A joint initiative of the Oman Quality Network
Ministry of Higher Education
& Oman Accreditation Council

Academic Integrity and Tackling Plagiarism

Training Module 24
Workshop Handout v1

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Training Module Version Control Table

Version	Author	Date	Summary of Main Changes
1	T Goodliffe	31-05-2008	• New Training Module Handout.
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This Training Module is part of the National Quality Training Program open to staff of public and private higher education institutions, the Oman Accreditation Council, and relevant Government Ministries. The Training Program is a joint initiative of the Oman Quality Network, the Ministry of Higher Education and the Oman Accreditation Council. It aims to raise the capacity and capability of the higher education sector in issues and practices related to assuring and improving quality.

1   MODULE AIMS

1.1 Intended Participants

This Training Module is for anyone in higher education who is involved in monitoring and reviewing academic integrity within institutions and anyone interested in tackling the issue of plagiarism in the context of Oman.

1.2 Learning Outcomes

By the end of this module, participants should:

- Understand what 'academic integrity' means
- Explore ways to create a culture of academic integrity within an educational institution
- Identify plagiarism and its causes
- Understand the issue of plagiarism in the context of Oman and explore approaches to tackling it

2   MODULE SLIDES

2.1 Summary of the Presentation

Note that a version designed for use in presentations is available online and free of charge (www.oac.gov.om/enhancement/training).

Academic Integrity and Tackling Plagiarism

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Training Module 24 v2
Oman Accreditation Council

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Module Objectives

Participants will be able to:
- Develop an understanding of what 'academic integrity' means
- Explore ways to create a culture of academic integrity within an educational institution
- Identify 'plagiarism' and its causes
- Explore the issue of plagiarism in the context of Oman and ways to tackle it

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1.
Academic Integrity

What is academic integrity?

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

The Center for Academic Integrity (CAI)
http://www.academicintegrity.org/fundamental_values_project/index.php

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Five Fundamental Values

The 5 Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity	
Honesty	Intellectual and personal honesty in "learning, teaching, research and service"
Trust	Confidence in persons and systems on campus that enable a "free exchange of ideas, and enables all to reach their highest potential"
Fairness	Clear standards for assessment that are fairly applied to all members of the college community
Respect	Acknowledging the participatory nature of learning and respecting the varying perspectives of others
Responsibility	Believing that every person in the academic community is personally accountable for taking action

Based on text from Center for Academic Integrity (1999)
http://www.umuc.edu/distance/odell/cip/vail/faculty/AI_overview/ai_overview.pdf

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Why is academic integrity important?

- A culture of academic integrity reinforces personal and professional integrity within the institution
- Creates an environment of honest academic practice for real research and discourse
- Meets stakeholder expectations – students, families, employers, society
- Affects the reputation of the institution – the public perception of the quality and integrity of the programs and qualifications offered
- Lack of academic integrity diminishes the value of the academic awards and the institution's activities
- A QA Portfolio should reflect the institution's academic integrity i.e. should be honest and truthful. A plagiarised Portfolio undermines the QA process.

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Why is academic integrity important?

The INQAAHE Policy Statement (2004) says:
"While higher education comes in many forms, the Network holds that the defining characteristics of higher education include clear policy and procedural commitments to academic integrity and academic freedom, which is the recognition that academic endeavours should be wholly conducted in a spirit of honesty and openness. External quality assurance should be conducted in such a way as to promote academic freedom and intellectual and institutional integrity."

OAC Quality Audit Manual p43

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What does academic integrity cover?

- Plagiarism
  - Student plagiarism
  - Staff plagiarism
  - Institutional plagiarism (e.g. 'borrowing' policies from other institutions)
- Cheating
- Fabrication and falsification
- Aiding academic dishonesty
- Unfairness
- Lack of respect for others
- Unwillingness to take responsibility
- Lack of academic freedom

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Why is academic integrity important?

A humanities student told Education Guardian how he felt "cheated" when he discovered his lecturer had passed off a Wikipedia entry as his own work.

The part-time undergraduate had struggled to understand a lecture on existentialism that day. He went on the internet at home to find out more. "The words I had copied down from the lecture were pretty much word for word on Wikipedia. Bits were exactly the same," the student, now in his fourth year, said. *"I felt cheated".*

http://education.guardian.co.uk/print/0,,331097160-108229,00.html 30 October 2007

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Challenges to creating a culture of academic integrity

- Unclear, limited or non-existing policies
- Procedures are either non-existent or widely ignored
- Lack of resources
- Lack of commitment from staff
- Staff workloads – pressure to produce research/materials so "short cuts" are taken
- Lack of awareness of its importance
- Lack of consistency in dealing with breaches of academic integrity
- No overall view of the extent of the problem
- No follow up or accountability
- Lack of support from senior management

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Creating a culture of academic integrity

At the 2nd Asia-Pacific Educational Integrity Conference in Australia in December 2005, the main conclusions were:

- institutions need to have transparent policies and practices relating to educational integrity.
- Punishment structures and penalties must be transparent.
- Policies must be written in plain English, easy for all students to understand.
- Institutions should aim to build a culture where cheating is not acceptable.
- A culture of crime and punishment does not foster learning
- Good policy is necessary but not sufficient in tackling plagiarism issues

Boden and Stubbings (2006) *Re-writing the script: supporting academic integrity the library way!* JISCPAS Conference Proceedings

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Creating a culture of academic integrity

- Be aware of how committed your institution is to academic integrity:
  - Are the five values of academic integrity embodied in institutional policies, discussed, and commonly shared by staff and students?
  - Is there a consistent approach throughout your institution to upholding the values of academic integrity? How do you know?
  - Does your approach focus on education or punishment?
  - How do you communicate your approach to staff, students and stakeholders?
  - How do you review academic integrity? How do you ensure staff are working in a culture which respects academic integrity?

