

National Academic Integrity Network (NAIN) Strategy 2025-2028



CONTENTS

Introduction	3
The role of NAIN	4
Mission	5
Vision	5
Values	5
Strategy Overview	8
GOAL ONE: Empower NAIN members to foster a culture of academic integrity.	9
GOAL TWO: Provide leadership and stewardship in the field of academic integrity in further and higher education.	13
GOAL THREE: Develop, collate and disseminate resources to assist stakeholders across the sector in upholding academic integrity.	16
GOAL FOUR: Develop and enhance the network by facilitating engagement and collaboration between NAIN members and relevant European and international agencies and experts.	17
Implementing the Strategy and Monitoring Progress	19
Acknowledgment	21
Glossary of Terms	22
References	23



01

Introduction



Introduction

The National Academic Integrity Network (NAIN), established in 2019 and supported by Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI), is widely recognised for its expertise in promoting academic integrity across the Irish education sector. Since its inception, NAIN has made a significant impact on further and higher education and training in the Republic of Ireland, notably through the publication of four key guidelines (NAIN, 2021a, 2021b, 2023a, 2023b). These guidelines have informed the academic integrity policies and procedures for further and higher education and training organisations across the island. NAIN continues to strengthen its sectoral engagement, with its membership expanding to include representatives from publicly regulated Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), private/independent HEIs, the Further Education and Training (FET) sector and other organisations in the tertiary education sector.

There is clear evidence that organisations are increasingly prioritising academic integrity, as demonstrated by the appointment of dedicated leadership and educational roles in higher education institutions. The creation of these roles was largely facilitated by the Strategic Alignment of Teaching and Learning Enhancement (SATLE) Funding in Higher Education, administered by the Higher Education Authority's (HEA) National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education and the National Technological University Transformation for Recovery and Resilience (N-TUTORR) programme, funded under Next Generation EU as part of Ireland's post-pandemic National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP). These role-holders make a vital contribution cultivating a culture of academic integrity and offer valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities within their organisations.

The FET sector has demonstrated a strong commitment to academic integrity by fostering a culture of honesty, responsibility, and ethical behaviour among learners and staff. Through continuous staff training, clear policies, and the use of plagiarism detection tools, the sector has actively worked to uphold high academic standards and ensure fair assessment practices.

Looking ahead, NAIN is committed to building on this momentum. By harnessing the collective expertise and energy of the network, we aim to further elevate the importance of academic integrity through an ambitious and comprehensive strategic plan. The NAIN Strategy 2025-2028 sets out refreshed strategic goals and objectives tailored to the evolving needs of the Irish further and higher education and training landscape. These priorities are informed by previous NAIN outputs, expert consultation, and engagement with both NAIN members and the steering committee. Our strategic vision is to position academic integrity as a cornerstone of educational excellence. We aim to see academic integrity embedded as a core, organisation-wide objective—valued and embraced by all members of the academic community.

The role of NAIN

1. Empower NAIN Members

Equip NAIN members with the tools, resources, and support needed to champion academic integrity and embed it meaningfully within their organisations, with support from senior management.

2. Foster Ownership of Academic Integrity within Further and Higher Education and Training Organisations

Encourage a strong sense of ownership and advocacy for NAIN's mission across all levels of further and higher education and training organisations.

3. Strengthen Stakeholder Relationships

Build and sustain collaborative relationships with stakeholders to promote shared progress and sector-wide alignment on academic integrity.

4. Enhance Visibility and Representation

Support NAIN members to actively represent the network at national and international events, raising the profile of academic integrity and facilitating knowledge exchange.

5. Develop and Disseminate Resources

Create, refine, and disseminate practical, high-quality resources that respond to stakeholder needs and reflect evolving and emergent challenges in academic integrity.

6. Advance Research and Scholarship

Promote and support targeted research that informs policy, enhances best practices, and ensures NAIN's work remains evidence-based and forward-looking.

7. Align with Policy and Regulation

Ensure NAIN's activities are aligned with national regulatory and policy frameworks, particularly those of QQI, to reinforce consistency and credibility.

8. Engage in Broader Initiatives

Actively contribute to national, European and international academic integrity initiatives, ensuring NAIN's work remains relevant and influential in a global context.

