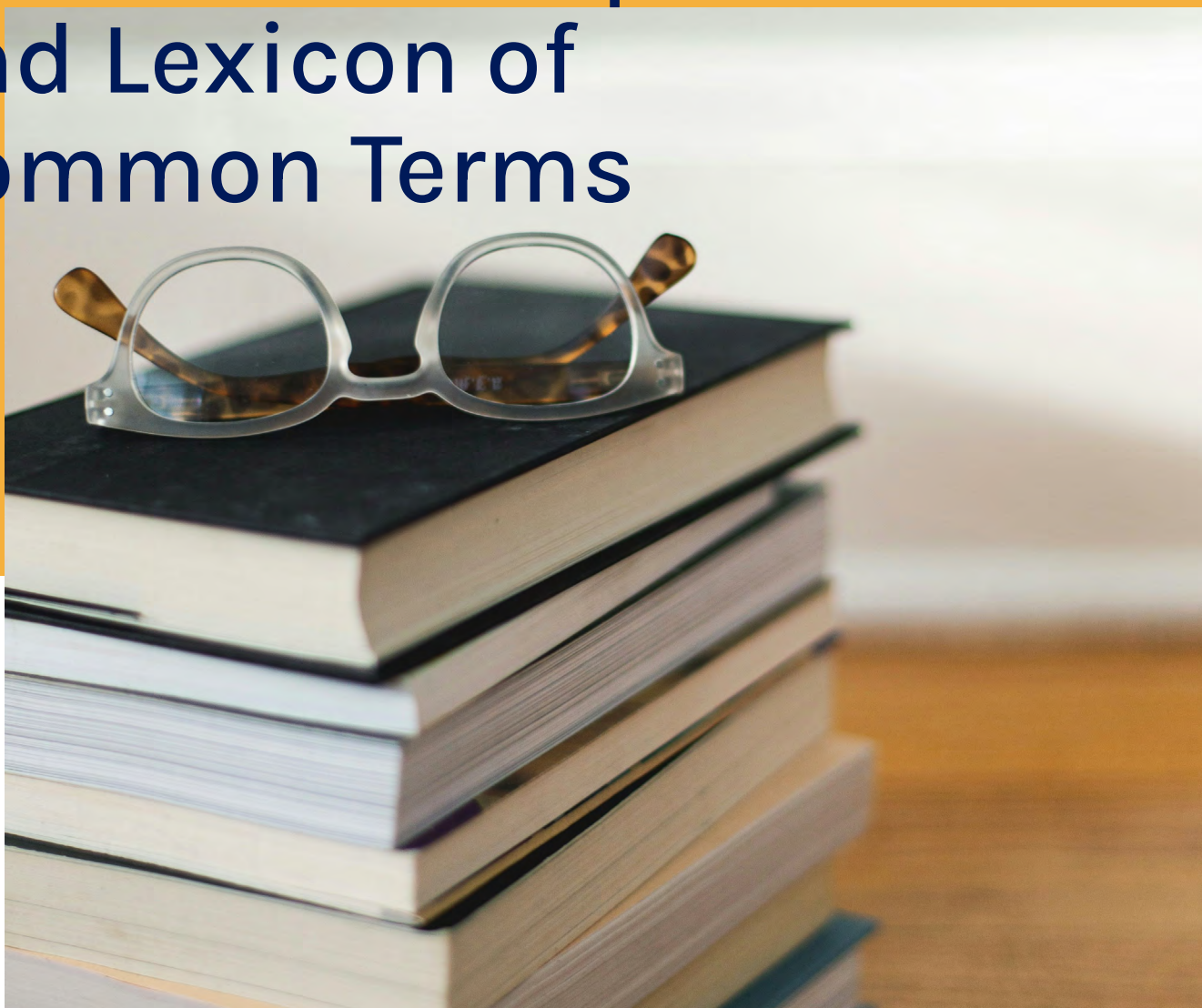


Academic Integrity:

National Principles and Lexicon of Common Terms



CONTENTS

1.	Introduction	3
2.	What is Academic Integrity?	4
3.	Principles Of Academic Integrity for the Enrolled Learner	6
4.	Principles for Education and training providers to Foster Academic Integrity	8
5.	National Academic Integrity Lexicon of Common Terms	11
	Appendix 1: National Academic Integrity Network	33

Preface

The National Academic Integrity Network (NAIN) aims to help Irish higher and further education and training providers develop a shared understanding and promote a culture of academic integrity through enhancement activities and by sharing good practice.

The Network is made up of academic, teaching and professional staff, learner representatives and representative agencies from across the tertiary education sector.

Established in November 2019, the Network is guided by a steering committee of staff, learner representatives and QQI staff. QQI coordinates and supports the Network's activities and working groups.

This document has been created and revised by NAIN working groups led by co-chairs, Dr Yvonne Kavanagh (SETU) and Aisling Reast (RCSI), sub-group chairs, Dr Perry Share (ATU), Dr Brendan Ryder (DkIT) and Kathy Bradley (Cork ETB) following extensive consultation with a wide range of stakeholders. Significant support was also provided by Gráinne Mooney in QQI.

The purpose of these Principles and Lexicon is to assist education and training providers in developing their approach to academic integrity, and to enable the use of consistent language when talking or writing about academic integrity in the context of Irish education and training. The Network appreciates the contributions and feedback from everyone involved in this process.

Academic Integrity: National Principles and Lexicon of Common Terms is a living guide regularly updated by the Network to reflect new trends, developments and user experience relating to academic integrity.

A hand holding a blue pen writing in a spiral notebook. The background is a solid blue color with a large white circle in the top left corner and a large white 'N' shape in the bottom right corner.

01

Introduction

1. Introduction

Until recently, Ireland, like many countries, has not had a common language to talk about academic integrity and associated academic misconduct. Language used in one education and training provider may not mean the same thing in another, making it more difficult to create a system-wide culture of academic integrity and to effectively prevent, detect and sanction academic misconduct.

To address this, the National Network for Academic Integrity Network (NAIN¹) has made it a priority to identify common principles of academic integrity and create a national vocabulary to describe it. Network members, representing public and private education and training providers in Ireland, as well as the national education and training regulator, [Quality and Qualifications Ireland \(QQI\)](#), developed and agreed these principles and terms.

They will guide education and training providers in using these terms locally, support national discussion and ensure that learners receive a consistent message about academic integrity no matter where they are enrolled.

¹ See Appendix

02

What is Academic Integrity?



