



UNITED CENTRE
of
EXCELLENCE

End Point Assessment Policies

Plagiarism Policy
GP23

Document History

Version	Date	Reason for Revision	Issued by
V1.1	Jan 2020	Initial release	Harj Dhanjal GP23
V1.2	Nov 2020	Document review during covid-19 (Continuity plan diagram added)	Alan Bates GP23
V1.3	Jul 2021	Review of the policy for our Ofqual recognition submission	Alan Bates GP23
V1.4	Feb 2024	External policy review and update	Alan Bates GP23
V1.5	July 2025	Review of policy and practices to update our policy to 2025	Alan Bates

Area	Original	Updated	Ofqual Reference
Terminology	IFATE	Replaced with Skills England	N/A
Legislation & Compliance	General Ofqual mention	Explicit alignment with Conditions A6, H1, H2	A6.1, H1.1, H2.1
AI Use	Mentioned as irregularity	Formalised declaration requirement and AI detection tools	A6.3, H1.2
Policy Review	Annual review	Includes analysis of AI trends and regulatory updates	B3.2



Contents

Document History	2
Contents	3
1. Introduction and purpose	4
2. Definition of plagiarism.....	4
3. Policy statement	4
4. Scope.....	4
5. Legislation and compliance.....	5
6. Responsibilities	5
7. Policy principles	5
8. Identifying plagiarism (including the use of Artificial Intelligence)	6
9. Procedures used to deal with plagiarism / academic irregularity	8
10. Candidates right of appeal.....	9
11. Monitoring and evaluation	9
12. Policy review.....	9



PLAGIARISM POLICY

1. Introduction and purpose

The aim of this policy is to ensure and encourage candidates to adopt good academic conduct in respect of assessment and ensure candidates are informed of the consequences of academic misconduct.

The policy provides the UCE definition of plagiarism. It explains how we identify, investigate, handle and minimise the risk of plagiarism occurring. The policy informs candidates how they can appeal a decision regarding plagiarism.

2. Definition of plagiarism

Plagiarism is using, without acknowledgement, someone else's ideas or work.

3. Policy statement

As an Ofqual recognised end point assessment organisation we are committed to ensuring that end point assessment and any other assessment is valid, authentic and reliable. UCE will ensure that adequate resources are made available to promote this policy effectively. Our policies represent our commitment to ensure there are no adverse effects to Learners and, should that be the case, that Ofqual is informed of any such adverse effect in a timely manner.

In all assessed work candidates should take care to ensure the work presented is their own and fully acknowledge the work and opinions of others through proper referencing and citation. It is also the responsibility of the candidates to ensure that they do not undertake any form of cheating or other form of unfair advantage.

It must be noted within this policy that malpractice committed by training organisations and candidates will be managed through the malpractice policy.

4. Scope

This policy applies to all forms of academic and vocational assessment, internal and external.



5. Legislation and compliance

This policy aligns with Ofqual General Conditions of Recognition, specifically Conditions A6 (Identification and management of risks), H1 (Compliance with assessment requirements), and H2 (Moderation and standardisation).

The Human Rights Act 1998 applies to the operation of this policy. The policy relates to conditions A and H of the Ofqual General Conditions of Recognition.

6. Responsibilities

All staff have a responsibility to give full and active support for the policy by ensuring:

- a) The policy is known, promoted, understood and implemented.
- b) Candidates on all programmes—at all levels must be made fully aware by staff of how to properly reference material and the learning sources used and researched by candidates.

The UCE senior team is responsible for managing incidents and offences committed by candidates.

7. Policy principles

- 7.1. It is appreciated, that the circumstances of individual irregularities and frauds will vary, but it is important that all are vigorously and promptly investigated and that appropriate remedial action is taken. It is an academic offence for a candidate to act in a manner whereby he/she gains or attempts to gain an unfair advantage. Such acts will be dealt with in accordance with the procedure set out in this policy.
- 7.2. It is imperative that all Training Providers and Apprentice Employers highlight any concerns of plagiarism or academic malpractice to UCE.
- 7.3. The facts must be established initially by the Training Provider or Employer and they must inform us of any sanction that they have applied which may affect the candidates' overall performance.
- 7.4. An allegation of cheating, plagiarism or other unfair advantage is not the same as proof of the incident.
- 7.5. The determination of whether cheating, plagiarism or other forms of unfair advantage (referred to in this document as academic irregularities) has occurred will be investigated by UCE.
- 7.6. Once the facts have been established, it is then for the UCE to judge the seriousness of the case and to exercise discretion accordingly. All confirmed cases of plagiarism will be presented to the UCE senior team that has the ultimate responsibility in issuing the appropriate outcomes.



8. Identifying plagiarism (including the use of Artificial Intelligence)

There are different forms of “academic irregularity” all of which may be the subject of the procedures described below. However, it is not possible to state categorically that, in all cases, every perceived academic irregularity will be proved once that matter is investigated (e.g. the copying of a design or a work of art may not in all instances amount to plagiarism). Each case will have to be considered on its merits and on the basis of the strength of evidence. The following sections are examples of different types of academic irregularity.

8.1 Cheating - Cheating includes:

- 8.8.1 Communicating with or copying from any other candidate during an examination except in so far as the examination regulations may specifically permit this e.g. group assessments.
- 8.8.2 Communicating during an examination with any person other than a properly authorised Invigilator or another authorised member of staff.
- 8.8.3 Introducing any written or printed materials into the examination room, unless expressly permitted by the examination or programme regulations.
- 8.8.4 Introducing any electronically stored information into the examination room, unless expressly permitted by the examination or programme regulations.
- 8.8.5 Gaining access to an unauthorised material relating to an examination during or before the examination.
- 8.8.6 Obtaining a copy of an “unseen” written examination paper in advance of the date and time for its authorised release.
- 8.8.7 In any other way, the provision, or assistance in the provision, of false evidence or knowledge of understanding in examinations.