9. Promote Collaborative Innovation

Encourage sectoral collaboration on innovative projects and assessment practices that uphold integrity, fairness, and academic excellence

10. Lead Advocacy Efforts

Champion academic integrity through advocacy and awareness-raising, engaging stakeholders at all levels to foster a culture of honesty, responsibility, and ethical practice.

Mission

NAIN is a peer collaborative network providing leadership, guidance, support, and advice to all stakeholders in further and higher education and training in Ireland. We identify, promote, and sustain best practices by learners and educators and education and training organisations in addressing challenges to academic integrity.

Vision

We aspire to an education and training sector that has a deeply embedded culture of academic integrity that is apparent in all its teaching, learning, and assessment activities.

Values

Our central overarching value is integrity, as defined by a commitment to the International Center for Academic Integrity's six underpinning fundamental values of Honesty, Trust, Fairness, Respect, Responsibility, and Courage (ICAI, 2021). Our work will be driven by the following operational values:

- **Ethical:** We maintain the highest ethical standards in all we do.
- **Inclusive:** We embrace diversity of opinion and views from all stakeholders.
- **Committed** to learners and educators: We ensure that support for educators and learners is central to our work.
- **Collaborative:** We work with individuals, institutions, and organisations in pursuit of common goals.
- **Informed:** Our work is research-informed and cognisant of national and international best practice.
- **Open:** We are receptive to new ideas and approaches and are transparent in our practices.
- **Responsive:** We are responsive to the needs of stakeholders and emergent challenges.
- **Effective:** We are focused on engaging in activities that have significant impact on our mission.



Figure 1:
Overview of the ICAI values and NAIN values

The background is a dark blue gradient. There are three large, semi-transparent blue circles: one at the top center, one on the left side, and one at the bottom center. A solid blue horizontal bar is positioned behind the word 'Overview' in the title.

Strategy Overview



Strategy Overview

To ensure that NAIN continues to support stakeholders in an effective and sustainable manner, our strategic approach will encompass a multifaceted effort across four key goals:

01

Empower NAIN members to foster a culture of academic integrity.

02

Provide leadership and stewardship in the field of academic integrity in Further and Higher Education.

03

Develop, collate and disseminate resources to assist all stakeholders across the sector in upholding academic integrity.

04

Develop, and enhance the network by facilitating engagement and collaboration between NAIN members and relevant European and international agencies and experts.

01

GOAL ONE:

Empower NAIN members to foster a culture of academic integrity.

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NAIN members are recognised for their experience, knowledge and scholarship in the field.• Strong relationships with government, professional, regulatory and funding bodies.	
FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING ORGANISATIONS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wide cross-section of organisations represented in NAIN.• Increased awareness of the importance of academic integrity in further and higher education, particularly amongst senior leadership.• Robust guidance and high-quality resources available for further and higher education organisations.	
EDUCATORS AND LEARNERS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Educators and learners have access to resources that are of assistance to their practice.• Educators and learners are valued partners and co-producers of NAIN and institutional guidance and resources.	

Table 1:
Intended Impacts of Goal One for Educators and Learners, Further and Higher Education and Training Organisations, and National or International Impacts

OBJECTIVES	KEY ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
<p>1.1</p> <p>Actively promote best practice and standards of academic integrity.</p>	<p>Work with government departments, regulatory, professional, policy and funding agencies (e.g. Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, QQI, the HEA and SOLAS) to advocate for the importance of academic integrity in further and higher education and training.</p> <p>Raise awareness of guidance and policies from relevant agencies among NAIN members to enhance integration into organisations.</p> <p>Provide guidance for the effective implementation of academic integrity policies and academic misconduct procedures in further and higher education and training organisations.</p> <p>Integrate guidance and policies from national and international agencies and experts into guidelines published by NAIN.</p>	<p>Produce or collaborate on production of guidance and resources.</p> <p>Respond to queries relating to academic integrity from relevant agencies.</p> <p>Develop case study reports from NAIN members on adaptation and implementation of guidance and policies in organisations.</p> <p>Publication of guidance/case study reports on the NAIN website following consultation with NAIN members.</p> <p>Guidance produced by NAIN incorporates expert developed policy, guidelines or resources and high-quality literature.</p>