2. What is Academic Integrity?

Academic integrity has been defined as:

‘the commitment to, and demonstration of, honest and moral behaviour in an academic setting’².

It assumes that a learner interacts honestly with their education and training provider. This includes any assessments or documentation they submit as part of their academic work. The learner is responsible for demonstrating their own academic integrity.

Academic integrity involves:

‘Compliance with ethical and professional principles, standards and practices and a consistent system of values, that serves as guidance for making decisions and taking actions in education, research and scholarship’³.

To protect the reputation of education and training providers and ensure that learners’ qualifications are respected and valued, it is crucial to maintain and uphold academic integrity.

2.1 What is academic misconduct

Academic misconduct includes any behaviour that goes against academic integrity and honesty. It is also known as academic malpractice, academic mispractice or academic impropriety.

Academic misconduct is any attempt by someone to gain an unfair advantage in their academic work or to help others to do so. It also includes profiting from sharing or selling your own work or sharing or selling others’ work without permission.

Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to:

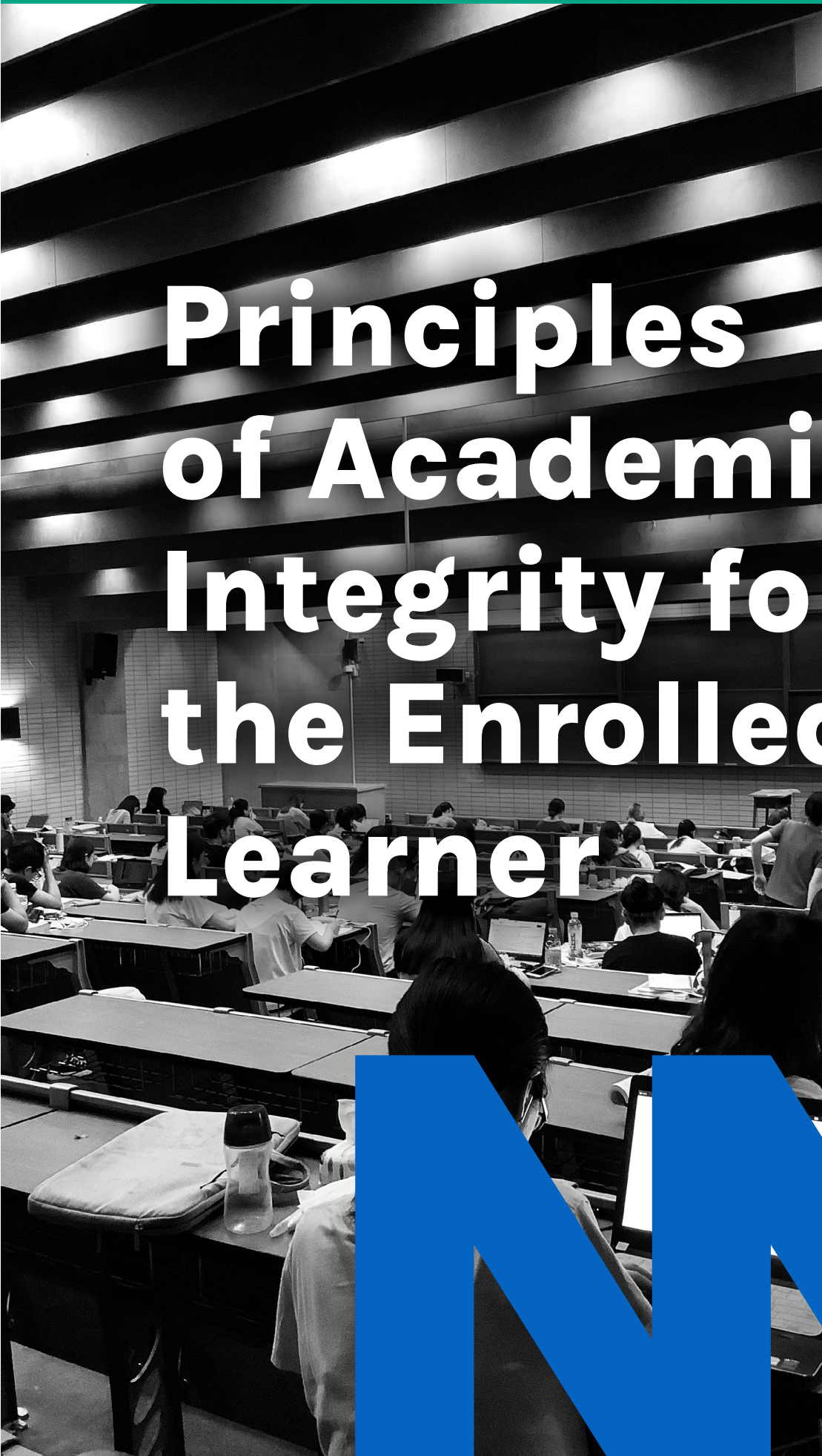
- plagiarism
- cheating in any way
- falsifying or fabricating information or data
- paying a person or a company to do your work (contract cheating)
- buying or selling essays
- impersonating someone in an exam
- sharing or selling module/programme materials without permission
- unauthorised use of artificial intelligence including generative artificial intelligence (GenAI)

2 [Writing Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Academic Integrity](#): [Accessed 18/11/2025]

3 [ENAI \(2018\) Glossary for Academic Integrity](#): [Accessed 18/11/2025]

03

Principles of Academic Integrity for the Enrolled Learner



3. Principles of Academic Integrity for the Enrolled Learner

Academic integrity is important in everything a learner does as part of their academic programme. This includes:

- activities that earn academic credit;
- all forms of learning including in the classroom, research, online, distance, practice and work-based learning; and
- all kinds of assessment and academic scholarship.

Academic integrity is built on honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility including the courage to uphold these values.⁴

The purpose of assessment at any point during a programme can be to support learning, check learner understanding and show that the learner has met specific learning goals.

Learners should:

- understand their responsibilities and the consequences of academic misconduct.
- make sure that all the work they submit for assessment properly credits any sources that aren't their own.

These can include (but are not limited to):

- text
 - graphics
 - tables
 - formulae
 - representation of ideas in print, electronic or other media
 - artefacts
 - computer software and algorithms.
- inform themselves on where and how to use artificial intelligence (genAI) tools appropriately to support their learning.

Education or training providers should:

- clearly communicate to the learner how academic integrity can be demonstrated.
- inform learners of their responsibilities and the sanctions for breaking these rules.
- provide regular opportunities for learners to ask questions and discuss academic integrity.
- encourage learners to engage with the guidance provided and seek clarification when they are unsure.

