

Academic Integrity Policy for Faculty (ED-Pol-067)

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Department	Professional Affairs
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Related Documents	ED-Pol-062 – Teaching and Learning Policy ED-Pol-070 – Disciplinary Policy and Procedure for Faculty QA-Pol-097 – Programme, Monitoring and Review Policy ED-SOP-056 – Academic Integrity Procedure for Faculty

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish standards for the conduct of academic work, to include considerations for the detection and investigation of academic misconduct, and to agree appropriate sanctions.

This policy is based on principles of best practice and guidance provided by Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI).

2. Scope

This policy applies to all faculty in relation to RCPI education programmes.

3. Principles of Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the commitment to and demonstration of honest and moral behaviour in an academic setting.

The five core values we work towards are:

- Accuracy – making sure that your work is free from errors.
- Honesty – being truthful about which ideas are your own and which are derived from others, and about the methods and results of your research.
- Fairness – not trying to pass off others' work as your own.
- Responsibility – taking an active role in seeking out the information you need to teach effectively.
- Respect – for your fellow faculty and the work of other scholars.

(Adapted from International Center for Academic Integrity (2014))

RCPI approach to maintaining Academic Integrity

3.1 RCPI provides Faculty with guidance and information on how to demonstrate critical enquiry and evaluation skills and techniques and information on the meaning of academic integrity, plagiarism, and the consequence for breaches of good academic practice.

3.2 Faculty must:

- Ensure they participate in all programme work and follow guidance provided by the Programme Board
- Make themselves aware of the principles of this Policy
- Learn how to cite and reference properly

3.3 RCPI will monitor academic misconduct and other breaches of standards. This includes, but is not limited to, the use of text-matching software such as TurnItIn.

3.4 RCPI promotes good academic practice and communicates the consequences of not meeting the tenets of this policy.

3.5 In terms of academic misconduct, RCPI recognises that there is a distinction between a minor and gross misconduct as defined below:

Minor Academic Misconduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Plagiarism
- Self-Plagiarism
- Repeat instance of poor academic practice

Gross Academic Misconduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Repeat instances of academic misdemeanour
- Collusion
- Falsification of data

4. Investigation in the case of academic misconduct

4.1 All allegations of academic misconduct are reported to the Head of Professional Affairs.

4.2 RCPI investigates all allegations of a member of Faculty's academic misconduct using the academic misconduct procedure.

4.3 The investigation of alleged misconduct is fair and follows due process.

Faculty may be suspended from involvement with an education programme pending an investigation, and in all such cases, the investigation is processed as a priority.

4.4 Faculty is responsible for their own conduct and are assumed to be capable of making informed decisions about their behaviour.

4.5 Faculty accused of academic misconduct is entitled to know the detail of the accusation made against them and is given the opportunity to respond.

4.6 Where appropriate and feasible, RCPI will seek to resolve any breach of good academic practice without the requirement to invoke formal disciplinary proceedings.

4.7 Serious instances of academic misconduct are referred to Stage 2 of [Disciplinary Policy and Procedure \(ED-Pol-070\)](#).

5. Penalties in the instance of academic misconduct

Potential consequences for academic misconduct are determined on a case-by-case basis and can include Withholding of a professional reference.

5.1 RCPI may dismiss Faculty in serious situations involving:

- Health and safety breaches
- Breaches of academic policies

- Bringing the College or profession into disrepute

6. Reference Documents

ENQA (2015) Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG)

https://enga.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/ESG_2015.pdf

Quality Qualifications Ireland (2016) Core Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines

<https://www.qqi.ie/Downloads/Core%20Statutory%20Quality%20Assurance%20Guidelines.pdf>

Quality Qualifications Ireland (2017) Policies & Criteria for the Validation of Programmes of Education & Training

https://www.qqi.ie/Publications/Publications/Initial_Validation_policy_7_10_13.pdf

International Center for Academic Integrity (2014), The Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity 2nd ed

<https://academicintegrity.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Fundamental-Values-2014.pdf>

Turnitin text matching software

<https://www.turnitin.com/>