### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY AND PROCEDURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date approved:</th>
<th>20/06/2016</th>
<th>Date policy will take effect:</th>
<th>20/06/2016</th>
<th>Date of Next Review:</th>
<th>29/05/2018</th>
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<td>Approving Authority:</td>
<td>Academic Council</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Responsibility:</td>
<td>Registrar, Heads of school</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Consultation undertaken:</td>
<td>Academic Management and Planning Committee (AMPC)</td>
<td>Academic Quality Sub-Committee</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Supporting documents, procedures &amp; forms of this policy:</td>
<td>Continuous Assessment Policy (including coversheet), <a href="http://www.dkit.ie/registrar/policies/continuous-assessment-policy-procedures">http://www.dkit.ie/registrar/policies/continuous-assessment-policy-procedures</a></td>
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<td>Academic Integrity Report, <a href="https://www.dkit.ie/registrar/policies/academic-integrity-policy-procedures">https://www.dkit.ie/registrar/policies/academic-integrity-policy-procedures</a></td>
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<td>Audience:</td>
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<td>Student-Centred Learning, Teaching and Assessment</td>
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AC:DOC.148:10:01  Academic Council Meeting No 148, June 20th 2016
(Proposed version of Academic Integrity Policy and Procedures)

1  Version Control and Change History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Version Control</th>
<th>Date Effective</th>
<th>Approved By</th>
<th>Amendment(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>01/09/2011</td>
<td>Academic Council (AC:DOC:119:05:01)</td>
<td>None.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Addition of plagiarism penalty grid.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>29/05/2015</td>
<td>Academic Council (AC:DOC:142:10:01)</td>
<td>Updated Section 9: Dealing with breaches of Academic Integrity.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Updated the definitions of minor and major infringements in Section 5: Plagiarism.</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Updated the procedure in Section 9: Dealing with Breaches of Academic Integrity.</td>
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2 Purpose of Policy

1. The purpose of this policy is to set out the Institute’s commitment to Academic Integrity.

3 Application & Scope

1. The policy set out here applies to all DkIT staff, learners and researchers.

4 Academic Integrity

1. Dundalk Institute of Technology (DkIT) is dedicated to the highest standards of scholarship and values honesty of endeavour. Professional integrity is recognised as one of the most important attributes of an academic community. By displaying integrity, the community and society can have trust in the Institute and in its graduates.

2. Academic Integrity is a key element in the formation of a graduate and is as important an attribute as any technical skill. There are specific detailed guidelines for ethical behaviour in each of the professional programmes offered by the Institute but there are also a number of generic attributes underpinning ethical behaviour. These can be grouped together as the elements of Academic Integrity.

3. DkIT recognises that in some instances, due to ignorance or misunderstanding, learners / researchers may engage in conduct which may bring dishonour to their studies. Such conduct contravenes the principles of Academic Integrity. This document identifies some of these practices and outlines the procedures used by the Institute for investigation of possible contraventions of Academic Integrity.

4. In general these contraventions fall into four categories:
   - Plagiarism
   - Fabrication
   - Cheating
   - Unethical Research

5. It is the policy of the Institute in the first instance to train its staff, researchers and learners on the conventions, rules and regulations pertaining to Academic Integrity. Such training should be compulsory for first year students and should occur early in the semester before any assignments are submitted for academic credit. Periodic training should be available to staff.

6. It is the responsibility of Departments to ensure that staff and learners are adequately trained. There is an onus on staff and learners / researchers to be aware of Institute policies, procedures and guidelines in relation to Academic Integrity and to adhere to these.

7. For the purposes of this policy, the following practices have been identified as potential contraventions of the principles of Academic Integrity. Guidelines and procedures have been developed in respect of these. Such guidelines, procedures and policies should be published widely.
8. Action to be taken by the Institute for breaches of Academic Integrity will be in conformance with its Student Code of Conduct or Staff Disciplinary Procedures as appropriate.

5 Plagiarism

This policy and these procedures are closely informed by the Plagiarism Policy of the National University of Ireland, Galway1, with their kind permission. It is also informed by the work of Dr Jude Carroll, Oxford Brooks University, UK2. The Plagiarism Penalty Grid is informed by the Benchmark Plagiarism Tariff which was an output of the AMBeR Project3 in the UK.

1. All work submitted by learners for assessment purposes, or for written or oral publication, must be their own work. Where this is informed by the work of others, the source must be properly referenced using the accepted norms and formats of the appropriate academic discipline.