OBJECTIVES	KEY ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
<p>1.2</p> <p>Optimise and empower learner engagement to ensure that learners are represented within all NAIN activities.</p>	<p>Learners are represented in NAIN activities and events including plenary meetings and working groups.</p> <p>Learner representatives are co-creators in the development of NAIN guidelines, resources and academic integrity campaigns.</p> <p>Scope out approaches to optimising and empowering learner engagement.</p> <p>Highlight importance of involving NAIN learner representatives at organisational level.</p>	<p>Learner representative from a cross-section of further and higher education and training organisations included in NAIN.</p> <p>Learner representatives invited to attend and actively participate in NAIN plenary meetings.</p> <p>AMLÉ (Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn) representative appointed to NAIN Steering Committee and invited to submit agenda items.</p> <p>Learner representatives included in all relevant calls for information, engagement, collaboration and feedback and invited to participate in relevant NAIN projects.</p> <p>Establish NAIN working group focused on learner engagement activities.</p> <p>Publication of case studies of effective learner engagement activities and lived experiences relating to academic integrity from NAIN members.</p>

OBJECTIVES	KEY ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
<p>1.3</p> <p>Continually empower NAIN members to communicate, educate and promote engagement with the network's mission in their respective organisations.</p>	<p>Encourage members to plan and implement activities for academic integrity week in their individual organisations.</p> <p>Recognise the diverse needs of different types of organisations from across further and higher education and training.</p> <p>Enhance representation of different types of organisations within leadership structures of NAIN.</p> <p>Provide guidance on the diverse roles and responsibilities for those explicitly tasked with academic integrity at an organisational level.</p>	<p>Collate list of academic integrity week events in individual organisations.</p> <p>Increase membership of NAIN and ensure that diverse membership is represented in working groups.</p> <p>Invite organisations not currently represented in NAIN to nominate suitable individuals to join the network.</p> <p>Production and publication of guidance on types of academic integrity roles that might exist within organisations.</p>
<p>1.4</p> <p>Encourage and support members to represent NAIN and engage and participate in national, European and international events and networking opportunities.</p>	<p>Alert members to relevant national, European and international events.</p>	<p>Gather information from NAIN members on participation in events and opportunities (e.g. presentations at conferences, publication of non-peer reviewed and peer-reviewed outputs).</p>

02

GOAL TWO:

Provide leadership and stewardship in the field of academic integrity in further and higher education.

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased awareness of academic integrity amongst senior educational leaders and the general public.• Shared intelligence on threats to academic integrity with international counterparts.	
FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING ORGANISATIONS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Awareness of existing and emergent threats to academic integrity.• Information and guidance targeted at an organisational level to address academic integrity threats.	
EDUCATORS AND LEARNERS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information, supports and guidance on assessment design/redesign.	

Table 2:

Intended Impacts of Goal Two for Educators and Learners, Further and Higher Education and Training Organisations, and National or International Impacts

Objectives	Key Activities	Performance Indicators
2.1 Promote awareness and understanding of the role of NAIN and the importance of academic integrity to those within and external to further and higher education and training organisations.	<p>Enhance public awareness of academic integrity through social media and traditional media platforms.</p> <p>Influence senior leaders in further and higher education and training organisations to ensure that academic integrity is prioritised.</p>	<p>Seek opportunities to discuss and spotlight NAIN activities. This may be achieved through publication of articles in traditional media fora, social media and appearances on broadcast media.</p> <p>Engage those in senior leadership through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing relevant communications to senior leaderships including NAIN guidance, information on emergent threats to academic integrity and other relevant resources. • Provide opportunities to senior leaders to attend events organised or facilitated by NAIN including workshops, panel discussions, conferences etc.
2.2 Enhance awareness of the use of assessment methods that support academic integrity.	<p>Promote awareness of assessment design/redesign in upholding academic integrity.</p> <p>Working collaboratively with relevant agencies and bodies, provide practical supports to educators in the design/re-design of assessments that uphold academic integrity.</p>	<p>Signpost members to high-quality guidance and literature on assessment methods that mitigate against threats to academic integrity (e.g. unauthorised content generation).</p> <p>Development and publication of guidance on assessment design/redesign supporting learners at each level of further and higher education and training organisations.</p>
2.3 Identify and highlight emergent threats to academic integrity while maintaining ongoing vigilance of those already known (including but not limited to AI, contract cheating, and manipulation of (audio)visual media) and provide ongoing support and guidance on countering threats.	<p>Share knowledge and information, in a timely manner, on developments within the field with NAIN members and international counterparts, when relevant and appropriate. This may be achieved through engagement with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAIN members; • Relevant national, European and international bodies; • Experts in the field. 	<p>Dissemination of information on current and emergent threats to academic integrity to NAIN members when relevant and appropriate.</p>

03

GOAL THREE:

Develop, collate and disseminate resources to assist stakeholders across the sector in upholding academic integrity.

