

Academic Integrity Policy for Learners (ED-Pol-063)

Document Title	Academic Integrity Policy for Learners
Document Number	ED-Pol-063
Version	1
Department	Education Development
Owner/Responsible for Implementation	Student Support Officer
Approving Body	Academic Board
Effective date:	February 2021
Next Review date:	February 2023
Related Documents	<p>ED-Pol-100 – Learner Code of Conduct</p> <p>ED-Pol-062 – Teaching and Learning Policy</p> <p>ED-Pol-066 – Disciplinary Policy and Procedure for Learners</p> <p>ED-Pol-064 – Academic Integrity Procedure for Learners</p> <p>QA-Pol-097 – Programme, Monitoring and Review Policy</p>

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 QQI.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all learners enrolled on 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 that underpin academic integrity 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 gain an advantage by unfair means: for instance, by passing off others' work as your own.
- Responsibility – taking an active role in your own learning: for instance, by seeking out the information you need to study effectively.
- Respect – for your fellow learners, faculty, and the work of other scholars.

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

4. RCPI approach to maintaining Academic Integrity

4.1 RCPI provides 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.

4.2 Learners must:

- Ensure they participate in all programme work and follow guidance provided by Faculty
- Make themselves aware of the principles of this Policy
- Learn how to cite and reference properly without replicating another individual's work

4.3 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.

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

4.5 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
- Cheating
- Collusion
- Falsification of data

5. Investigation in the case of academic misconduct

5.1 All allegations of academic misconduct are reported to the Programme Lead.

5.2 RCPI investigates all allegations of learner academic misconduct using the learner academic misconduct procedure.

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

5.4 A learner may be suspended from the education programme pending an investigation, and in all such cases, the investigation is processed as a priority. RCPI is not liable for any delay to programme completion as a result.

5.5 Learners are responsible for their own conduct and are assumed to be capable of making informed decisions about their behaviour.

5.6 A learner accused of academic misconduct is entitled to know the detail of the accusation made against them and is given the opportunity to respond.

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

Serious instances of academic misconduct are referred to Stage 2 of the [Disciplinary Policy and Procedure for Learners \(ED-Pol-066\)](#).

6. Penalties in the instance of academic misconduct

6.1 Potential consequences for academic misconduct are determined on a case-by-case basis and for learners can include:

- Automatic fail for an assessment task
- Repeat assessment task
- Automatic fail for the module
- Repeating the module
- Suspension from a programme
- Expulsion from a programme
- Withholding of a professional reference
- Annotation of an academic transcript

6.2 RCPI may expel a learner in serious situations involving:

- Health and safety breaches
- Breaches of academic policies
- Bringing the College or profession into disrepute

7. Reference Documents

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

https://enqa.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/>