See: http://ww2.dkit.ie/student_life/regulations/plagiarism/dkit_referencing_guidelines_and_how_to_avoid_plagiarism

2. Plagiarism is the act of submitting for academic credit someone else’s work as one’s own, without acknowledging the source and without using accepted referencing norms. The submission of plagiarised materials is always fraudulent and all suspected cases will be investigated and dealt with appropriately by the Institute following the procedures outlined here and with reference to the DkIT Code of Conduct.

3. Plagiarism is usually associated with the written text, but also extends to other forms of work, including, but not limited to: drawings, diagrams, charts, flowcharts, algorithms, computer programmes, performance, concepts and ideas.

4. Deliberately facilitating plagiarism by permitting another to copy one’s work contravenes the principles of Academic Integrity.

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2 Carroll, Dr J,(2011) Deterring, detecting and dealing with student plagiarism, Carlow Institute of Technology, 25 February.
5. In some cases the suspected plagiarism is of minor academic value and/or represents poor academic practice. Such cases include, but are not limited to:
   • apparently innocent misuse of materials;
   • inadequate citation such as poor referencing or inappropriate paraphrasing;
   • those in which the suspected plagiarism is a small proportion of the work only and/or an element in a piece of work which makes a small contribution to the mark for the module.

6. More serious cases are those which may include, but are not limited to:
   • purchasing work from another / others and submitting this as one’s own;
   • copying multiple paragraphs in full without acknowledgement of the source;
   • taking work from the Internet without revealing the source;
   • copying all or much of the work of a fellow learner with, or without, his/her knowledge or consent;
   • submitting the same piece of work more than once to gain academic credit;
   • cases involving award year learners;
   • second and subsequent offence(s) where the learner / researcher has been in receipt of an earlier written warning.

7. All incidences of plagiarism, whether minor or major, even where unintentional, constitute a breach of Academic Integrity and shall be recorded in a Departmental log and the learner / researcher so advised. Records shall be retained for five years.

6 Fabrication

1. Learners must be careful when designing, recording and handling experimental data. Only information in which the learner has confidence may be used in a final report. The learner must also identify why specific data sets have been ignored in their conclusions and identify the processes which were used in collating data.

2. Results may be presented in any of a variety of formats e.g. as text, tables, graphs, diagrams, photographs, images etc. The term “Results” is intended to convey the meaning of:
   • a physical set of measurements;
   • the results of a survey or field study;
   • the results of a clinical trial; and
   • any other similar activities where evidence is gathered.

3. The responsibility lies with the learner to ensure that the information presented is as accurate as possible and that due care has been taken in its production. In each of the major disciplines, there are established experimental protocols, survey methods and error handling techniques. It is the responsibility of the learner to be familiar with the appropriate technique.

4. Fabrication is understood as the act of presenting information as the results from an experiment, a trial or a survey which was not carried out. Fabrication includes presenting results which were not generated by the experiment or survey, i.e.
‘inventing data’. Fabrication also includes the act of deliberately removing, suppressing or selecting data from any experiment or survey in order to advance a particular hypothesis.

5. Fabrication could also include manipulation of images using software or similar, in order to create an erroneous interpretation. (It is recognized that during the design of a trial or in setting up phase of an experiment, that spurious results may be generated and it is legitimate to ignore these, provided the same conditions are replicated, with different and consistent results). Where results have been knowingly falsified, the learner is open to charges of fraud and professional misconduct.

6. It is not fabrication where a learner forms erroneous conclusions from valid data.

7. Minor cases of fabrication are those in which the suspected fabrication is of minor academic value and/or represents poor academic practice. Such cases include, but are not limited to:
   - apparently innocent misuse of a protocol;
   - poor understanding of protocol;
   - bad experimental technique;
   - interpolating and extrapolating from insufficient evidence;
   - over enthusiastic inferences without sufficient evidence and in which the suspected data represents only a small proportion of the work and/or an element in a piece of work which makes a small contribution to the mark for the module;
   - selection and rejection of material without sufficient justification.

8. Major cases are those which may include, but are not limited to, for example:
   - providing results for an experiment or survey which was not conducted;
   - claiming that a result has been verified where it has not been tested;
   - deliberately altering results from an experiment or survey;
   - fabrication involving an award year learner will always be considered as a major case;
   - selection and rejection of results without plausible justification;
   - subsequent offence(s) where the learner has been in receipt of an earlier written warning.

7 Cheating

1. It is extremely important that examinations and assessments be both fair and impartial. Any attempt by a learner to subvert the fairness of an examination event is considered cheating and must be reported. Cheating is a form of deception and relates solely to the examination process. Cheating is where the learner seeks to gain an unfair advantage over other learners by having access to material or equipment at a time or at a place where it is not intended, by the examiner, to be available.

