



ACADEMIC INTEGRITY PROCEDURE

Governing Policy

Academic Integrity Policy

Purpose

This procedure outlines responsibilities and guidelines for identifying and managing academic integrity breaches and consequences of academic misconduct breaches.

Definitions

Unless otherwise defined in this document, all capitalised terms are defined in the [glossary](#).

Procedure

The values that underpin the AIB policy on academic integrity are honesty and responsibility on the part of students, staff and contractors. Any breaches of the requirements of academic integrity by students or staff are deemed as academic misconduct and this includes Plagiarism, Collusion, Contract Cheating, Fabrication, Falsification, Double Submission of work and Misconduct in Examinations. This list is not exhaustive as there may be other forms of dishonest or irresponsible conduct which may be deemed as academic misconduct by AIB. Depending on the circumstances and the nature of the academic misconduct, consequences including penalties may be expected to follow.

1. Responsibilities

1.1. AIB is responsible for:

- (a) providing information about this policy via its website to all students and staff, external supervisors, including those staff employed by Teaching Centres;
- (b) providing access to resources that explain academic integrity;
- (c) ensuring the materials provided to students advise them of the assessment methods, clearly identifying when an assessment is a collaborative assessment (since the standard assignment and project are an individual assessment) and explaining what level of collaboration is appropriate for work that is a collaborative assessment;
- (d) ensuring consistent and equitable application of this policy;
- (e) ensuring timely investigation of allegations of academic misconduct;
- (f) providing access to an appeal process.

1.2. Academic Staff, including contractors and external higher degree research supervisors, are responsible for:

- (a) being familiar with the AIB policies and procedures in relation to academic integrity;
- (b) appropriately acknowledging the work of others in their teaching and research;
- (c) providing students with appropriate guidance and feedback on academic integrity;
- (d) designing assessment tasks that minimise the potential for academic misconduct.

1.3. The Academic Dean (or nominee) is responsible for:

- (a) ensuring that staff understand their responsibilities under this policy;
- (b) taking steps to ensure that the policy is implemented.

1.4. Students are responsible for:

- (a) familiarising themselves with this policy and complying with it;
- (b) seeking additional assistance if in doubt about any aspect of what is required.

2. Procedures for Academic Misconduct by Students

2.1. Allegation of plagiarism, collusion, falsification, fabrication, contract cheating and double submission with respect to coursework subjects or misconduct during examinations

- (a) For the purposes of this section 3.1, AIB identifies three levels of academic misconduct as follows:
 - (i) Minor Academic Misconduct – this refers to any instance of academic misconduct which the Academic Dean (or academic nominee) deems to be a minor breach of this Academic Integrity Policy (or any such academic misconduct rules). Examples may include (but are not limited to) minor Plagiarism, minor Misconduct in Examination or a first instance of academic integrity breach;
 - (ii) Moderate Academic Misconduct – this refers to any instance of academic misconduct which the Academic Dean (or academic nominee) deems to be a moderate breach of this Academic Integrity Policy (or any such academic misconduct rules). Examples may include (but are not limited to) moderate Plagiarism or Collusion, or the second breach of academic integrity;
 - (iii) Major Academic Misconduct – this refers to any instance of academic misconduct which the Academic Dean (or academic nominee) deems to be a major breach of this Academic Integrity Policy (or any such academic misconduct rules). Examples may include (but are not limited to) the following:
 - third breach of academic integrity;
 - major Plagiarism;
 - any serious cases of Collusion, Double Submission, Fabrication or Falsification; or
 - any serious cases of Misconduct in Examinations.
- (b) When an academic, examiner or facilitator believes that a student may be involved in a case of academic misconduct (“Case”), they must collate any evidence and recommend the alleged level of academic misconduct or Plagiarism.
- (c) Also, where an invigilator believes that a student is involved in a case of academic Misconduct in an Examination (“Case”), the invigilator shall provide the AIB with a written incident report and, where possible, evidence of the issue (for example, a photo of notes not permitted in exam).
- (d) The Academic Dean (or academic nominee) will determine whether the Case amounts to academic misconduct. If it does amount to academic misconduct, the Academic Dean (or nominee) shall determine the appropriate level of the academic misconduct (taking into account relevant factors including, but not limited to, the exact nature of the alleged Plagiarism or Collusion, the extent of a student’s academic experience, the student’s previous record of academic misconduct) and action to take.