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a silver and blue pen, poised to write on a spiral-bound notebook. The notebook has some faint handwriting on it. In the background, a laptop is visible on a wooden desk. The entire image is overlaid with a purple gradient and a large, stylized, light purple letter 'N' at the bottom.

Principles for education and training providers to foster Academic Integrity

4. Principles for education and training providers to foster Academic Integrity

We have designed these academic integrity principles with two key stakeholders in mind: the education and training provider and the learner. Working together, we make sure that academic integrity is upheld and the value of our awards is assured.

From the education and training provider's side, academic integrity is supported and demonstrated through strong academic leadership. This leadership should ensure that they embed principles of academic integrity in teaching, learning and assessment policies and practices.

Where academic misconduct is suspected, the education and training provider must investigate fairly, following due process. Each education and training provider should clearly define the levels of academic misconduct and the corresponding sanctions, making sure to communicate these to both staff and learners.

Academic integrity is at the heart of an education and training provider's culture. It requires the involvement of academic, teaching and professional staff, as well as learners. Maintaining academic integrity is everyone's responsibility and benefits the entire tertiary education system.

These principles support education and training providers in integrating academic integrity in their academic policies, regulations and practices.

We have considered the principles of academic integrity from three key perspectives:

- the education and training provider as a whole;
- initiatives for the development of staff and learners; and
- the operational procedures of the education and training provider.

Education and training provider

- i. Academic integrity supports the core values of the education and training provider and must align with these values. This is reflected in how programmes and modules are designed and delivered, and in the clear expectation that learners uphold academic integrity in their work.
- ii. Everyone is responsible for maintaining academic integrity.
- iii. The education and training provider has procedures, policies and regulations in place to support academic integrity and to quickly address academic misconduct. These rules take into account the Policy Statement on Ensuring Research Integrity in Ireland⁵.
- iv. The oversight of Academic integrity is implemented fairly, with respect for learners' rights and proper procedures.
- v. The sanctions for academic misconduct are fair, appropriate and match the seriousness of the violation.

- vi. Sanctions for academic misconduct are based on clear definitions and guidance set out in the education and training provider's rules and policies.
- vii. The education and training provider is committed to building knowledge across the entire organisation and recognises that this involves academic leadership.

Developmental

- i. The education and training provider supports teaching and learning staff to know how to guide learners in following good academic integrity practices and provides formal opportunities for staff to discuss and learn more about academic integrity.
- ii. Learning assessments are created to help learners meet their learning goals. The institution provides support to help learners meet their programme requirements without resorting to academic misconduct.
- iii. The education and training provider helps learners to understand and follow good academic practices.
- iv. The academic community encourages, guides and mentors learners to act with academic integrity.

Operational

- i. The principles and practice of academic integrity are clearly defined and communicated to both staff and learners.
- ii. The education or training provider recognises the importance of building academic integrity leadership and awareness across the entire organisation.
- iii. The education and training provider manages cases of academic misconduct effectively and efficiently. This protects the reputation of academic programmes and the qualifications gained by learners.

04

The National Academic Integrity Lexicon of Common Terms



5. The National Academic Integrity Lexicon of Common Terms

A working group of the National Academic Integrity Network was formed to create a common language for academic integrity.

To do this, the group reviewed best practice from around the world. They chose the comprehensive European Network for Academic Integrity (ENAI) Glossary⁶ as a starting point. Where they observed national differences, these were included. They committed to update the lexicon regularly as the Network and other stakeholders suggest new terms and this version of the lexicon has been updated.

The lexicon was agreed through dialogue and consultation with various stakeholders.

6 [ENAI Glossary](#) [Accessed 23 April 2021]

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: NATIONAL LEXICON OF COMMON TERMS⁷

Terms & Synonyms	Definition	Behaviour & Examples	References
	The European Network of Academic Integrity (ENAI) Glossary unless otherwise referenced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This section is added to give a learner-friendly version. In addition, some other sources are added where the definition has been expanded. An education and training provider may personalise the definition provided here. Please note: Artificial Intelligence is a fast-moving field in which the tools and their capabilities are expected to evolve. Examples given in this document should not be taken as a recommendation of any tool mentioned. 	
Abettor Accomplice Accessor to cheating Accessor to plagiarism Accessory to cheating Accessory to plagiarism	In general, a person assisting someone to cheat or plagiarise	<p>A person helping someone to cheat or plagiarise.</p> <p>See also <i>Plagiarism</i></p>	ENAI Glossary Accessed 3 August 2025
Academic work	Any work undertaken by a learner enrolled on a programme for credit or award by an education and training provider.	All credit-bearing work submitted by an enrolled learner to an education and training provider to achieve an award.	
Academic Dishonesty Academic Impropriety Academic Misconduct Academic Cheating Academic Malpractice Academic Violation Academic Mispractice	Any action or attempted action that undermines academic integrity and may result in an unfair academic advantage or disadvantage for any member of the academic community or wider society.	<p>Any actions that violate academic integrity such as breaches of examination regulations, cheating, plagiarism, impersonation, buying examination material, data falsification, unauthorised content generation and other dishonest uses of information to gain academic credit.</p> <p>It also includes academic misconduct facilitated by artificial intelligence, including falsifying data or generating fake research results.</p>	ENAI Glossary Accessed 3 August 2025

Terms & Synonyms	Definition	Behaviour & Examples	References
Academic Ethics	<p>Values that are recognised and abided by in the academic community.</p> <p>This includes AI ethics defined as the study and practice of ensuring that artificial intelligence systems align with ethical values and academic integrity standards.</p>	<p>Acting with integrity and honesty by correctly using information to gain credit.</p> <p>Making choices about what is right or wrong in academic work.</p>	<p>Adapted from ENAI Glossary</p> <p>Accessed 3 August 2025</p>
Academic Fraud	<p>Actions that are intended to deceive for unfair advantage by violating academic regulations.</p>	<p>Deliberate deceit to gain unfair advantage or academic credit.</p>	<p>ENAI Glossary</p> <p>Accessed 3 August 2025</p>
Academic Integrity	<p>Compliance with ethical and professional principles, standards, practices and a consistent system of values, that guide decision-making and actions in education, research and academic work.</p>	<p>Acting ethically and with honesty when engaging with an academic programme.</p>	<p>Modified from ENAI glossary</p> <p>‘Values’ refers to the ICAI Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity</p> <p>Accessed 3 August 2025</p>
<p>Advertising Cheating Services</p> <p>Essay Mills</p> <p>Provision of Cheating Services</p>	<p>Advertising the supply of assignments for learners where this has not been authorised by the education and training provider.</p>	<p>Advertising services to complete assignments (fully or partially) for an enrolled learner, or sitting an exam, or have someone sit an exam, in place of an enrolled learner, without the education and training provider’s approval. Advertising essays or assignment help including online, via social media on any other form of publication.</p>	<p>See Prosecution of contract cheating. QQI</p> <p>Accessed 3 August 2025</p>