8.2 Plagiarism – Plagiarism is defined as the presentation of work by others as the writer’s own without appropriate acknowledgement. Examples of plagiarism are:

- 8.2.1 The inclusion in a candidate’s work of more than a single phrase from another person’s work without the use of quotation marks and Acknowledgement of the sources.
- 8.2.2 The summarising of another person’s work by simply changing a few words or altering the order of presentation, without acknowledgement.
- 8.2.3 The substantial and unauthorised use of the ideas of another person without acknowledgement of the source.
- 8.2.4 Copying the work of another candidate, with or without that candidate’s knowledge or agreement.



8.2.5 Candidates should also be aware of AUTO PLAGIARISM which is deemed as a very serious academic offence. “Auto plagiarism occurs where a candidate’s own work is re-presented without being properly referenced.

8.3 Collusion – Collusion exists where a candidate:

8.3.1 Submits as entirely his/her own, with intention to gain unfair advantage, work done in collaboration with another person.

8.3.2 Collaborates with another candidate in the completion of work which is intended to be submitted as that other candidate’s own unaided work.

8.3.3 Knowingly permits another candidate to copy all or part of his/her own work and to submit it as that candidate’s own unaided work.

8.4 Ghosting – Ghosting exists where:

8.4.1 A candidate submits as their own work which has been produced in whole or part by another person on their behalf e.g. the use of a ghost writing service i.e. buying assignments off the internet;

8.4.2 A candidate seeks to make financial gain or other material gain by using work, which they have written or produced, available to another candidate.

8.4.3 Dishonest Practice – The use of any other form of dishonest practice not identified by the above definitions.

8.5 Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Assessments

UCE requires candidates to declare any use of AI tools in their submissions. Undeclared AI-generated content will be treated as academic misconduct. AI detection tools may be used to verify originality.

8.5.1 Although the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is relatively new; its misuse is similarly another form of academic irregularity. Any work a candidate submits for assessment that is not their own whether or not it has been reproduced directly from AI generated responses, must be properly identified.

8.5.2 Where elements or sections of the candidates’ work generated by AI are not correctly cited, this is an incident of academic irregularity and malpractice. Therefore, it will be handled using the procedures in section 9 of this policy and the UCE Malpractice and Maladministration or Sanctions Policies.



9. Procedures used to deal with plagiarism / academic irregularity

9.1. Initial Procedure for Course Assessment

When an academic irregularity is suspected, the member(s) of training provider or employer concerned should first discuss the matter informally with the candidate(s). The candidate will be given the opportunity to present his/her case.

If the candidate(s) concerned admits to the academic irregularity, then the member(s) of training provider or employer concerned shall report the matter and the outcome to UCE within two working days, for UCE to determine the action to be taken.

In cases where the candidate admits misconduct the candidate should be required to sign a letter to that effect. The candidate should also be given the opportunity to declare academic misconduct in other work that they have submitted.

If this informal meeting does not resolve the matter the member(s) of training provider and employer concerned should then, within three days or as soon as reasonably practicable following the discovery or allegation, report the matter in writing to UCE. The report should contain full details about the circumstances surrounding the alleged irregularity including, if appropriate, photocopies of the candidate's work.

9.2. Initial Procedure for Examinations

Where an academic irregularity is suspected in an examination. The candidate will also be advised by UCE that a full report will be submitted following the examination.

If the candidate(s) concerned admits to the academic irregularity at the point of being challenged by the training provider or employer will inform UCE within two working days, for UCE to determine the action to be taken.

If a candidate considers other candidate/candidates to be gaining unfair advantage during an examination, it is the responsibility of the candidate to bring this to the attention of UCE. However, no action can be taken unless the infringement of rules on behalf of the candidate(s) is subsequently verified by UCE.

9.3. UCE Investigation Procedure

Upon receiving a report of an academic irregularity, UCE will assign an investigating officer. Following their investigation, which shall reference the relevant parts of the Malpractice and



Maladministration Policy or Sanctions Policy, a report will be submitted to the UCE senior team who will:

Consider the application of a sanction, if appropriate

Moderate and adjust assessment result of the candidate(s)

Evaluate the risk and severity of an adverse effect

Consider a requirement to inform Ofqual, and if defined as such, will instruct the Responsible Office to inform Ofqual of any sanctions applied and remedial actions taken.

10. Candidates right of appeal

The candidate has a right of appeal against the decision of UCE in accordance with the Appeals Policy (as set out in the UCE Appeals Policy GP08).

11. Monitoring and evaluation

The UCE monitor the operation of the policy by:

Recording incidents and investigations in the appropriate log, including the reporting of adverse effects.

Reviewing incidents over time with consideration of opportunities for continuous improvement, specifically in the mitigation and minimising of incidents of academic irregularity.

Using data to analyse the validity and reliability of assessment results.

Evaluating appeals received, their outcomes and impact.

12. Policy review

This policy is reviewed annually to ensure alignment with Ofqual's latest guidance and continuous improvement practices. The review includes analysis of plagiarism trends, AI usage, and regulatory updates from Ofqual and Skills England.

This policy and procedure will be reviewed, and updated as required but not less than annually, by the UCE Senior Team.

The review of the policy and procedure aims to ensure that lessons are learnt following incidents of academic irregularity, opportunities for continuous improvement are identified and that the procedure



continues to be consistent with regulatory criteria (Ofqual, ESFA, Skills England).