

## Procedure 2.1 Academic misconduct

### 1 Background: examples of academic misconduct

The Academy needs to ensure that all assessments are equitable, valid and reliable (*UK Quality Code Chapter B6*)

The OIA *Good Practice Framework: Disciplinary Procedures* provides examples of academic misconduct, which include:

- plagiarism
- copying another student's work
- falsifying data
- collusion
- contract cheating
- impersonation during examinations
- cheating in examinations
- submitting fraudulent mitigating circumstances claims

Cheating in assessments of all kinds for the award of a certificate or diploma is fraud. A student who copies other people's work is passing off something as their own when it belongs in reality to someone else. A qualification is awarded when a person has achieved a certain body of knowledge and acquired certain high level skills. If the student has not actually gained that knowledge or cannot demonstrate those skills, because in fact s/he had misled the assessors about the extent of her/his accomplishment, then the qualification cannot be treated by employers or others as a reliable indicator. As a consequence, the award will be devalued for all those who have earned it honestly.

For these reasons, the Academy has a duty to all its students and to its awarding bodies to ensure that all certificates and diplomas are earned by students by their own efforts and not by any form of cheating. Consequently, there are penalties for any student who commits an act of academic misconduct, ranging from failure in the module to exclusion from the course of study. There are also intermediate requirements to resit or retake a module, which would cost the student a substantial additional investment of time and money.

Practical examples are provided below. This is *not* an exhaustive list. During induction they will be explained to new students.

### 2 Investigations

Investigations of suspected academic misconduct may take place in three stages which may vary depending on the student[s] involved. The three stages of dealing with suspected academic misconduct are outlined below:

1.	In the <b>first</b> event of suspected academic misconduct the student is informed in writing that their work is not fit for purpose and is returned. The student is allowed a resubmission attempt. Tutor support is made available to coach the student in assignment-writing skills.
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2.	In the <b>second</b> event of suspected academic misconduct (in the student[s] second term), the student is informed in writing that their work is not fit for purpose and is returned. The student is allowed a resubmission attempt. The student must also attend mandatory training sessions with the appointed tutor for assignment-writing support.
3.	In the <b>third</b> event of suspected academic misconduct (in the student[s] third term), the student is informed in writing that the situation may be escalated to a panel for a formal investigation to be held. The panel may use the penalty structure to make their judgement in section 3, 4 and 6 of this procedure.

### 3 Types of academic misconduct in time-constrained examinations

The normal penalties for each offence are set out in the right hand column in the table below.

	Offence	Penalty
1	A reprimand will be issued in cases where the Panel substantiates academic misconduct and the seriousness of the mitigating factors justifies a reduction in the penalty from penalty level 2	1
2	Removing any script, paper, or other official stationery (whether completed or not) from the examination room, unless specifically authorised by an invigilator or examiner.	1
3	Introduction or use of devices of any kind other than those specifically permitted in the rubric of the paper.	2
4	Communicating with another student or with any third party other than the invigilator/examiner during an examination	2
5	Possession/or limited use of crib sheets, revision notes etc. at any time during an examination or test.	2
6	Having obtained special examination arrangements by making false declarations.	2
7	During an examination or test, copying or attempting to copy the work of another student, whether by overlooking his or her work, asking him or her for information, or by any other means.	2
8	Possession and extensive use of crib sheets, revision notes etc. at any time during an examination or test.	3
9	Obtaining access to an unseen examination or test prior to the start of an examination/test.	3
10	Attempting to persuade another member of the Academy (student, staff or invigilator) to participate in actions which would breach these rules	4
11	Taking into an examination a pre-written examination script for submission and exchanging it for a blank examination script.	4

12	Being party to any arrangement whereby a person other than the candidate represents, or intends to represent, the candidate in an examination or test.	4
13	Where students have previously committed an offence where penalty 2 or 3 is awarded, students shall receive penalty 4 for any subsequent allegations that would merit a penalty 2 or 3	4
14	A penalty of exclusion shall be applied where a student has previously received a penalty 4 under these Regulations or where a second allegation is upheld within one semester that each individually equate to penalty 4.	5
15	Being party to any other arrangement that would constitute a breach of these rules	See *note
<i>*Note: The penalty will correspond to the nature of the offence and will be in accordance with penalties outlined for each of the above</i>		

#### 4 Types of academic misconduct in coursework

	Offence	Penalty
1	A reprimand will be issued where the Panel substantiates academic misconduct and the seriousness of the mitigating factors justifies a reduction in the penalty from penalty level 2 to penalty 1.	1
2	Making available work that can be passed off or presented as the work of another student	2
3	Having obtained special consideration for the submission of coursework by making false declarations.	2
4	Isolated use of quotes or close paraphrasing without the use of quotation marks/grades and referencing.	2
5	Representation of work produced in collaboration with another person or persons as the work of a single student.	3
6	The presentation of data in laboratory work, projects etc. based on work purporting to have been carried out by the student but which has been invented, altered or falsified.	3
7	Prevalent use of quotes or close paraphrasing amounting to at least 20% of the total word count, without the use of quotation marks/grades and referencing.	3

8	Commissioning another person to complete work, which is then submitted as a student's own work. This could include the use of professional essay writing services or essay banks.	4
9	Stealing another student's work and submitting it as the student's own work.	4
10	Attempting to persuade another member of the Academy (student or staff) to participate in actions which would breach these Regulations.	4
11	Where students have previously committed an offence where penalty 2 or 3 is awarded, students shall receive penalty 4 for any subsequent allegations that would merit a penalty 2 or 3.	4
12	A penalty of exclusion shall be applied where a student has previously received a penalty 4.	5
13	Being party to any other arrangement that would constitute a breach of these Regulations.	See *note.

*\*Note: The penalty will correspond to the nature of the offence and will be in accordance with penalties outlined for each of the above.*

## 5 Academic judgment

Identifying suspected academic misconduct and making decisions on disciplinary cases often involves academic judgment.

Questions involving academic judgment:

- Is the standard of work so out of line with the student's other work that it suggests cheating?
- Are ideas copied from someone else's work?
- Is any plagiarism major or minor?
- Do the student's notes support the case that the work is theirs?

## 6 Standard list of penalties

**Penalty 1:** Reprimand, a formally recorded warning kept on the student's record with Academic Head's discretion.

**Penalty 2:** Failure in item of assessed work, with right to resit. The assessed work may be recorded as 'graded as Unclassified'.

**Penalty 3:** Failure in the unit[s], without right to resit. The student may have to register for the same or an alternative unit[s].



**Penalty 4:** Failure in the unit[s], without right to resit (the student may have to register for the same or an alternative unit[s]) and a possible suspension for 2 semesters commencing at the start of the next full semester depending on the nature of their misconduct.

**Penalty 5:** Exclusion.

A signed copy of a note confirming understanding of the procedure must be given to the student and another copy kept in the student's file.