Terms & Synonyms	Definition	Behaviour & Examples	References
Artificial intelligence (AI)	<p>Technology that allows computer systems to imitate human learning, comprehension, problem solving, decision making, creativity and autonomy. This technology assists and augments human effort and therefore should support rather than replace learning.</p> <p>It should also be noted that all AI generated material must always be fact checked.</p> <p>Where other definitions do not refer to artificial intelligence, it is assumed that these cover all AI-generated material.</p> <p>AI-assisted writing The use of AI-powered tools to generate, enhance or refine written content for academic purposes. This includes AI generated text, which is written content produced by generative AI systems, such as large language models, in response to user prompts.</p> <p>AI-generated misinformation False or misleading content produced by AI systems that appear factually accurate.</p>	<p>Use of an AI writing assistant (such as ChatGPT or Claude) to generate an essay draft, that a learner submits without proper acknowledgment.</p> <p>AI-generated fabricated statistics.</p> <p>Permitted use of AI tools to generate visual or other content with proper acknowledgement.</p>	<p>NAIN Generative AI Guidelines for Educators (2023)</p> <p>Harvard Metalab AI Code of Conduct</p> <p>Irish Colleges of Humanities and Applied Sciences case studies</p> <p>ETBI Glossary on AI in Education</p>
Alteration of university documents	Altering official or submitted documents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forgery of an instructor's signature on a letter of recommendation or any other document; • Submitting an altered transcript of grades to or from another education and training provider or employer; • Putting your name on another person's exam or assignment; • Altering a previously graded exam to appeal a grade or gain points in a re-grading process. 	<p>UK Berkeley Center for Student Conduct – Academic Misconduct</p> <p>Accessed 3 August 2025</p>

Terms & Synonyms	Definition	Behaviour & Examples	References
Augmented Publication Auto-Plagiarism Covert Duplication Duplicate Publication Recycle Plagiarism Redundant publication Self-plagiarism Text-recycling	<p>The author adds additional data and/or information to their previously presented or published work, or changes the title, modifies the aim of the study and/or recalculates results. This also includes manipulation of data using AI.</p> <p>Auto-Plagiarism Instead of creating an original piece of work, the author adds insignificant additional data and/or information to his/ her previously published work and changes title, modifies aim of the study, and recalculates results. This also refers to the omission of cross-citation to own previous publications.</p> <p>Self-Plagiarism/Redundant Publication Self-plagiarism occurs when an author reuses their own previous work in a new publication without citing the original source. This is considered a form of redundant publication. A related issue is 'data fragmentation' or 'salami slicing', where an author divides a single study into multiple publications. Authors should reuse their own material only when necessary and with proper citation.</p>	<p>The author does not reference or cite their own earlier works.</p>	<p>Modified from ENAI glossary</p> <p>Accessed 3 August 2025</p>

Terms & Synonyms	Definition	Behaviour & Examples	References
Author Creator Author's Ethical Rights Author's Patrimonial Rights Authorship	<p>An individual or organisation who created or contributed to the creation of original work</p> <p>The Author(s) has the right to vindicate the ownership of their work and assure its integrity and genuine status.</p> <p>The Author(s) has exclusive rights to dispose of their own work, to use it or authorise its use by third parties, totally or partially.</p> <p>The name or generally recognised pseudonym which appears on a work communicated to the public or a published or a reproduced work shall be considered to be the author of the work, if it is not proven otherwise.</p>	<p>The author is the person/people responsible for ensuring the academic integrity of their work.</p> <p>Authorship implies ownership.</p> <p>Good authorship practice</p> <p>The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) gives criteria to be considered as an author:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantial contribution to the creation and design, collection, or analysis and interpretation of data. • Drafting or critically reviewing the work for important intellectual content; AND • Giving final approval of the version to be published; AND • Agreement to take responsibility for all parts of the work, ensuring that questions about accuracy or integrity are properly investigated and addressed. 	<p>ENAI glossary</p> <p>Adapted from International Committee of Medical Journal Editors Defining the role of authors and contributors</p> <p>Accessed 3 August 2025</p>
Authorship Abuse	<p>Giving credit to someone as an author without them making a real contribution to the work.</p>	<p>Authorship abuse includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Honorary authorship': Including people as authors on papers, manuscripts or grant proposals, even though they haven't contributed to the research. This is related to 'mutual admiration authorship' explained below. • Coercive citation - when individuals or journals require or direct authors to add citations even where irrelevant. It can include self-citation and citation padding. 	<p>Adapted from</p> <p>ENAI glossary</p> <p>The White Bull Effect: abusive co-authorship and publication parasitism, Kwok, LS (2005) National Library of Medicine</p> <p>Accessed 3 August 2025</p>
Avoiding Harm Non-maleficence	<p>To take reasonable steps to avoid harming others, whether directly or indirectly, and reduce harm where it is foreseeable and unavoidable.</p>		<p>ENAI glossary</p> <p>Accessed 3 August 2025</p>

Terms & Synonyms	Definition	Behaviour & Examples	References
Blackmail Coercion	<p>Blackmail - Where someone demands payment or favours from a learner in return for keeping secret that the learner bought an assignment and submitted it to their education or training provider.</p> <p>Coercion - forcing, intimidating, directing or persuading someone to write an assignment for a learner, which the learner then submits as their own work without acknowledging the author's work.</p>		
Bribery	Bribery involves offering, promising, giving, accepting or soliciting an advantage as an inducement for action that compromises ethical standards.	<p>Receiving money in exchange for a higher grade.</p> <p>This behaviour violates the principles of fairness and honesty, undermining the integrity of the educational system and devaluing legitimate academic achievements.</p>	<p>Adapted from ENAI glossary</p> <p>Types of Academic Dishonesty - Plagiarism & Academic Integrity - LibGuides at St. Petersburg College</p> <p>Accessed 3 August 2025</p>
CC – by Creative Commons	A Creative Commons (CC) license allows the right to copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format (share) and remix, transform, and build on the material for any purpose, even commercially (adapt).	A researcher can publish their study under a CC license, permitting other scholars to use and adapt the findings in their own work while maintaining proper attribution. This promotes collaboration and innovation in the academic community, ensuring that knowledge is shared and built upon ethically.	<p>ENAI glossary</p> <p>Accessed 3 August 2025</p> <p>Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Deed</p> <p>Accessed 3 August 2025</p>
Chatbot (Bot)	A programme that communicates with humans through text (written or spoken), that imitates human language.	Many websites have inbuilt chatbots that provide answers to short questions. Use of such answers in an assessment should be acknowledged.	<p>ETBI glossary</p> <p>https://www.ibm.com/think/topics/chatbots</p> <p>Accessed 3 August 2025</p>

