

# Fostering Academic Integrity at UCC

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## Aims

The aim of this research project is to design a developmental approach to foster academic integrity across the University to support student success. This will be achieved through the creation of educational opportunities for both students and staff, the development of additional resources and training guides, and the recruitment of student and staff Academic Integrity Champions. Through a clear communication strategy and collaboration with other key projects across the University, we aim to embed academic integrity and the resources created as part of this project into the culture of the University.

## Findings

Strengthening the culture of academic integrity at University College Cork aligns with the implementation of UCC's *Academic Strategy (2018 – 2022)*, particularly Pillar 3 of *UCC 2022 – Delivering a Connected Curriculum*, Student Success. This project supports these priority actions by:

- Underpinning the necessity of an equitable student experience
- Supporting staff with resources and training to enhance the student experience
- Supporting the changing needs of a diverse student body with timely resources
- Encouraging staff and student collaboration through a students-as-partners approach

An initial group of resources developed as part of the first stage of this ongoing project launched during National Academic Integrity Week (Oct. 18 – 22) with a high level of engagement. These include:

- Student workshop introducing the core principles of academic integrity and how to avoid committing academic misconduct
- Dedicated web pages for academic integrity and misconduct
- University-wide Canvas module and quiz
- Short videos and infographics on academic integrity and practical skills to support it
- Webinars for staff discussing student perspectives on academic integrity and assessment design for academic integrity

These multi-media and multi-platform resources integrate with concurrent University projects and resources with a scaffolded approach to embed academic integrity across the University.

Upcoming events to increase awareness include:

- Academic Integrity Bingo
- Student experiences/opinions panel

## Impact

As a joint project between the UCC Skills Centre and the Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (CIRTL), it is anticipated that the Academic Integrity Project will have a whole-University impact with development opportunities for both students and staff, and an increased awareness of the risks associated with contract cheating services such as essay mills.

Resources:

- Introduce and raise awareness of the six fundamental values of academic integrity (honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility, and courage) to frame academic integrity positively and recognise the importance of our actions both within the University and outside of it
- Develop practical skills that underpin academic integrity such as managing an academic workload, citations and paraphrasing, working with data, critical thinking, clarity of policies and guidelines, understanding academic misconduct, and authentic assessment opportunities

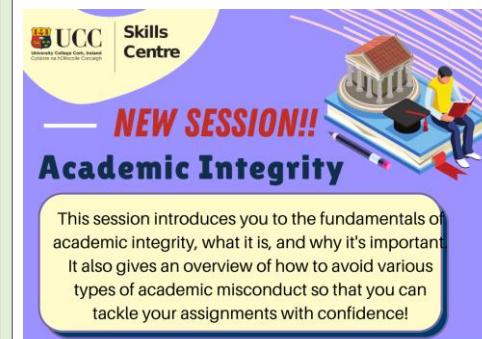
Integration

- Locally with UCC's Graduate Attributes Programme and the Connected Curriculum
- Nationally with the National Academic Integrity Network (NAIN)
- Internationally with the European Network for Academic Integrity (ENAI) and the International Center for Academic Integrity (ICAI)

Communications

- Student and staff Academic Integrity Champions to highlight and model academic integrity skills
- Social media campaigns and pop-up stands for student engagement
- Regular events to break down barriers around academic integrity and increase conversations

## Audio-visuals



## Student responses from Mentimeter poll – Why is academic integrity important?

“It encourages new ideas and gives credit where credit is due to original work.”

“Justifies and legitimises your work.”

“Helps you find other outlooks and opinions in an academically sound way that is both positive and efficient.”

“To be fair to everyone and respectful to each student.”

## References

[Academic Strategy \(2018 - 2022\)](#)

[UCC 2022 – Delivering a Connected University](#)

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/skillscentre/academic-integrity/>

<https://ucc.instructure.com/courses/7281/pages/academic-integrity>