- (e) The Academic Dean (or academic nominee) will determine in their absolute discretion the appropriate penalty to be applied, according to the categories below:
 - (i) If the Case is deemed to be Minor Academic Misconduct, the student may be issued with a warning and/or some marks may be deducted for the assessment (or relevant part or question within the assessment).
 - (ii) If the Case is deemed to be Moderate Academic Misconduct, marks may be deducted for the assessment (or relevant part or question within the assessment) and/or a mark of zero may be awarded for the assessment (or relevant part or question within the assessment).
 - (iii) If the Case is deemed to be Major Academic Misconduct, a mark of zero may be awarded for the assessment (or relevant part or question within the assessment) and/or for the whole subject.
- (f) In cases of severe or ongoing breaches of academic integrity (of any type and any level), the Academic Dean can decide that the appropriate penalty is that the student be expelled.
- (g) In a case of recurring breaches of academic integrity the student will be warned that a further incident may result in the penalty of expulsion and when a further incident occurs the penalty may be applied.
- (h) In a case of a severe breach of academic integrity the penalty of expulsion may be applied without prior warning. In such a case the student will be informed of the likely penalty and be given the opportunity to 'show cause' before the final decision about the penalty is made.
- (i) If the Academic Dean makes the decision for the student to be expelled, then the fees for their enrolled subjects which have not yet commenced will be refunded and the student will not be permitted to continue with their course or later return to undertake the course. Also, Teaching and Learning Committee and Academic Board will be informed about expulsions as a consequence of academic integrity breaches.
- (j) In relation to all decisions made, the Academic Dean (or nominee) shall arrange for an appropriate note to be added to the Confidential Register, including details of the alleged misconduct, action taken and penalty applied.
- (k) Students who receive any warning or penalty for academic misconduct are encouraged to arrange for an academic support session with academics at their Teaching Centre or AIB, as appropriate. Students are entitled to appeal the allegation or the process in accordance with the Academic and Non-Academic Grievance Handling Policy and Procedure.

2.2. Academic misconduct such as Plagiarism, Collusion, Falsification, Contract Cheating, Fabrication and Double Submission with respect to research higher degree theses/dissertations

- (a) When a research supervisor believes that a student may be involved in academic misconduct, the research supervisor will in the first instance request that the Director of Research and Research Higher Degrees checks the Confidential Register to determine if the student has been previously reported for academic misconduct. The research supervisor will be advised of the search result. The matter may be escalated to the Academic Dean as required.

- (b) Where there is no record of academic misconduct by the student in the Confidential Register and the research supervisor believes that the academic misconduct has resulted from a misunderstanding of academic conventions or accepted research practices or from poor academic practice, the research supervisor will counsel the student about appropriate academic and research practices. A record of this incident and the fact that the student has been advised of appropriate academic and research practices will be made in the Confidential Register.
- (c) Where the research supervisor believes that there was academic misconduct, or where the information in the Confidential Register makes it appropriate to refer the matter further, the research supervisor will advise the Academic Dean, who will refer the matter and all evidence to the Chair of the Research and Higher Degrees Committee.
- (d) The Chair of the Research and Higher Degrees Committee will inform the student in writing of the allegation and seek to arrange a discussion of the matter by the most appropriate means (in person, by email or by teleconference).
- (e) The student may invite a staff or student member of AIB or Teaching Centre to be present at the meeting or take part in the discussion by email or teleconference. If the student fails to respond or refuses to attend the meeting or take part in the discussion, the Research and Higher Degrees Committee will proceed with its deliberations.
- (f) The Research and Higher Degrees Committee will determine
 - (i) that there is no academic misconduct, or
 - (ii) that there is academic misconduct, but that it is not in respect of a substantial component of the thesis, or
 - (iii) that there is academic misconduct, and that it is in respect of a substantial component of the thesis.
- (g) The Research and Higher Degrees Committee will select one of the following courses of action:
 - (i) that the student's candidature be permitted to continue unconditionally
 - (ii) that the student's candidature be permitted to continue subject to such conditions as the committee may impose
 - (iii) that the student's candidature be transferred to another appropriate degree (for example, a PhD student be transferred to a masters degree)
 - (iv) that the student's candidature be terminated, with a recommendation as to whether the student should be permitted to re-apply within a specified period of time.

