European Network for Academic Integrity

ENAI

POLICY BRIEF

General Guidelines for Academic Integrity

Background

➢ Lack of common agreement about how academic integrity issues are implemented can lead to inconsistent practices especially when addressing misconduct. This inconsistency threatens quality of education and research.

➢ Glossary for academic integrity was developed and published by European Network for Academic Integrity (ENAI). However, further explanation and recommendations beyond the definitions is still needed.

➢ An international interdisciplinary team has developed General Guidelines for Academic Integrity based on previously developed glossary, experience of team members and recommendations taken from relevant literature.

What is the issue?

Complaints about various forms of misconduct are being reported in scientific literature, and media. In addition, it is experienced in everyday academic practice. If this issue is not addressed properly, it can undermine public trust in research and education, subsequently decreasing value of university diplomas. Therefore, maintaining and promoting academic integrity is one of the key pillars of academia.

An interdisciplinary academic expert team developed the glossary for academic integrity to impart common understanding of the meaning of related terms within this field. However, even if there is common agreement on meanings of these terms, there is no guarantee for their consistent use and/or on-campus implementation to related issues.

General guidelines for academic integrity aim to fill this gap. This guideline provides:
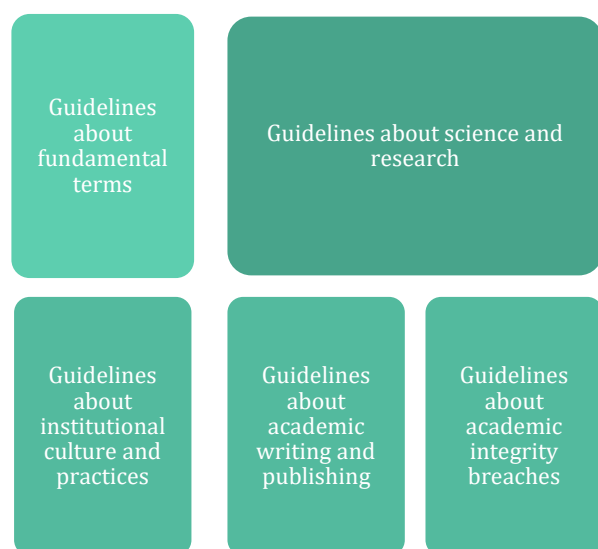➢ detailed explanation of the meaning and possible alternative views;
➢ recommendations on best practices for on-campus implementation;
➢ links to further reading and references to relevant literature.

These guidelines are expected to be a rolling (dynamic) document adopting new terms/issues and adjusting the recommendations according to the changes in academic environment.

Development of the Guidelines

Glossary	Glossary for academic integrity served as a basis for guidelines development.
Filtering	In the first stage, terms not directly linked/suitable for guidelines (e.g. collaboration, investigator) were filtered out.
Grouping	Then, semantically related terms were grouped together. This allowed the authors to develop one guideline (e.g. for Author, Authorship, Co-authors and Corresponding author; or for Cheating, Collusion, Unauthorized aid and Crib notes).
Developing	Each group of terms was assigned to a group of authors, who elaborated further explanation(s), ENAI recommendation and collected sources for further reading and reference.
Clustering	Guidelines were then clustered according to topic.
Feedback	Draft document was passed to the project advisory board (consisting of international experts) and feedback from the advisors was addressed.
Final guidelines	Final version of the Guidelines is publicly available from the ENAI web page.

Guidelines structure

Guidelines about fundamental terms

Guidelines about science and research

Guidelines about institutional culture and practices

Guidelines about academic writing and publishing

Guidelines about academic integrity breaches

Guidelines development approach

Throughout the whole process, the expert team followed the criteria defined below. Each guideline should:

- ➢ be concise
- ➢ avoid misinterpretation
- ➢ help make distinction between terms
- ➢ be country and discipline specific where appropriate
- ➢ refer to reliable sources only
- ➢ provide examples and illustrations where appropriate

Availability of the Guidelines and other related tools for improvement of academic integrity

Interactive Glossary for Academic Integrity is available for download at:

🌐 http://www.academicintegrity.eu/wp/glossary/

General Guidelines for Academic Integrity will be available in October 2018 at:

🌐 http://www.academicintegrity.eu/wp/handbook/

Self-assessment tools will be available in early 2019 at:

🌐 http://www.academicintegrity.eu/wp/handbook/