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open access educational resources signposted by NAIN.	
FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING ORGANISATIONS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enhanced knowledge and expertise of NAIN members.	
EDUCATORS AND LEARNERS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cascading of knowledge and expertise gained by NAIN representatives to educators and learners.	

Table 3:
Intended Impacts of Goal Three for Educators and Learners, Further and Higher Education and Training Organisations, and National or International Impacts

OBJECTIVES	KEY ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
3.1 Provide guidance, information and support that is of practical assistance to members. ¹	Identify and respond to needs for information or resources from NAIN that would be of practical support to members. Strengthen or establish new methods of providing information and supports to NAIN members.	Survey members to determine needs and consider any additional resources or supports that should be developed. Establishment of NAIN website to house guidelines and resources.
3.2 Facilitate exchange and sharing of resources developed by members of the network.	Encourage organisations to maintain a repository of academic integrity resources.	Signpost to organisational academic integrity repositories on NAIN website and through appropriate social media platforms.
3.3 Provide opportunities for NAIN members to convene and exchange perspectives and experiential knowledge.	Arrange formal meetings (online and in-person) which provide a forum to encourage dialogue between members. Encourage informal networks and communities of practice to enhance knowledge exchange, facilitate problem-solving and promote research collaborations.	Convene at least quarterly plenary meetings. In-person meetings to be hosted by home organisations of NAIN members. Agenda, minutes and any relevant materials shared with members after each event/ meeting collated. Reports at NAIN plenaries of knowledge-building or collaborations arising from these informal networks.
3.4 Provide professional development and training opportunities to NAIN members, both educators and learners, on academic integrity.	Facilitate masterclasses, webinars, workshops and events, and signpost to international events. Share insights and relevant information obtained from professional development and training opportunities with NAIN members.	Seek feedback on these events to determine if beneficial to NAIN members. and share materials and resources to NAIN member workplaces. Presentations, webinars and other developmental opportunities are disseminated to NAIN members where appropriate.

¹ For clarity Objective 1.1 focuses on policy and similar broad guidance and policies. Objective 3.1 focuses on practical supports and resources.

04

GOAL FOUR:

Develop and enhance the network by facilitating engagement and collaboration between NAIN members and relevant European and international agencies and experts.

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opportunities to engage in research collaborations nationally and internationally.	
FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING ORGANISATIONS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opportunities to apply for grants, bursaries, awards and other opportunities	

Table 4:

Intended Impacts of Goal Four for Educators and Learners, Further and Higher Education and Training Organisations, and National or International Impacts

OBJECTIVES	KEY ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
4.1 Advocate for and support development of collaborative projects between NAIN members.	Encourage research or scholarship projects between NAIN members, European and (inter)national agencies and experts. Encourage innovations in academic practice and the building of knowledge and expertise amongst NAIN members.	Collate list of outputs arising from research and academic collaborations e.g. projects or initiatives, educational events, conference presentations, peer-reviewed journal articles.
4.2 Engage with relevant national, European and international agencies/ networks to identify opportunities for collaboration.	Maintain and foster relationships by exchanging information and sharing expertise and approaches with relevant agencies/ networks.	Documented engagements with relevant agencies, e.g. European Network for Academic Integrity working groups, to address particular needs and concerns of the network, and to share of insights, trends, and expertise. Record of contributions to European and international publications, resources and events.
4.3 Champion excellence in the field by identifying and promoting relevant awards, bursaries, grants and other opportunities to NAIN members.	Identify relevant opportunities and encourage members to apply for relevant awards, bursaries, grants and other opportunities.	Highlight availability of these opportunities to NAIN members and/or relevant bodies when appropriate.

Implementing the Strategy and Monitoring Progress

The NAIN Steering Committee will oversee the strategy implementation process and will provide progress reports to NAIN members annually at the final NAIN plenary meeting of each calendar year. This progress report will be collated and presented by the Chair of the NAIN Steering Committee.