A record of the nature of any breach and the action taken will be made in the Confidential Register.

- (h) The student will be provided with the decision and reasons for the decision. If appropriate, students are encouraged to arrange for an academic support session with academics at AIB. Students are entitled to appeal in accordance with the Academic and Non-Academic Grievance Handling Policy and Procedure.

2.3. Academic misconduct with respect to a thesis - allegations by examiners of research higher degree theses/dissertations

- (a) Where an examiner of a research higher degree thesis or dissertation has reported an alleged academic misconduct in relation to a thesis or dissertation, the Chair of the Research and Higher Degrees Committee will inform the student in writing of the allegation and provide the research supervisor, the Academic Dean and student with copies of the Examiner's Report(s). In this process the examiners' identities shall not be revealed to the student.
- (b) The Academic Dean will ensure that a check is made of the Confidential Register to determine if the student has been previously reported for academic misconduct.
- (c) The Research and Higher Degrees Committee will seek written comments from the student and the research supervisor on the Examiner's Report(s) and will contact the student to conduct an interview by the most appropriate means (in person, by email or by teleconference).
- (d) The student may invite a staff or student member of AIB or Teaching Centre to be present at the meeting or take part in the discussion by email or teleconference. If the student fails to respond or refuses to attend the meeting or take part in the discussion, the Research and Higher Degrees Committee will continue with its deliberations.
- (e) The Research and Higher Degrees Committee may seek clarification from the examiners regarding their comments in the Examiner's Report(s) and will determine, on the evidence available either:
 - (i) that there is no academic misconduct, or
 - (ii) that there is academic misconduct, but that it is not in respect of a substantial component of the thesis, or
 - (iii) that there is academic misconduct, and that it is in respect of a substantial component of the thesis.
- (f) If the Research and Higher Degrees Committee determines that there is academic misconduct but not in respect of a substantial component of the thesis, the Research and Higher Degrees Committee will require the student to undertake the amendments as stated in the Examiner's Report(s). A record of the nature of the breach and the action taken will be made in the Confidential Register.
- (g) If the Research and Higher Degrees Committee determines that there is academic misconduct in respect to a substantial component of the thesis:
 - (i) the examination of the thesis will not proceed,
 - (ii) the student's candidature will be terminated, and
 - (iii) the student will not be allowed to present for the degree again.

A record of the nature of the breach and the action taken will be made in the Confidential Register.
- (h) The student will be provided with the decision and reasons for the decision. If appropriate, students are encouraged to arrange an academic support session with academics at AIB. Students are entitled to appeal in accordance with the Academic and Non-Academic Grievance Handling Policy and Procedure.

The Director of the Research and Research Higher Degrees will advise the examiners of the outcome.

3. Recording of academic misconduct

- 3.1 When a record of all alleged and proven breaches of academic integrity is required, the Academic Dean (or nominee) shall arrange for an appropriate note (including details of the alleged misconduct, action taken and penalty applied) to be made in the Confidential Register.
- 3.2 Access to the records in the Confidential Register is restricted to the members of the Senior Academic Leadership Team and designated administrative staff.
- 3.3 Any record of academic misconduct (alleged or proven) will not be printed on student academic transcripts.
- 3.4 Students are entitled to have access to view a copy of any entries relating to their academic misconduct in the Confidential Register.

4. Procedures for Academic Misconduct by Staff or Consultants

Academic misconduct by staff (whether full-time, part-time or sessional), external supervisors or contractors is a serious transgression. Alleged academic misconduct is investigated by the Academic Dean (or nominee). Where misconduct is confirmed, the matter is forwarded to the Human Resource department. Confirmed and intentional academic misconduct is likely to lead to termination of employment at or contract with AIB.

Related Forms and Documents:

Confidential Register
Student Handbook
Staff Induction Manual

Responsibility:

Academic Dean

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