Terms & Synonyms	Definition	Behaviour & Examples	References
Cheating	Actions that attempt to get advantage by means that undermine values of integrity.	Cheating is giving or taking any information or material which will be used to determine academic credit.	ENAI Glossary Types of academic dishonesty St Petersburg College Accessed 3 August 2025
Citation attribution	A note in the text using a recognised referencing style which identifies the source of an idea or fact and acts as a link to a more detailed reference in the Bibliography or References section of the work. This includes citing AI-generated content in academic work. The opposite of this is plagiarism.	How you reference someone else's material in your work. Failure to cite other's work appropriately is considered plagiarism. This includes GenAI created content.	MLA Citation Guide (9th edition): Artificial intelligence Lower Canada College Write it Right - A guide to Harvard referencing style, Technological University of the Shannon Accessed 3 August 2025
Collusion Conspiracy	Undisclosed collaboration of two or more people on an assignment or task, which is supposed to be completed individually.	Collusion is a form of plagiarism by both parties. (UCC) Collusion includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • learners providing their work to another learner before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time; • paying another person to perform academic work and passing it off as your own; • stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it; • offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work. • This should not be confused with academic collaboration where there has been a general group discussion about a project or question but where each learner writes his/her own answer. (UNSW) 	ENAI Glossary Accessed 3 August 2025 Academic Integrity for Examinations and Assessments Policy 2025-2026 University College Cork5 https://www.unsw.edu.au/student/managing-your-studies/academic-skills-support/toolkit/plagiarism#learnmore

Terms & Synonyms	Definition	Behaviour & Examples	References
Common knowledge	Factual 'information that is readily available from a number of sources or so well-known that its sources do not have to be cited'.	For example, it is common knowledge that the Earth orbits the Sun. This widely recognised information can be found in numerous books, articles and educational resources, making it unnecessary to cite a specific source when including it in academic writing or discussions, thereby maintaining the focus on originality and proper attribution for less universally known information.	ENAI glossary
Compilation Collective work Joint work	A work formed by collecting and assembling pre-existing content or data that is selected, coordinated, or arranged in such a way that the resulting work as a whole constitutes an original work of authorship. The term 'compilation' includes both individual and collective works.	An anthology of research papers on climate change, where each paper is carefully chosen, acknowledged and organised to present a comprehensive overview. Use of artificial intelligence in compiling any work should be acknowledged.	ENAI glossary Cornell Law School Legal Information Institute Accessed 3 August 2025

Terms & Synonyms	Definition	Behaviour & Examples	References
Contract Cheating (see also Essay Mills & Paper Mills)	<p>Form of academic misconduct when a person uses an undeclared and/or unauthorised third party, online or directly, to assist them to produce work for academic credit or progression, whether or not payment or other favour is involved.</p> <p>Contract cheating services, including essay mills and ghost-writing, involve outsourcing assessments where a company or an individual provides bespoke work for a person to present as their own. For example, a learner using an essay mill to purchase a custom-written essay and submitting it as their own work is engaging in contract cheating. This behaviour undermines the principles of honesty and fairness in education, as it misrepresents the learner's abilities and efforts, and can result in severe academic consequences. Properly completing one's own work and seeking legitimate help, such as tutoring, upholds academic integrity.</p> <p>AI-facilitated contract cheating The use of AI to help complete assignments or exams.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buying a completed assignment from a tutoring or ghost-writing company (purchasing from online essay mill websites); • Asking a partner, friend or family member to write part or all of an assignment for you; • Paying a private tutoring company to coach you on how to complete an assignment; • Submitting 'model' assignment answers provided by a private tutor or tutoring company; • Getting someone else to sit an exam for you; • Sitting an exam for someone else; • Buying, selling or swapping assignment answers via 'sharing' websites or social media platforms eg Facebook, TikTok etc. Six types of services that learners can use to have produced for them include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – essay writing services; – friends, family and other learners – private tutors – copyediting services – agency websites – reverse classifieds • Payment of an AI-powered service to complete a learner's submission for academic credit in a module. 	<p>ENAI Glossary</p> <p>Eliminating the successor to plagiarism? Identifying the usage of contract cheating sites, Clarke, R. & Lancaster, T. (2006) ResearchGate</p> <p>The University of Sydney Academic Integrity breaches</p> <p>Contract cheating: the outsourcing of assessed student work, Lancaster T., Clarke R. (2016) Springer Nature Link</p> <p>Newton, P. (2018) How Common Is Commercial Contract Cheating in Higher Education and Is It Increasing? A Systematic Review. Newton, P (2018) Frontiers.</p> <p>What is contract cheating and methods to reduce it TEQSA</p> <p>Accessed 3 August 2025</p>

