

Department of Economics

Types of Academic Misconduct

Plagiarism	Presenting someone else's work or ideas as your own (this would also include the deliberate and detailed presentation of concepts generated via artificial intelligence or similar as one's own).
	<p>It is important for you to avoid the suspicion of plagiarism in your assessed work. It is not plagiarism to cite without attribution ideas and theories that have passed into the public domain. The more widely you read and research your coursework, the quicker and better you will know what is and is not in the public domain, and the more safely you will be able to determine what can go without a supporting reference. You should ensure that you complete the tutorial developed by the Library on Avoiding Plagiarism. You may also watch this brief video on plagiarism prepared by the Department.</p> <p>The best way is to ensure that you adhere to good practice, represented by the rules for references and citations. Usually this means that when you first take notes from a book or article you should be careful to preserve the details of author, title, date, and page numbers. Such precision is an important transferable skill in itself and shows that you are acquiring a professional approach.</p> <p>Students who lack confidence in writing sometimes prefer copying or quoting from the textbook to expressing ideas in their own words. Why should they use their own words when somebody else's words are better? Such students do not intend to cheat. They escape serious consequences by scattering quotation marks and references, sometimes, in large quantities. The marker is uneasy because it is not clear that the student has done more than a bit of intelligent cutting and pasting. For the marker, it is impossible to be sure that the student has an independent understanding of the topic. Such work may pass but will not get a good mark and may be highlighted as 'poor academic practice'.</p> <p>Copying or paraphrasing lecture notes or online sources, even with quotation marks and citations, is something we would especially discourage. When you copy from a published source at least you have the security of knowing that the work that you are copying has been scrutinised by referees (of academic journals) and reviewers (of books). Lecture notes are not subject to independent scrutiny and have no such guarantees of quality. Notes provided by lecturers, or eventually online sources, should be only a starting point of your research, not your finishing point. Again, work based on lecture notes and/or online sources will not get a good mark.</p> <p>We have also seen that students who have relied on AI to produce an assessment and have presented the work as their own, have generally been awarded low marks due to the lack of in-depth or relevant knowledge that AI is able to generate.</p> <p>Some other tips for avoiding plagiarism are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Identify which key sources you may need to read and reference in good time before you start your assessment.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Always be honest in your bibliography or literature review – it’s often the first-place markers look when they start reading your assignment. It will also help you identify gaps in your own preparation if you only include sources you have genuinely consulted. ▪ Read widely and consult scholars who disagree with each other on theories or ideas and decide where you stand on the topic in question; just be sure to demonstrate how the existing literature has informed your writing, even if you come to your own conclusions. ▪ Don’t be afraid to use your own words – you’ll learn more, find your own voice as a writer, and your work will be more interesting to read. Just make sure you reference each theory and concept as well as each quotation and be careful not to paraphrase or to stitch others’ ideas together as your own. ▪ Organise and structure your work in your own way, this will help you develop your thinking and research on the subject and avoid inadvertently replicating others’ lines of argument or discussion.
Self-Plagiarism	Submitting the same work that you have already submitted for another assessment, unless this is permitted.
	Plagiarism can also include self-plagiarism: repeating one’s own, earlier work, without acknowledgement. This will normally not be acceptable, even if acknowledged, for work which was submitted for academic credit at any institution.
Collusion	Working with one or more others on an assessment which is intended to be your own work.
	<p>Discussing your work with your colleagues can be a positive and fruitful learning experience. Often it is enhanced by showing your colleagues what you have done. However, there is no good reason for another student to ask to borrow a file on which your essay, project work, test, or exam scripts are recorded. If your work is copied by another student, and the copying is detected, you lay yourself open to accusations of abetting or colluding with their academic misconduct, or even of engaging in academic misconduct yourself. The same will occur if you do not use the material yourself but pass it on to a third person, because without your involvement the academic misconduct would not have been able to take place.</p> <p>Collaboration, or working cooperatively with other students, is an excellent way of acquiring knowledge. Teamwork enables you to cover material more quickly and more efficiently. Having to explain things to others clarifies them and fixes them in your mind and can be an important part of your learning experience. But collaboration can give rise to concerns. Sometimes students fear that collaboration may lead to accusations of plagiarism, in the sense of passing off others’ work as your own.</p> <p>We think there is a clear distinction between the cooperative acquisition of knowledge and the copying of another’s work and submitting it as your own. You may discuss an assignment with classmates, but you should always use your own words when working on an individually submitted piece of work. Your module tutor may supply you with further guidance. If you find yourself in a situation where cooperation with another student has become so close that you find yourselves working towards a joint result, discuss it with your tutor before submitting your work.</p> <p>Collaboration during University exams and tests, whether online or in-person, is strictly forbidden. You should not engage in any contact of any kind with third parties, including other students, while you are undertaking a University exam or test or even after you have finished it, but while the test or exam window is still open and hence other students may still be taking the test/exam. This includes, but is not limited to: telephone conversations, instant messaging, text messaging, group messaging, and email messages. Contacting others to discuss a University exam or test at the time you or they are undertaking that exam/test is a form of academic misconduct. You should also not share your previous exam/test scripts with other students or use exam/test scripts obtained from other students in your assessed or examined work.</p>

	In accordance with Reg 11 there is a 'prima facie' suspicion of collusion where text in an examination or test is similar or identical across students' work, and where those similarities cannot be explained by the nature of the question.
Contract Cheating	Where someone completes work (including code) for you, whether for remuneration or not, which is then submitted as your own (including use of essay mills or buying work online or presenting work generated via CHatGPT or similar as one's own).
	<p>Contract cheating is when you submit work for an assessment that has been procured through a third party. It is not necessary for payment (monetary or otherwise) to have been made. Contract cheating falls under 'plagiarism' as you are attempting to pass off the work of another as your own.</p> <p>Essay mills or online services may appear to be reputable and offering a professional service but their 'business' is targeting students at times when they might be most vulnerable or feel under the most pressure.</p> <p>We have seen instances where students have procured the services of an essay mill and have ended up being blackmailed by the 'company' under threat of being exposed to the University.</p>
Further types	
	Arranging for someone else to impersonate a student by undertaking their assessment or examination, in person or otherwise.
	Accessing, or attempting to access, unseen assessment materials in advance of an in-person or online examination, or to obtain or share unseen materials in advance of an in-person or online examination, or to facilitate such activities.
	Submitting fraudulent mitigating circumstances claims or falsifying evidence in support of mitigating circumstances claims (this may also be considered a non-academic disciplinary matter).
	Fabrication or falsification of research, including falsifying data, evidence, or experimental results.