal unseen examinations

5.1 Forms of academic misconduct in formal unseen examinations include the following:

- a) Taking to your examination desk any books, notes or materials of any kind other than those permitted by the invigilator, or using prohibited materials, equipment or software.
- b) Copying or attempting to copy the work of any other candidate.
- c) Any unauthorised communication during the examination either with other candidates in the examination room or with anybody outside it. Taking communication equipment into the examination room may also be construed as misconduct.
- d) Any attempt to gain improper access to an examination paper before an examination is taken, whether or not that examination is to be sat by you.
- e) The impersonation of another student during an examination.
- f) Any other action or failure to follow the rules that might result in you gaining or potentially gaining an unfair advantage.

6 Investigating allegations of Academic Misconduct

If an assessor believes that you have committed an offence of academic misconduct, you will be investigated under the appropriate stage of the Academic Misconduct Procedure and penalties will be applied if the offence is found to be proven. Please see the Academic Misconduct Procedure document for full details.

7 Further support

There is no excuse for academic misconduct. If you have any concerns about referencing, citation or any other aspect of academic integrity, you should seek advice at the earliest opportunity from your course team, personal tutor, or the following services:

- ASK: ASK@fxplus.ac.uk | 01326 370 438 | www.falmouth.ac.uk/ask-academic-skills
- Extenuating Circumstances: EC@falmouth.ac.uk |
- Student Support: studentsupport@falmouth.ac.uk | 01326 255 329
- FXU Students' Union: advice@fxu.org.uk | 01326 255 861 | www.fxu.org.uk/advice/academic/falmouth

For students studying at a partner institution, please contact your institution's equivalent services as published.

8 Policy and Procedural Review

8.1 The Quality Assurance and Enhancement team submits an annual report regarding academic integrity and misconduct to the Academic Quality & Standards Committee.

9 VERSION CONTROL

PURPOSE/CHANGE	AUTHOR	DATE APPROVED
Original document		
Amendments approved at AQSC	QAE	29 July 2015
Extensive rewrite including disaggregation of Policy and Procedure documents, approved at AQSC	QAE	4 July 2018
Addition of clause 2; Minor changes to wording of clause 1.1, 1.5, 3.1c, 4.1d	QAE	19 October 2018