Terms & Synonyms	Definition	Behaviour & Examples	References
Contract Cheating Services (includes 'Essay Mills' and 'Ghost-Writing') Outsourcing assessments	<p>Type of consultancy service when a company or an individual provides bespoke work to a person to present as their own work. (see Contract Cheating).</p> <p>A 'Paper Mill' (also called 'Essay Mill') is a commercial organisation, normally web-based, supplying written materials (e.g., essays, reports, homework answers, personal statements, reflective journals) according to a learner's requirements.</p>	<p>A website or person that can complete all or part of an assignment or take an exam.</p>	<p>ENAI glossary</p> <p>Adapted from ENAI General Guidelines for Academic Integrity Report (amended version)</p> <p>Accessed 3 August 2025</p>
Copying material Verbatim (plagiarism) Clone (plagiarism) [Ctrl-C] plagiarism Literal copying	<p>This is a form of plagiarism which involves using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the original source or using quotation marks (see Plagiarism).</p> <p>Word for word copy from another source without providing attribution. This includes AI-powered services.</p>	<p>Copying materials, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, drawing, circuitry, computer programme or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.</p>	<p>Academic Integrity and Plagiarism UNSW Current Students</p> <p>Accessed 3 August 2025</p>
Copy-editing	<p>Copy-editing involves checking texts for grammar, syntax, language, punctuation and improving the composition and continuity of texts.</p>	<p>A learner might have their thesis copy-edited to ensure that the language is clear and free of errors. This process enhances the readability and professionalism of the work without altering the original ideas or arguments. Properly using copy-editing services helps maintain the integrity of academic work by focusing on clarity and correctness while preserving the author's original contributions.</p>	
Copyright	<p>Exclusive legal right of the originator to copy, reproduce, print, publish, perform, film or record literary, artistic or musical materials digitally or in any other form. (see Plagiarism)</p>	<p>An author who writes a novel holds the copyright to their work, meaning others cannot legally reproduce or distribute it without permission.</p> <p>Respecting copyright is crucial in academia to avoid plagiarism, as using someone else's work without proper authorisation or attribution infringes on their rights and violates ethical standards. Properly citing sources and seeking permissions when necessary upholds academic integrity.</p>	<p>ENAI Glossary</p> <p>Accessed 3 August 2025</p>

Terms & Synonyms	Definition	Behaviour & Examples	References
Data fabrication	<p>Making up data and presenting that data as genuine.</p> <p>AI-generated misinformation False or misleading content produced by AI systems (hallucinations) that appears factually accurate.</p>	Fabrication is inventing, counterfeiting, altering, misrepresenting or forging data or information in academic work and presenting it as legitimate.	<p>ENAI glossary</p> <p>Violations of academic integrity, University of South Florida</p> <p>Accessed 3 August 2025</p>
Data falsification	<p>Data falsification or falsification of data is the unjustified manipulation of research data with the intention of giving a misleading impression.</p> <p>False data generated by AI and not fact checked.</p>	Manipulating research data, materials, equipment, images or processes, or changing, omitting or suppressing data or results without justification, such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record.	<p>ENAI glossary</p> <p>Policy statement on ensuring research integrity in Ireland Research Integrity National Forum</p> <p>Accessed 3 August 2025</p>
Data imputation	<p>Filling in and/or replacing missing or lost data.</p>	<p>‘Data imputation is a process of replacing missing or lost data with substitute values. If done honestly and transparently, data imputation is not considered to be a data fabrication (Resnik, 2015); it is considered a legitimate way to deal with missing or apparently erroneous values. However, some academics deliberately exclude or invent data values in their datasets in order to obtain research results that confirm their hypotheses.</p> <p>Justifiable imputation must rely on scientifically reasoned methods, such as statistical methods applied for handling of missing data (Allison, 2009).’</p>	<p>ENAI glossary</p> <p>ENAI – General Guidelines for Academic Integrity Report (amended version)</p> <p>Accessed 3 August 2025</p>
Data privacy/integrity in AI use	<p>Protection and responsible management of personal and education and training provider data when using AI tools.</p>	<p>Identifiable information is removed from a piece of text before uploading it to an artificial intelligence tool.</p> <p>Private unpublished documents should not be uploaded to public AI tools.</p> <p>Compliance with GDPR legislation and having proper data management structures.</p>	<p>Ethical artificial intelligence for teaching-learning in higher education Education and Information Technologies, 2024</p> <p>Accessed 3 August 2025</p>

Terms & Synonyms	Definition	Behaviour & Examples	References
Deepfake	Artificially generated content, often images or videos, that convincingly mimic real human faces or voices.	Altering an image of someone and developing a video using that image. The purpose is to make the viewer think that the image/video is a real-life example and not generated.	ETBI glossary Accessed 3 August 2025
E-proctoring	Monitoring learner behaviour during online examinations. AI-integrated exam proctoring Using genAI tools to monitor learners during assessments and flag irregular behaviour.	An AI proctoring system which flags learners for possible misconduct due to unusual online learner behaviour.	E-proctoring in theory and practice: a review Quality and Qualifications Ireland Accessed 3 August 2025
Essay mill	An organisation, or individual, usually with a web presence, that contracts with learners to complete an assignment or assignments for the learner, for a fee.		Contracting to Cheat in Higher Education Oct. 2017, QAA Accessed 3 August 2025
Fabrication Falsification Forgery Counterfeit	Fabrication in the context of research means making up data, experiments, or other significant information in proposing conducting or reporting research. Forging educational, research or scholarship content, images, data, equipment or processes in a way that they are inaccurately represented.	This is a form of academic misconduct that involves the manipulation of research materials, equipment or processes, or changing, or omitting data or results such that research is not accurately represented in the research record. This includes the inclusion of Generated Artificial Intelligence content which includes hallucinations. It is the responsibility of the learner to ensure that all material submitted is genuine.	ENAI glossary Accessed 3 August 2025
Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI)	AI models and systems that generate new content, such as text, images, music, or videos, that resemble human-created content.	Using an AI image generator to create artwork for a class project. Using a chatbot to generate an assignment.	ICMS Academic Integrity Policy Accessed 3 August 2025
GenAI generated text	Written content produced by generative AI systems such as large language models in response to user prompts.	Using a genAI tool to write an essay or report.	NAIN Generative AI Guidelines for Educators Accessed 3 August 2025

Terms & Synonyms	Definition	Behaviour & Examples	References
GPT models (Generative Pre-trained Transformer models)	A class of AI systems trained in an unsupervised manner, on large datasets to generate text and other types of data. They are trained on user input and therefore users must be aware that their inputs may not be private.	Chat GPT, Microsoft Copilot	What is a Generative Pre-Trained Transformer? https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Generative_pre-trained_transformer Top AI Tools List - OpenTools Microsoft Copilot: Your AI companion
Ghost-writing/Ghost Authorship/Ghost Author (see also Essay mill; Contract Cheating)	<p>The practice of using a non-named (merited, but not listed) author to write or prepare a text for publication.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To write for or in the name of someone else. • To assist in the production of work resulting in unfair advantage to someone else. 	<p>A writer who is not named as an author and not given credit for the work.</p> <p>A writer who assists in the production of work resulting in unfair advantage to someone else.</p> <p>Use of artificial Intelligence is an example of ghost writing when there is no acknowledgement of its use.</p>	ENAI Glossary Accessed 3 August 2025
Hallucinating/hallucinations	When an AI system generates false or nonsensical information that appears plausible. This includes AI generated misinformation which is false or misleading but appears to be factually accurate.	An AI assistant incorrectly claims a non-existent journal article supports an argument.	AI hallucination: towards a comprehensive classification of distorted information in artificial intelligence-generated content Nature: Humanities and Social Sciences Communications, 2024 Accessed 3 August 2025

