



Enhancing Academic Integrity: Avoiding Academic Offences During Covid-19

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From induction to graduation: During the Covid-19 pandemic, a period that has caused a disrupted education experience, the FMC Learning Development Team (LDT) has continued to develop students' confidence, self-awareness, and independence through our pedagogical research-led practice, to enable them to succeed in their academic studies and to make a positive contribution to society.

The issue: The pandemic has led to an increase in anxiety and stress in students, particularly around the issue of academic integrity (Eaton and Turner 2020), and there has been an apparent increase in student cheating (Lancaster and Cotarlan 2021). During the Covid-19 crisis, students have become academically vulnerable, with temptations to outsource assignments, plagiarise, purposefully fail to repeat, or sell their own work being recognised.

The LDT praxis reflects: Honesty; Trust; Fairness; Respect; Responsibility; Courage (ICAI 2021). Walking alongside the student on their scholarly journey, our key tenets are student centred, subject specific, in-curriculum, innovative bespoke series of structured lectures, workshops, individualised tutorials, and dedicated drop-in sessions. These focus on academic integrity, through writing and learning modalities, diagnostic essays, student presentations, and assessment interrogation.



Success and Attainment:

- Assessing student confidence with HE and degree conventions
- Tutorial reflections – Students self-reporting personal trials and successes
- Encouraging students to stick with their studies – preventing withdrawals
- Academic Offence Panels – investigations and outcomes
- Graduation

References

- Eaton, S. E. and Turner, K. L., 2020. Exploring Academic Integrity and Mental Health during COVID-19: Rapid Review. *Journal of Contemporary Education Theory & Research*, 4 (1), 35-41.
- ICAI, 2021. *The Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity*. Delaware: International Center for Academic Integrity.
- Lancaster, T. and Cotarlan, C., 2021. Contract cheating by STEM students through a file sharing website: a Covid-19 pandemic perspective. *International Journal for Educational Integrity*, 17 (1), 1-16.