2. Examples of cheating include but are not limited to:
   - Impersonation;
   - Use of / or access to telecommunications aids, written materials or data devices when not explicitly permitted in the context of the examination;
   - Reading or attempting to read the material of another learner;
- Acquiring improper knowledge of sight unseen examination questions;
- Accessing restricted material, e.g. tutor guides or sample answers.

3. All cases of alleged cheating will be dealt with under the Institutes’ Code of Conduct.
   See: http://ww2.dkit.ie/student_life/regulations/conduct_of_examinations

8 Un-Ethical Research

1. Please refer to the Institute's Ethics Policy.
   See: https://www.dkit.ie/health-science/research/research-ethics

9 Dealing with Breaches of Academic Integrity

A number of staff will be identified in each Department as Plagiarism Advisers and shall form a Plagiarism Panel. These advisers will be trained in deterring, detecting and dealing with plagiarism. They will become aware of current best practice guidelines, including current national and international developments across the Higher Education sector.

Procedure

1. It is good practice for Schools and Departments to require learners to attach a declaration (i.e. continuous assessment coversheet) to all submitted work, where appropriate, indicating that the work is their own. The statement should indicate that the learner has read and understood these regulations. The purpose of this statement is to reinforce the importance of Academic Integrity. The Institute reserves the right to verify the originality of any submitted work.

2. Once work is submitted learners receive feedback from lecturers in respect of the submitted work.

3. The lecturer(s) may employ a variety of mechanisms to verify the originality/ authenticity of the submitted work. Verification may take the form of an oral verification interview with the submitting learner or learners, using plagiarism detection software (e.g. Turnitin), or any other process appropriate to a particular discipline to safeguard Academic Integrity.

4. Where, arising from the verification processes outlined above, a suspicion of a breach of Academic Integrity exists, an Academic Integrity Report is completed by the lecturer(s), signed by both the learner and lecturer(s) and submitted to the Head of Department.

5. In the event of the infringement being deemed by the lecturer(s) to be of little academic significance, he/she may propose that the matter is resolved informally by referring the student for training on academic writing and referencing. In order to make such a decision the lecturer(s) must consult with a Plagiarism Advisor or their Head of Department and obtain agreement. In such a case the incident is still recorded.

6. In cases where the incident is to be referred to a Disciplinary Panel, the learner will be notified, in writing by the Department, of the suspected infringement and provided with:
   - the Academic Integrity Report completed by the lecturer and learner;
• a copy of the allegedly plagiarised work;
• a copy of the original source of the allegedly plagiarised work, where available;
• evidence which may support or establish a breach of Academic Integrity (e.g. Report generated by Plagiarism Detection Tool; Report of Verification interview or other report appropriate to the discipline involved).

7. A Departmental Disciplinary Hearing is convened where a breach of the Academic Integrity Policy is suspected and its purpose is to establish whether a prima facie exists. The Departmental Disciplinary is comprised of the following:
• Chair will be a Head of Department or Head of School from another discipline. The learner is invited to attend the Departmental Disciplinary Hearing.
• Two members of the Institute's Plagiarism Panel.

8. A record of the Departmental Disciplinary Hearing will be made using the relevant sections of the Academic Integrity Report.

9. The Head of Department, in which the alleged infringement occurs, will present the evidence to the Departmental Plagiarism Panel to establish whether a prima facie case exists. This is to give the learner and the panel a clear explanation of what has been alleged.

10. The learner will have the right to be accompanied by and assisted at the Departmental Disciplinary Hearing by a representative. The Chair will make clear to the learner that the panel may apply penalties if a minor breach of the Academic Integrity Policy is established or alternatively may refer the matter to the Institute’s Disciplinary Committee where a major breach is suspected. The panel members are provided with the following documents:
• the Academic Integrity Report completed by the lecturer and learner;
• a copy of the allegedly plagiarised work;
• a copy of the original source of the allegedly plagiarised work, where available;
• Evidence which may support or establish a breach of Academic Integrity (e.g. Report generated by Plagiarism Detection Tool; Report of Verification interview or other report appropriate to the discipline involved).

11. The learner is given the opportunity to justify the work submitted and is invited to admit or deny responsibility.

Once both sides have presented their case and answered any questions the Head of Department in which the alleged infringement occurs and the learner are asked to leave the room. The members of the Departmental Disciplinary Panel then adjudicate as to whether there is a case to answer or not.

12. If a prima facie case is established the Departmental Disciplinary Panel uses the Plagiarism Penalty Grid provided in Appendix 1 to determine the appropriate
penalty. Breaches scored up to 524 points are considered to be of a minor nature and the penalty is determined at the Departmental Disciplinary Hearing.

If the points exceed 524 this constitutes a possible major offence and the matter is referred to the Institute’s Disciplinary Committee who shall deal with the matter in the same manner as it deals with all breaches of the Institute’s Code of Conduct (https://www.dkit.ie/documents/code-conduct).