Terms & Synonyms	Definition	Behaviour & Examples	References
Helper tools	Digital tools powered by AI, designed to assist learners in completing tasks such as note-taking, research organisation, or formatting.	Quillbot, Grammarly. A learner inappropriately uses artificial intelligence tools to generate or significantly rewrite content.	
Infringement Transgression Abuse Breach Violation	Breach of good practice occurring from questionable, unlawful or unethical behaviour.		ENAI Glossary Accessed 3 August 2025
Intentional Cheating	Intentional action or behaviour that violates established rules and gives one learner an unfair advantage over another.	Cheating in a test or assignment.	Cizek, G.J. Cheating in Academics: In Encyclopedia of Applied Psychology (2004) Accessed 3 August 2025
Impersonation	Undertaking in whole or in part any work required as part of a programme in the place of an enrolled learner, without permission from the education and training provider. Sitting an exam, or having someone else sit an exam in place of an enrolled learner, without permission of the education and training provider.	Taking an exam on behalf of someone else. Recording attendance in a class on behalf of another. Pretending to be another registered learner when engaging with an education and training provider either online or in person.	

Terms & Synonyms	Definition	Behaviour & Examples	References
Large Language Model (LLM)	<p>Advanced AI systems trained on vast datasets to understand and generate human language.</p> <p>Large language models (LLMs) are a category of deep learning models trained on immense amounts of data, making them capable of understanding and generating natural language and other types of content to perform a wide range of tasks.</p>	Microsoft Copilot/Chat GPT	<p>Large language models challenge the future of higher education Nature Machine Intelligence, 2023</p> <p>Accessed 3 August 2025</p> <p>https://www.ibm.com/think/topics/large-language-models</p> <p>Accessed 18 November 2025</p>
Misrepresented/ misattributed or obfuscatory (referencing)	<p>Misrepresentation is any act or omission that is intended to deceive.</p> <p>Obfuscatory - make obscure, unclear, or unintelligible.</p>		<p>St Petersburg College Academy Honesty Policy</p> <p>Accessed 3 August 2025</p>
Misuse of academic materials	The use, misuse or alteration of materials or resources to make them inaccessible to other users.	<p>Unauthorised use of computer accounts; alteration of passwords; violation of library procedures; other intentional misuse, removal or destruction of educational materials.</p> <p>Removal of relevant pages from a library book.</p>	<p>AUNC Greensboro academic integrity case process</p> <p>Accessed 3 August 2025</p>
Mosaic copying/ scaffolding/substantial similarity	A piece of writing made up of copied parts from different sources, either with or without giving credit to the sources.	Where the key points and structure of another person's work have been used as a scaffold (framework) for your own work, without acknowledging the source. This is considered plagiarism.	<p>University of Melbourne Academic Integrity</p> <p>Accessed 3 August 2025</p>
Mutual admiration authorship	Two or more researchers/authors agree to list each other's names on their own papers despite the fact that one author has had little or no involvement in the work, with the purpose of gaining unfair advantage.		<p>ENAI glossary</p> <p>Accessed 3 August 2025</p>

Terms & Synonyms	Definition	Behaviour & Examples	References
Paraphrasing	<p>Expressing someone else's ideas, opinions, or text in your own words while keeping the original meaning and properly crediting the original source, without copying it word for word.</p> <p>AI paraphrasing Web-based applications that use machine learning to rewrite text while keeping the original meaning.</p>	<p>A learner uses a Helper Tool to paraphrase a research paper and submits it as original work.</p>	<p>Adapted from ENAL glossary</p> <p>Roe, J., & Perkins, M. (2022). What are automated paraphrasing tools?</p> <p>Accessed 3 August 2025</p>
Plagiarism	<p>Presenting work/ideas taken from other sources without proper acknowledgement i.e. the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit, including those obtained through confidential review of other's research proposals and manuscripts.</p> <p>AI-empowered plagiarism The use of AI tools to generate text that closely mimics existing sources without proper attribution.</p>	<p>Plagiarism happens when someone uses another person's words, ideas, or work without giving them credit. This is done to gain academic credit or recognition, even if it is not for money.</p> <p>For any work presented for academic credit the following are examples of plagiarism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of GenAI without appropriate authorisation and acknowledgement. • Presenting work authored by a 3rd party, including other learners, friends, family, or work purchased through internet services. • Presenting work copied extensively and source(s) not acknowledged. • Improper paraphrasing where a passage or an idea is summarised without due acknowledgement of the original source. • Failing to include citation of all original sources. • Representing collaborative work as one's own. <p>Plagiarism covers not only print but intellectual property rights, which reside in all other media including software, media files and presentations.</p> <p>To include: cheating, academic fraud, academic misconduct, academic dishonesty, academic malpractice, academic mispractice, plagiarism, detection software, intellectual property.</p> <p>A learner uses AI to generate an assignment without acknowledging the sources.</p>	<p>UCD Plagiarism Policy – Student guide</p> <p>We know it when we see it' is not good enough: towards a standard definition of plagiarism that transcends theft, fraud, and copyright Tedd Fishman, Clemson University</p> <p>ETBI FET digital library</p> <p>Accessed 3 August 2025</p>

Terms & Synonyms	Definition	Behaviour & Examples	References
Prompt engineering	Prompt engineering is crafting clear instructions and questions for AI tools to get useful responses. The process of designing effective prompts to elicit specific and accurate outputs from AI models. It is a necessary tool for using GenAI.	Used constructively, a learner experiments with different prompts to get an AI tool to generate ideas for an essay. Good prompts provide targeted results from the AI tool.	Prompting AI art: An investigation into the creative skill of prompt engineering. International Journal of Human-Computer Interaction, 2024 Accessed 3 August 2025
Provision of cheating services	Helping others to engage in cheating ⁸ .	Provision of Cheating Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing answers, or arranging the provision of answers, to an enrolled learner for an exam, during that exam, without permission of the education and training provider; • Providing, or arranging the provision of, an assignment required of an enrolled learner without permission of the education and training provider; • Before an exam, providing answers for, arranging the provision of answers for, an exam for an enrolled learner without permission from the education and training provider. 	Prosecuting contract cheating in Ireland Quality and Qualifications Ireland Accessed 3 August 2025

