

Plagiarism, Academic Malpractice and the University regulations

I want to remind you about the issue of plagiarism, academic malpractice and cheating in exams and the University regulations regarding this. It is very important that you are familiar with these policies.

All students in the School of Social Sciences are required to complete an Academic Malpractice Awareness course. This is an online course which you can access via Blackboard (under My Communities).

Your lecturers will discuss plagiarism and academic malpractice with you. If you are unclear about any aspect of it you must speak to your lecturer in advance of submitting your work. Our academic members of staff are happy to give additional support and guidance so please do not hesitate in contacting us.

Plagiarism is a very serious offence and will always result in imposition of a penalty. The penalties that can be imposed range from a minimum of a zero mark for the work (with or without allowing resubmission) through to downgrading of degree class, the award of a lesser qualification (e.g. a ordinary degree rather than honours) to disciplinary measures such as suspension or expulsion.

If you wish to speak to your lecturer and for any reason you cannot contact him/her you should speak to your Programme Director, Academic Advisor, Discipline Area Director or your Programme Administrator.



What is Academic Malpractice?

Academic malpractice is any activity – intentional or otherwise – that is likely to undermine the integrity essential to scholarship or research. It includes plagiarism, collusion, fabrication or falsification of results, and anything else that could result in unearned or undeserved credit for those committing it. Academic malpractice can result from a deliberate act of cheating or may be committed unintentionally. Whether intended or not, all incidents of academic malpractice will be treated seriously by the University.

Plagiarism is presenting the ideas, work or words of other people without proper, clear and unambiguous acknowledgement. It also includes ‘self plagiarism’ (which occurs where, for example, you submit work that you have presented for assessment on a previous occasion); the submission of material from ‘essay banks’ (even if the authors of such material appear to be giving you permission to use it in this way); accessing the services of external sites that offer, usually for a fee, a Turnitin similarity report. Obviously, the most blatant example of plagiarism would be to copy another person’s or student’s work.

Let me take this opportunity to wish you well in your studies in Semester 2.

Mario Pezzino

Teaching and Learning Director

School of Social Sciences