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EUROPEAN
STUDENTS'
UNION

Fighting for students' rights since 1982

The European Students' Union (ESU), Mundo-Madou. Avenue des Arts 7/8, 1210 Bruxelles

How students help in establishing institutional integrity and values

Introduction to ESU

European Students' Union (ESU) is an umbrella organisation of 45 national unions of students from 40 European countries, working on the European level promoting interests of students in higher education policy. It was founded in 1982.

ESU is one of the key stakeholders in Bologna process, participating in drafting higher education policies and monitoring its implementation

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ESU's work on academic integrity

ESU engages with international organisations working on integrity and ethics such as ENAI, ETINED platform of CoE

ESU promotes students' perspective and raise awareness on academic integrity issues on the European level

Drafting documents on academic integrity and researching the matter together with Quality Assurance Agencies (FRAUDS+ project)

Introduction to the Irish National Academic Integrity Network

Objective:
Supporting higher education institutions;

- Effectively engage with challenges presented by academic misconduct

- Embed a culture of academic integrity

- National resources and tools for providers

Work that's been done

Developed a Lexicon and academic integrity Guidelines following consultation with a broad range of external stakeholders and international data.

There were a number of Case Studies completed which informed this

Advice on
- Upholding academic integrity
- Preventing academic misconduct
- Detecting academic misconduct
- Dealing with academic misconduct

What is our understanding of Academic Integrity?

Academic integrity is **a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to six fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility, and courage**. From these values flow principles of behavior that enable academic communities to translate ideals into action.

(International Centre for Academic Integrity, 2021)

Why do students engage in academic misconduct?

- Not realising what they are doing

- Overwhelming workload

- Lacking academic knowledge or skill of time management

- Personal issues such as illness or bereavement

- Fear of failure

- Targeted advertisements looking to "help" students

Whose role is it to maintain and promote Academic Integrity?

Academic Integrity in Assessments and COVID impact?

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- COVID accelerated change, both good and bad

- Switch to digitalisation

- Digitalised assessment of learning outcomes

- New market of online assessment tools as a factor of commodification

- Mental and physical health issues

- New learning and teaching environments

Proctoring and Control
Is it effective?

- Does it prevent students from cheating?

- Fair assessment

- Accessability and proctoring

- AI in proctoring

- Mental health and proctoring

- Community spirit and proctoring

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Mental Health

- Mental health and misconduct behaviour - under-researched for students
- Students' life situation in general influences their behaviour in academia
- Performance enhancing substances - is it cheating to use them?
- Lack of mental health culture

Impact of societal pressures

- Where do we put our values as society and how is the societal pressure influences students' understanding of "academic achievements"?
- What happens when institutions are also lead by those values?
- Can students really leave their parents?

Student Partnership in teaching and learning

Breaches of academic integrity are a moral issue, a policy issue, and a teaching and learning issue.

How do we achieve higher order learning?
- Communication and partnership between staff and students ia a vital part of ensuring we maintain quality assurance in assessment practices

- Practice skills through formative assessments

- Feedback is vital to close the feedback loop and understand the effectiveness of assessment practices

- Trust and open dialogue - a model of quality enhancement supporting quality assurance structures

Detering Academic Misconduct

- Culture of honesty and support

- Courageous Conversations

- Policies supported by procedures and practices

- Fit for practice

- Student participation

- Mitigate against contract cheating

Responding to Academic Misconduct

- We all make mistakes

- Offer a reflection and learning opportunity

- Question the students motivation

- Feeding back into policies and procedures from instances and issues that arise

Students Role
Moving Forward

The inclusion of students in the creation of policies and procedures is absolutely vital due to their lived experience in the current higher education landscape

We are learning every day of new sophisticated ways of contract cheating, online file sharing and much more

While all of this is a treat to students, it poses a serious threat to the quality assurance in higher education globally

Questions?

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