

Academic Offences

This document refers to: Nexus ICA's regulations and procedures relating to academic offences including, but not limited to, cheating and plagiarism.

1. Academic Offences

1.1 Allegations of any of the following shall be dealt with according to the Academic Offences Regulations:

Offences relating to an invigilated examination, coursework and plagiarism:

- i. unauthorised access to an examination paper before an examination;
- ii. forgery of an examination timetable produced by Nexus ICA;
- iii. removal of a question paper, answer script or other examination stationery from an examination venue or any other Nexus ICA premises;
- iv. causing a disturbance during an examination, either physically, verbally, or through an electronic device;
- v. refusal to cooperate with an invigilator, or to follow an invigilator's instructions;
- vi. possession of unauthorised materials whilst under examination conditions, or leaving unauthorised material in an examination venue (including toilets);
- vii. access, possession or use of unauthorised material on a computer, mobile telephone, or other electronic device during an examination;
- viii. communicating with another candidate while under examination conditions;
- ix. copying, or attempting to copy, the work of another candidate;
- x. having writing on the body in an examination venue;
- xi. the fraudulent reporting of source material;
- xii. the fraudulent reporting of experimental results, research, or other investigative work;
- xiii. collusion in the preparation or production of submitted work, unless such joint or group work is explicitly permitted;
- xiv. use, or attempted use, of ghost writing services for any part of an assessment;
- xv. submission of work, or sections of work, for assessment in more than one module or assignment (including work previously submitted for assessment at another institution);
- xvi. impersonation of another student in an examination or assessment, or the employment of an impersonator in an examination or assessment;
- xvii. plagiarism.

1.2 Nexus ICA defines plagiarism as the practice of taking someone else's work and/or ideas and passing it/them off as your own. It is, moreover, the action of presenting someone else's work as one's own irrespective of intention. Close paraphrasing, without adequate attribution; copying

from the work of another person, including another student; using the ideas of another person without proper acknowledgement all constitute examples of plagiarism. In addition, the action of re-using work, whether in part or in whole that you have previously submitted for graded assessment – at Nexus ICA or at another institution - without properly referencing yourself (known as 'self-plagiarism') shall also constitute plagiarism.

1.3 Invigilators, assessors or internal examiners who suspect a student of breaching the regulations shall immediately inform the Module Leader or their nominee, who shall be responsible for investigating the allegation.

1.4 A student accused of committing an academic offence in an invigilated examination or submitted piece of written work shall be invited to attend an interview with Module Leader or their nominee, and shall be given copies of all evidence submitted in support of the allegation.

1.5 A student shall be considered to have admitted to an offence if they fail to attend this interview, or to contact the Module Leader or their nominee to make alternative arrangements within five working days of notification of the allegation.

1.6 Where the Module Leader concludes that there is no case to answer, s/he shall report this to the Chair of the appropriate Examination Board and notify the student that the matter is closed.

1.7 Where an investigation reveals evidence of a potential assessment offence, the Module Leader shall refer the matter to the Course Leader, and notify the student to this effect.

1.8 Where a member of staff suspects that an academic offence has been committed, the case shall be dealt with in three stages:

- i. Stage I: Informal
- ii. Stage II: Formal (Minor Offence) Where the case is dealt by the Module Leader and is classified as a minor offence.
- iii. Stage III: Formal (Major Offence) Where the case is referred to the Course Leader for further investigation by the Academic Offences Panel and/or may be classified as a major offence.

1.9 The internal examiner or assessor shall immediately notify the Module Leader or nominee responsible for the module or course.

2. Stage I: Informal

2.1 Where the Module Leader or the nominee concludes that it is poor academic practice they shall advise the student to obtain further support and guidance in good practice for referencing skills. A letter should be retained on their file to this effect. This process can be used at Level 4 only. Such cases will normally be concluded within 10 working days of the receipt of the case and be dealt with internally by the Nexus ICA.

3. Stage II: Formal (minor offence)

3.1 Where the Module Leader or their nominee invites the student for an interview and determines that a student attempted to acknowledge their sources fully and/or comply with the regulations for assessment, but a minor oversight or error has given cause for concern, this shall be deemed a minor offence. A minor offence is when the student has committed plagiarism (as defined above) inadvertently and could potentially benefit from further academic advice and referral for support.

3.2 As part of an interview, if the case warrants it, a student may be tested on subject knowledge by a viva voce examination. In such cases, the viva shall be conducted by a member of academic

staff with knowledge of the subject being investigated and shall submit a report on the viva to the Module Leader or their nominee for consideration.

