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Communities of Practice - Ethics

Academic Integrity Week

19 October 2022

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Ethics CoP session structure:

- Research Ethics AL

- S23: Ethics is wider than RICS CH

- QAA Feedback CH/HL

- Collaboration V Collusion

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- Research Ethics

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- S23: Ethics is wider than RICS

At the frontline of protecting academic integrity, what can be done at an institutional level?

- The Global Academic Integrity Network (GAIN) launched yesterday as a joint QQI and TEQSA initiative of regulatory bodies internationally is intended to address the global cheating industry

- The Skills and Post-16 Education Act (28th April 2022)
  - Criminalisation of essay mills
    - All or part of an assignment
    - Advertising services
- Australia
  - 2300 sites (150 blocked)

- Multifaceted issue

- ensure that students understand and apply good academic practices

- we have the responsibility to provide clear instructions - only then can students understand what the expectations are and what 'good' practice looks like.

- T&L practices need to promote integrity
  - Accessible resources
  - Assessments
    - Design
    - Scheduling
    - Proportionate

- Support for students with AMC

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- ## Collaboration V Collusion

"At AMPs we are seeing an increase in suspected collusion cases." **Phill Russell**.

These tend to be resolved as:

1. **Plagiarism**

   Where one student lends another their work to support their assignment writing, and it is then copied without consent. This from the panels I chair is the most common outcome.

2. **Collusion**

   Where one student has helped another to pass off work as their own.

3. **Legitimate collaboration** or **Poor Academic Practice**

"Actual collusion outcomes are relatively rare from the panels I chair…" **Phill Russell**.

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Collaboration V Collusion

The increased risk of collusion is coming from apprentices working in a collegiate environment 'on the job' taking that work culture into their degree studies and sharing ideas and completed assignments.

There is some anecdotal evidence that suggests they are being at least implicitly encouraged to do so in the workplace to be seen as a supportive colleague or 'team player'.

For mitigation, AOOs and Apprenticeship team colleagues are discussing these issues with students.

Phil shared this fairly basic table as a bit of guidance of assignment good practice and talked around what it meant:

Good Practice	Poor Practice/Misconduct
Application and analysis	Content dump
Write in your own words	Large chunks of copied text
Back up your points with relevant sources	Unsupported opinions
Use 'authoritative' sources – VLE and Library	Google/Wikipedia
Acknowledge your sources	Plagiarise (Pass off other people's work as your own)
Get help from peers	Copy someone else's assignment