Terms & Synonyms	Definition	Behaviour & Examples	References
Research Misconduct (see also Fabrication and Falsification)	<p>Core ‘Research Misconduct’ includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fabrication of data • Falsification of data • Plagiarism <p>See above for further definitions of these terms.</p> <p>Data-related misconduct Providing false or incomplete information in research.</p> <p>AI-Enhanced Research Misconduct Academic misconduct facilitated by AI, including falsifying data or generating fake research results.</p>	<p>Examples of fabrication/falsification/plagiarism (FFP) includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selectively excluding data from analysis. • Misinterpreting data to obtain desired results (incl. inappropriate use of statistical methods). • Producing false data or results under pressure from a sponsor. • Using AI to falsify experimental data. <p>Examples of data-related misconduct:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not preserving primary data where appropriate. • Withholding data from the scientific community. <p>Examples of research practice misconduct:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using inappropriate (e.g., harmful or dangerous) research methods. • Poor research design. • Experimental, analytical, computational errors. • Violation of human subject protocols. • Abuse of laboratory animals. • Concealment of research misconduct. <p>Examples of publication-related misconduct, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claiming undeserved authorship. • Denying authorship to contributors. • Artificially proliferating publications (‘salami-slicing’ and ‘self-plagiarism’). • Failure to correct the publication record. • Including authors without their permission. • Selective citing to enhance importance of findings. • Establishing or supporting journals that undermine the quality control of research (‘predatory journals’). • Grossly exaggerating the importance and practical applicability of findings. <p>Research misconduct may lead to retraction of research papers or awards.</p>	<p>Northeastern University Webguru</p> <p>National Policy Statement on Ensuring Research Integrity in Ireland-Dec-2024.pdf</p> <p>Research integrity in the era of artificial intelligence: Challenges and responses Medicine 2024</p> <p>Accessed 3 August 2025</p>

Terms & Synonyms	Definition	Behaviour & Examples	References
Slicing segmented publication salami publication salami slicing salami science	Unjustified breaking up or needless segregation of a study into two or more publications to increase the number of publications.	In the context of academic publishing, slicing refers to the practice of breaking up a single substantial piece of research into multiple smaller parts to publish as separate articles thus inflating the number of publications.	Adapted from ENAI glossary Salami Slicing: clarifying common misconceptions for social science early-career researchers Nick Adams - Academia.edu Accessed 3 August 2025
Text-matching software	Software that searches a text-based document and provides a list of in-text similarities and references to matching sources.	Software used to check if sentences have been copied from a source but not referenced in the document. This software will also pick up commonly used phrases and any self-plagiarism.	ENAI Glossary Accessed 3 August 2025
Text spinner, spinner, spinning, AI paraphrasing tool	Tools designed to rewrite or rephrase existing text, often to evade plagiarism detection systems.	A learner uses a text spinner to rewrite content for an academic submission.	What are Automated Paraphrasing Tools and how do we address them? A review of a growing threat to academic integrity International Journal for Educational Integrity, 2022) Accessed 3 August 2025
Unauthorised aid	A source of information or a method for obtaining information that has not been authorised.	Doing or omitting to do something to help or assist another learner to break the regulations. Examples can include using a 'cheat sheet' in an exam; bringing a pre-programmed calculator to an exam.	ENAI glossary Unauthorized aid Definition Law Insider Accessed 3 August 2025

Terms & Synonyms	Definition	Behaviour & Examples	References
Unauthorised Content Generation (UCG)	Undeclared and/or unauthorised usage of AI tools to produce work for academic credit or progression (eg learners' assignments, theses or dissertations). This may be considered a form of academic misconduct.	A learner uses an AI tool to write a reflective journal for which the use of AI has not been sanctioned.	ENAI Recommendations on the ethical use of Artificial Intelligence in education Accessed 3 August 2025
Unethical Authorship	Misrepresenting the author(s) of a piece of work.	Including a person who has not contributed to the research as an author of the study; excluding a genuine contributor to the research from the list of authors of the study; changing the sequence of authors in an unjustified and improper way; removing names of contributors in later publications; using one's power to add his/her name as the author of the study without any contribution; including an author without his/her permission.	See ENAI Glossary Accessed 3 August 2025
Whistle-blowing	Making a disclosure in the public interest by an internal or external person in an attempt to reveal neglect or abuses within the activities of an organisation (or its partners) that threaten individuals, standards, quality, integrity or reputation.	Reporting academic misconduct in an attempt to uphold academic integrity	Academic Integrity, Moral Courage, and Whistleblowing in Learner Research SpringerLink Accessed 3 August 2025

Appendix



The National Academic Integrity Network

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 in the Republic of Ireland, notably through the publication of four key guidelines. The network 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 providers are increasingly prioritising academic integrity, as demonstrated by the appointment of dedicated leadership and educational roles and the adoption of NAIN's guidance and resources. These leaders, educators and trainers play a vital role in cultivating a culture of integrity and offer valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities within their institutions.

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. NAIN's strategic goals are presented in Figure 1. Our strategic vision is to position academic integrity as a cornerstone of educational excellence. We aim to see it embedded as a core, organisation-wide objective - recognised and embraced by all members of the academic community.



Figure 1: Strategic goals for the National Academic Integrity Network (2025-2028)

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 contexts, with support from senior management

2. Foster Ownership of Further and Higher Education and Training Providers

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

3. Strengthen Stakeholder Relationships

Build and sustain collaborative relationships with key 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 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 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, educators and trainers, and education and training providers 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.

Network Membership

- The Chair of the Network
- Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn (AMLÉ) (formally the Union of Students in Ireland)
- Association for Higher Education Access & Disability (AHEAD)
- Education and Training Boards
- The Higher Education Authority (HEA)
- Higher Education Colleges Association (HECA)
- Irish Council for International Students (ICOS)
- Librarians' Association of Ireland (LAI)
- National Forum for Research Integrity (NFRI)
- HEI representatives nominated by their registrar from each publicly regulated higher education institution, and a number of private colleges which provide QQI awards
- National Student Engagement Programme (NStEP)
- National Tertiary Office
- Psychological Counsellors in Higher Education in Ireland (PCHEI)
- Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI)
- Student Affairs Ireland (SAI)
- Technological Universities
- Technological Universities Association (TUA)
- Universities