The structure and makeup of NAIN working groups will be reviewed and working groups will be reconstituted, as appropriate, to meet the strategic goals and objectives described in this document. Each working group will assume responsibility for different aspects of the NAIN strategy and develop a workplan to ensure that the goals and objectives described in this document are realised. The Chair of each working group will provide an update report on their respective workplans and progress at selected steering committee meetings.



Acknowledgment Glossary of Terms References



Acknowledgment

We wish to express our gratitude to the members of the Strategy Development Working Group for their invaluable contributions, their professional and collaborative approach and so generously giving of their time throughout the process.

The membership of the Working Group is as follows:

NAME	ORGANISATION
Billy Kelly	NAIN Chair (2019-June 2025)
Sarah Barron	Kilkenny Carlow Education and Training Board
Kathy Bradley	National Tertiary Office Southern Strategic Alliance- University College Cork, Munster Technological University, Cork and Kerry Education and Training Boards
Gavin Clinch	Atlantic Technological Universities
Siobhan Condrón	City of Dublin Education and Training Board
Laura Costelloe	Mary Immaculate College, Limerick
Catherine Fox	Louth and Meath Education and Training Board
Loretta Goff	University College Cork
Mary-Claire Kennedy	University of Limerick NAIN Chair (appointed June 2025)
Matthew Lynch	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, University of Medicine and Health Sciences
Gráinne Mooney	Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Bryan O'Mahony	Union of Students in Ireland/Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn
Fiona O'Riordan	CCT College Dublin
Manjunath Bangarapet Suresh	International College Dublin

Glossary of Terms

TERM	DESCRIPTION
Academic Integrity Week	Academic Integrity Week typically runs in October each year. Whilst NAIN take their lead from ICAI with regard to Academic Integrity Week and activities, NAIN also facilitate and collate additional activities.
Further education	‘Further education covers education and training which happens after second-level schooling, but which is not part of the higher education system. There are several further and adult education and training providers. A wide variety of schools, organisations and institutions are also involved in the delivery of continuing education and training for young school leavers and adults.’ (DFHERIS, 2021)
Higher Education	‘Higher education in Ireland is provided by universities, technological universities, institutes of technology and colleges of education. Also, several other third-level institutions provide specialist education, in fields such as art and design, medicine, business studies, rural development, theology, music and law’. (DFHERIS, 2021)
NAIN Membership	The network comprises a Chair, ex officio members from Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) and nominated members, including learners (e.g. student union representatives), from education providers, institutions, agencies and organisations which have an interest in further and higher education and training, and academic integrity.
NAIN Stakeholders	These include but are not limited to: All members of NAIN; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learners in further and higher education and training organisations; • All staff within member organisations who have a role in teaching, learning or assessment activities, including those whose role is not directly learner-facing; • Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science; • Higher Education Authority; • National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning; • SOLAS; • Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies; • Relevant national, European and international bodies and experts.
NAIN Working Groups	NAIN Working Groups are formed to develop and advance outputs or work called out in the NAIN Strategy.
Sectoral Collaboration	Sectoral collaboration Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), private/ independent HEIs, the Further Education and Training (FET) sectors.

References

DFHERIS. (2021). *Further and higher education*. Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science. Retrieved 02/10/2025 from <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-further-and-higher-education-research-innovation-and-science/policies/further-and-higher-education/>

ICAI. (2021). *International Centre for Academic Integrity. The Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity*. https://academicintegrity.org/images/pdfs/20019_ICAI-Fundamental-Values_R12.pdf

NAIN. (2021a). *Academic Integrity Guidelines*. Quality and Qualifications Ireland. <https://www.qqi.ie/sites/default/files/2021-11/academic-integrity-guidelines.pdf>

NAIN. (2021b). *National Principles and Lexicon of Common Terms*. Quality and Qualifications Ireland. <https://www.qqi.ie/sites/default/files/2021-11/academic-integrity-national-principles-and-lexicon-of-common-terms.pdf>

NAIN. (2023a). *Framework for Academic Misconduct Investigation and Case Management*. Quality and Qualifications Ireland. <https://www.qqi.ie/sites/default/files/2023-09/NAIN%20Framework%20for%20%20Academic%20Misconduct%20Investigation%20and%20Case%20Management%202023.pdf>

NAIN. (2023b). *Generative Artificial Intelligence: Guidelines for Educators*. Quality and Qualifications Ireland. <https://www.qqi.ie/sites/default/files/2023-09/NAIN%20Generative%20AI%20Guidelines%20for%20Educators%202023.pdf>