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Creating a culture of academic integrity

Staff web-sites

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Creating a culture of academic integrity

Staff booklets

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Creating a culture of academic integrity

Student web-sites

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2.
Workshop activity

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2.
Plagiarism
(session led by John Atkins, BA (TESOL) Project Manager)

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Resources

- Centre for Academic Integrity (CAI) www.academicintegrity.org
- The Asia-Pacific Forum for Educational Integrity (APFEI) http://www.unisa.edu.au/EducationalIntegrity/
- International Journal for Educational Integrity http://www.unisa.edu.au/Educationalintegrity/journal.asp
- Jude Carroll and Jon Appleton (2001) JISC Good Practice Guide http://www.jiscpas.ac.uk/oxfordbrookes.php
- JISC Internet plagiarism advisory service www.jiscpas.ac.uk
- JISC roadmap http://www.jiscpas.ac.uk/documents/Roadmap_v4r4b.pdf
- Electronic detection: Turnitin http://www.jiscpas.ac.uk/turnitinuk.php
- Murdoch University 'Audit of Academic Integrity and Plagiarism in Australia and New Zealand' www.www.tlc.murdoch.edu.au/project/acode/background.html *(useful overview of current practice in these countries)*
- University of Maryland University College "Academic Integrity and Plagiarism in the Classroom: An Overview" http://www.umuc.edu/distance/odell/cip/vail/faculty/AI_overview/ai_overview.pdf
- Curtin University of Technology Staff Guide: http://academicintegrity.curtin.edu.au/staffbook.html
- RMIT Academic Integrity for Staff http://www.rmit.edu.au/academicintegrity
- Boden and Stubbings (2006) 'Re-writing the script: supporting academic integrity the library way!' JISCPAS Conference Proceedings http://www.jiscpas.ac.uk/conference2006/documents/abstracts/DebbiBoden_RuthStubbings.pdf

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2.2 *Workshop Activity*

The following slides outline the workshop activity.

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Workshop Activity

1. Please form into groups of about six people.
2. One person will record the group's responses.
3. One person will report back to the full workshop.
4. There are 20 minutes for this activity and 20 minutes for the feedback session.

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Workshop Activity

1. What are the challenges to developing a culture of academic integrity in your institution?
2. What policies and procedures does your institution currently have to support a culture of academic integrity? Do they work? How do you know?
3. What do you plan to do to ensure that you are working in a culture of academic integrity? What can you do to improve?
4. What impact will this have on the development of your institution's Quality Audit Portfolio and the QA process?

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3   ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

If you would like more information about the BA (TESOL) Program and the approaches used to tackle plagiarism in Oman, please contact John Atkins, Project Manager at pmbamusc@omantel.net.om.

The following additional references are supplied for general educative purposes only. Their inclusion here does not imply any endorsement or warranty by the authors of this training module.

Note that web references provided below may not remain active for long. If you want to check them out, it is better to do so quickly!

3.1 Further Resources on Academic Integrity and Tackling Plagiarism

- Centre for Academic Integrity (CAI) www.academicintegrity.org

- The Asia-Pacific Forum for Educational Integrity (APFEI) http://www.unisa.edu.au/EducationalIntegrity/

- International Journal for Educational Integrity http://www.unisa.edu.au/Educationalintegrity/journal.asp

- Jude Carroll and Jon Appleton (2001) JISC Good Practice Guide http://www.jiscpas.ac.uk/oxfordbrookes.php

- JISC Internet plagiarism advisory service www.jiscpas.ac.uk

- JISC roadmap http://www.jiscpas.ac.uk/documents/Roadmap_v4r4b.pdf

- Electronic detection: Turnitin http://www.jiscpas.ac.uk/turnitinuk.php

- Murdoch University 'Audit of Academic Integrity and Plagiarism in Australia and New Zealand' *(useful overview of current practice in these countries)* www.www.tlc.murdoch.edu.au/project/acode/background.html

- University of Maryland University College "Academic Integrity and Plagiarism in the Classroom: An Overview" http://www.umuc.edu/distance/odell/cip/vail/faculty/AI_overview/ai_overview.pdf

- Curtin University of Technology Staff Guide: http://academicintegrity.curtin.edu.au/staffbook.html

- RMIT Academic Integrity for Staff http://www.rmit.edu.au/academicintegrity

- Boden and Stubbings (2006) 'Re-writing the script: supporting academic integrity the library way!' JISCPAS Conference Proceedings http://www.jiscpas.ac.uk/conference2006/documents/abstracts/DebbiBoden_RuthStubbings.pdf

- AUQA Good Practice Database has some useful resources in this area, including "Ensuring Awareness of Plagiarism Policy" from the University of New England http://www.auqa.edu.au/gp/search/detail.php?gp_id=1665

3.2 Discussion Board Details

The online discussion board for this Training Module is available at: http://www.oac.gov.om/qe/training/.

4   CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Oman Quality Network is calling for proposals from persons interested in offering workshops on quality-related subjects. For further details, contact fakhriya@oac.gov.om.