



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine

Academic misconduct

Academic misconduct can be described as any type of cheating that occurs in relation to an academic exercise. It is any action, intentional or unintentional, that may result in creating an unfair academic advantage for you, or an unfair disadvantage for any other members of the academic community.

Acts of academic misconduct can include:

- Collusion - unauthorised and unattributed collaboration of students in assessed work
- Falsification - presenting fictitious or distorted data, evidence, references, citations etc
- Personation – to assume the identity of another person to deceive
- Plagiarism - submitting academic work which contains the words or ideas of others without the original source being properly attributed or acknowledged, intentionally or unintentionally

Plagiarism is the most common and best-known example of academic misconduct. Examples of plagiarism include:

- Word for word copying (verbatim) of someone else's work without acknowledgement
- Close paraphrasing of another's work by simply changing a few words or altering the order of presentation
- Unacknowledged quotation of phrases from another's work
- Deliberate and detailed presentation of another's concept as one's own

Plagiarism detection

The University of Edinburgh uses Turnitin's Originality Check to detect plagiarism. Turnitin matches text from student work against an extensive database of websites, academic reference materials, and previously submitted student papers. Turnitin produces an originality score and detailed originality report.

- [Advice for students](#)

However, Turnitin does not decide whether the similarities detected merit investigation as a case of plagiarism. Such a decision is an academic judgement that is carried out by the course organiser who determines whether an investigation is required.

Good conduct

Good conduct in academic integrity is expected of all students during their studies at the University of Edinburgh and should be carried out according to accepted conventions of good practice. This can take time to get right, however, there are many resources available to support you in this process, and it's worth remembering these few tips:

- Plan your work in advance
- Start writing early
- Give yourself enough time
- Do not cut and paste
- Only submit your own work
- Always acknowledge sources
- Ensure correct use of referencing style
- Leave time to edit your assignments