3.3 Where an interview with the student reveals that it is a minor offence, the Module Leader or their nominee may decide one or more of the following actions:

- i. a formal reprimand, which will be retained on student file for a period of 12 months and a requirement for the student to resubmit a corrected version of the element of assessment by a specified deadline with the maximum mark uncapped;
- ii. a formal reprimand, which will be retained on student file for a period of 12 months and a requirement for the student to resubmit the relevant element of assessment by a specified deadline, with the maximum mark limited to the minimum pass mark.

3.4 Where the penalty involves resubmission of an element of assessment, this shall take place during the current academic year and/or by the deadline set by the Module Leader. Where a student does not resubmit, a mark of 0 shall be given for the element of assessment.

3.5 All cases referred to the Module Leader or their nominee will normally be concluded within 20 working days of the receipt of the case.

3.6 All offences and outcomes must be recorded in the student records.

4. Stage III: Formal (major offence)

4.1 Where the Module Leader or their nominee determines that there is evidence of an academic offence that cannot be dealt with under Stage II, the Module Leader shall notify the Course Leader, who shall be responsible for investigating the case.

4.2 A student accused of committing an academic offence in an element of assessment, or of a second or subsequent offence, shall be invited to attend an interview with the Course Leader or their nominee and shall be given copies of all evidence submitted in support of the allegation.

4.3 An Academic Offences Panel shall be convened with responsibility for determining whether assessment offences have been committed and determining penalties.

4.4 The Academic Offences Panel shall comprise:

- i. a Chair, appointed by the authority of the trustees from among the academic staff to hold office for a term of one academic year. If for any reason the Chair is unable to act, the trustees shall appoint an Acting Chair;
- ii. a member of the academic staff from the same module to that of the student;
- iii. a member of the academic staff from another module to that of the student;
- iv. one student member, normally the student representative group.

4.5 The quorum of the Panel shall be 75 per cent (three members).

4.6 The Chair of the Panel shall have authority to act on behalf of the Panel in cases where a student admits or does not deny an offence.

4.7 The Chair of the Academic Offences Panel may, at any point, decide to call a full meeting of the Panel for investigation.

4.8 The Course Leader shall nominate a member of staff as Secretary to the Panel.

4.9 The Secretary is responsible for advising the Panel on the Regulations. In the event of the Panel being divided over a decision to be taken, the Chair shall have a second and casting vote to determine the decision.

4.10 As part of an investigation, a student may be tested on subject knowledge by a viva voce examination. In such cases, the viva shall be conducted by a member of academic staff, with knowledge of the subject being investigated, who shall submit a report on the viva to the Academic Offences panel for consideration.

4.11 A student shall be considered to have admitted to an offence if they fail to attend this interview, or to contact the Course Leader or their nominee to make alternate arrangements within five working days of notification of the allegation.

4.12 On completion of the investigation, the Course Leader or their nominee shall refer the matter to the Chair of the Academic Offences Panel and notify the student as to the outcome of the case.

4.13 All cases referred to the Course Leader or their nominee will normally be concluded within 20 working days of the receipt of the case.

4.14 If it is determined that a major offence has been committed, the Panel shall impose one or more of the following penalties, with the exception of students on courses with additional requirements placed by professional, statutory and regulatory bodies:

- i. a formal reprimand, which will be retained on student file for a period of 12 months;
- ii. failure (a mark of 0) in the element of assessment in which the offence occurred, with the maximum mark of the resubmission limited to the minimum pass mark, irrespective of the regulations for that course of study;
- iii. failure (a mark of 0) in the module of which the assessment forms a part, with the maximum mark on any resit or retake of the module limited to the minimum pass mark, irrespective of the regulations for that course of study;
- iv. failure (a mark of 0) in the module which the assessment forms a part, with no permission to resit or retake the module;
- v. failure (with mark of 0) of the whole diet of modules taken during the academic year in which the offence occurred, but with no limit on the mark that may be awarded on a resit, irrespective of the regulations for that course of study;
- vi. failure (with mark of 0) of the whole diet of modules taken during the academic year in which the offence occurred, with the maximum mark on any resits of assessments or retakes of modules limited to the minimum pass mark.

4.15 Where a penalty involves failure in a module but the student is not prohibited from resitting assessments or retaking the module, any reattempt/retake shall be in the subsequent academic year.

4.16 Where a penalty involves the reworking or resubmission of an element of assessment, this shall take place during the current academic year. If the student does not resubmit, a mark of 0 shall be given for the element of assessment.

4.17 The Appeal Regulations provide a single process for students who wish to appeal against outcomes arising from the investigation of academic offences.

4.18 The outcome of all cases shall be communicated to the student in writing (pdf document only).