

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

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

### Definitions:

- **You/Your** means a student or graduate (where applicable) of Falmouth University
- **We/Us/Our/The University** means Falmouth University

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 quality policies, procedures and processes. QAE may be contacted at [QAE@falmouth.ac.uk](mailto: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.

You can get free, impartial, confidential advice on this policy from the Students' Union: [advice@thesu.org.uk](mailto:advice@thesu.org.uk) | 01326 255 861 | drop in at the SU reception.

### Key Facts:

You should familiarise yourself with the entirety of the academic integrity policy and we would particularly draw your attention to the following three elements:

Clause	Description
1.6	The University uses text matching software to aid the identification of academic misconduct.
2.3	Unintentional academic misconduct is not considered differently to an intentional offence.
4.1c	In addition to other types of academic misconduct, you must not re-use your own work that has already been assessed for another assessment (e.g. photos or parts of an essay submitted for one assessment cannot be re-used for another assessment) unless explicitly advised to do so by a course team (e.g. as part of a referral).

### 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.

The requirement for academic integrity applies to all work you submit for both

formative and summative assessment, and to the behaviours you exhibit and the processes you engage in when producing that work. It includes, but is not limited to:

- essays;
- dissertations;
- reports;
- prints;
- designs;
- images;
- performances;
- presentations;
- artefacts;
- projects;
- computer programs;
- research methodology and ethics;
- claims for extenuating circumstances, etc.

1.2 The University is responsible for promoting academic integrity, and providing access to resources and services to help all students cultivate an understanding of academic integrity. The University collaborates with the Students' Union and Student Services to fulfil this responsibility, through (including but not limited to):

- annual review and publication of the Academic Integrity Policy and Academic Misconduct Procedure;
- signposting support services (e.g. ASK Academic Skills, StudyHub, The SU Advice);
- training academic staff in promoting academic integrity and identifying academic misconduct;
- creating and distributing resources via Learning Space, Library Services, etc.

1.3 By confirming your enrolment at the University, you agree to abide by this Policy and the principle of academic integrity and accept responsibility for engaging with the resources and services available to support your learning.

1.4 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.

A breach of this requirement is known as **plagiarism** (clause 4.1a).

**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 4.1b and 4.1c).

**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 4.1d).

**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.

A breach of this requirement is known as **misrepresentation** (clause 4.1e).

1.5 The Academic Skills (ASK) team provides free and individual advice on the skills required for academic study and correct referencing techniques, including (but not limited to):

- learning and working style;
- reading and note-making;
- referencing guides;
- referencing tools;
- organisation and time management;
- assignment calculator;
- minimising assessment-related stress.

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

1.6 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 Academic Misconduct**

2.1 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.

- 2.2 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 major or severe academic misconduct is proven, it will remain on your student record and may be divulged as part of referencing and accreditation processes.
- 2.3 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 Services and the Students' Union are also available for impartial advice and support.

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

### **3 Professional Statutory and Regulatory Bodies (PSRB)**

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.

### **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. These include (but are not limited to) the following:

- a) **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is 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**

Collusion can include:

- Where 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.

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.

You must explicitly and appropriately acknowledge the contribution of others in group work or collaborations, or collusion may be deemed to have occurred.

c) **Commissioning**

Asking a third party to produce or significantly edit 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**.

Third parties may include:

- online companies or auction sites (essay mills, essay banks);
- proof-reading services;
- colleagues;
- friends;
- relatives;
- lecturers.

If a student of the University produces a piece of work specifically for submission by another student, without acknowledgement, both students concerned will be investigated, and both students may be subject to disciplinary action.

d) **Duplication**

Also known as 'multiple submission', 'auto-plagiarism' or 'self-plagiarism', duplication occurs when 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.

If you are retaking all or part of a level of study with attendance, you are required to retake all the assessments within those modules, even if you have passed some of them before. You must create all new work for these assessments. The resubmission of any work that you produced for a module before your retake will be deemed duplication, and you will be subject to formal action under the academic misconduct procedure.

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**

Misrepresentation is making false statements and the falsification of data. It is applied when 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.

Misrepresentation or Falsification also includes the omission of data, where it could be deemed to be significant to the findings of a project.

Please refer to the Research Integrity and Ethics Policy and Handbook for further information on research ethics for taught courses.

**Definitions of academic misconduct in formal examinations**

4.2 Forms of academic misconduct in formal 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.

**5 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.

## **6 Reporting Academic Misconduct**

- 6.1 If you witness or suspect of academic misconduct of another student, you may raise your concerns with a member of your course team in the first instance. They will consider the information you provide and any supporting evidence you have, and will be able to initiate a formal investigation if necessary. You may then be required to make a written statement.
- 6.2 Statements may not be made anonymously: if you name someone, they have a right to know what is being alleged and who is raising the allegation. However, all allegations will be dealt with sensitively, in the spirit of conciliation.
- 6.3 In the event that a third party contacts the University with concerns about a current student or graduate, the University will consider the matter and any evidence provided before making a decision as to whether a formal investigation is required. For reasons of privacy, the University will not inform the third party whether an investigation is initiated, nor the outcome of any such investigation. If an investigation is required, the subject of that investigation will be informed what is alleged and by whom.
- 6.4 If you raise a concern in good faith you will not be penalised or disadvantaged for doing so, even where your concern is subsequently found to be mistaken. However, if you are found to have raised a malicious or vexatious claim you may be subject to disciplinary proceedings under the Student Disciplinary Policy and Procedure.

If you have raised or are considering raising a concern about alleged academic misconduct of another student under this policy, general support and advice may be accessed through the Students' Union.

## **7 Further support**

- 7.1 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, and/or the ASK Academic Skills Team: [ASK@fxplus.ac.uk](mailto:ASK@fxplus.ac.uk) | 01326 370 438 | [www.falmouth.ac.uk/ask-academic-skills](http://www.falmouth.ac.uk/ask-academic-skills).

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

### **Extenuating Circumstances**

- 7.2 If you are experiencing personal difficulties that are affecting your ability to complete your assessments, you may wish to consider applying for extenuating circumstances.

- Extenuating Circumstances team: [EC@falmouth.ac.uk](mailto:EC@falmouth.ac.uk)

It is your responsibility to seek appropriate help and support in a timely manner.

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		
<b>Amendments approved at AQSC</b>	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
Minor changes to wording/formatting of clauses 1-5, 8; addition of clause 7.	QAE	4 July 2019
Minor wording/formatting changes to introduction, 1, 2, 3, 4.2, 7.2; amendments to 4.1(c) (d) (e); addition of clause 6.3; removal of guidance in 1.5; removal of reference to Poor Academic practice for insertion into procedure, approved at Academic Board	QAE	22 July 2020