13. Once the Departmental Disciplinary Panel have concluded their adjudication the Head of Department and learner will be requested to re-enter the room and the panel decision only will be communicated to the learner.

14. The learner will be notified of the panel decision, penalty and appeals procedure if relevant, in writing by the Chair, within three working days of the Departmental Disciplinary Hearing.

15. At the end of the Academic Integrity process, Section X of the Academic Integrity Report must be signed by the learner.

16. Where a learner fails to attend the departmental disciplinary hearing, a second hearing will be convened. Should the learner fail to attend the second convened hearing, the hearing will proceed in the absence of the learner and a decision will be taken on the evidence to hand.

17. In keeping with the Institute’s Code of Conduct, the learner shall be entitled to appeal a decision to the Registrar.

18. Records of all proven infringements shall be held by Departments and can be consulted by lecturing staff and members of the Plagiarism Panel to determine whether a new case is potentially a second, or subsequent, offence.

19. Statistical information covering the number of cases referred to Plagiarism Advisers, the number of formal warnings and other penalties applied by the Departmental Disciplinary Panel will be collected and collated annually by the Registrar’s Office. This will inform subsequent modifications to these Regulations and ascertain the requirement for wider training and information dissemination on this topic.

10 Roles & Responsibilities

1. It is the policy of the Institute in the first instance to train its staff, researchers and learners on the conventions, rules and regulations pertaining to Academic Integrity. Such training should be compulsory for first year students and should occur early in the semester before any assignments are submitted for academic credit. Periodic training should be available to staff.

2. It is the responsibility of Departments to ensure that staff and learners are adequately trained. There is an onus on staff and learners / researchers to be aware of Institute policies, procedures and guidelines in relation to Academic Integrity and to adhere to these.
11 Appendix 1: Plagiarism Penalty Grid

The Plagiarism Penalty tool is a points based grid that attempts to standardise the treatment of penalties for plagiarism. It also provides institutions with a tool against which they can benchmark their policy and associated practice.

Each suspected case of plagiarism is scored against a number of criteria (history, amount/extent, level/stage, value of assignment, additional characteristics) and the resultant total score is matched against a sliding scale of penalties. The tool is applied in a two-step process:

- Step 1: Assign Points Based on Criteria
- Step 2: Apply Penalties Based on Points (Penalty Determination)

### Step 1: Assign Points Based on Criteria

#### History

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<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Time</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Time</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd / + Time</td>
<td>200</td>
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#### Amount/Extent

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<tr>
<td>Below 5% OR less than two sentences</td>
<td>80</td>
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<tr>
<td>As above but with critical aspects* plagiarised</td>
<td>105</td>
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<td>Between 5% and 20% OR more than sentences but not more than two paragraphs</td>
<td>105</td>
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<tr>
<td>As above but with critical aspects* plagiarised</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 20% and 50% OR more than sentences but not more than five paragraphs</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As above but with critical aspects* plagiarised</td>
<td>160</td>
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<td>Above 50% OR more than 5 paragraphs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submission purchased from essay mill or ghost writing service</td>
<td>225</td>
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*critical aspects are key ideas central to the assignment*
Level/stage

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<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>1st Year</td>
<td>70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Undergraduate (not 1st or final year)</td>
<td>115</td>
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<td>Final Year/Postgraduate</td>
<td>140</td>
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Value of Assignment

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<tr>
<td>Standard assignment</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Large project (e.g. final year dissertation, thesis)</td>
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Additional Characteristics

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evidence of deliberate attempt to disguise plagiarism by changing words, sentences or references to avoid detection</td>
<td>40</td>
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Step 2: Apply Penalties Based on Points

Summative Work

In all cases a formal warning is given and a record made contributing to the student’s previous history.

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<tr>
<td>280-329</td>
<td>No further action beyond formal warning Assignment awarded 0% - resubmission required, with no penalty on mark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>330-379</td>
<td>No further action beyond formal warning Assignment awarded 0% - resubmission required, with no penalty on mark Assignment awarded 0% - resubmission required but with capped* or reduced mark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>380-479</td>
<td>Assignment awarded 0% - resubmission required but with capped* or reduced mark Assignment awarded 0% - repeat required within current academic year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>480-525</td>
<td>Assignment awarded 0% - repeat required within current academic year Case referred to Discipline Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>525+</td>
<td>Case referred to Discipline Committee</td>
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*Normally, marks will be capped at the pass mark for the assignment
Formative Work

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<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Available Penalties</th>
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<tr>
<td>280-379</td>
<td>Informal warning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>380+</td>
<td>Formal warning, with record made contributing to the student’s previous history</td>
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