

College Policy



Policy name:	Academic Malpractice and Maladministration Policy
Approved:	8 th December, 2022

Purpose:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To identify and minimise the risk of malpractice or maladministration by staff or learners. 2. To respond to any incident of alleged malpractice or maladministration promptly and objectively. 3. To standardise and record any investigation of malpractice or maladministration to ensure openness and fairness. 4. To impose appropriate penalties and/or sanctions on learners or staff where incidents (or attempted incidents) of malpractice or maladministration are proven. 5. To protect the integrity of this centre and all awarding organisation qualifications offered including but not limited to BTEC, OCR and UAL qualifications.
Scope:	Academic malpractice and/or maladministration by any member of staff or any full- or part-time student.
Definitions:	<p>Definition of malpractice:</p> <p>Any activity or practice which deliberately (or through neglect) contravenes regulations and compromises the integrity of the internal or external assessment process and/or the validity of certificates. It may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plagiarism of any nature (academic misconduct). • Collusion by working collaboratively with other learners to produce work that is submitted as individual learner work. • Copying (including the use of ICT to aid copying). • Deliberate destruction of another's work. • Fabrication of results or evidence. • False declaration of authenticity in relation to the contents of a portfolio or coursework. • Impersonation by pretending to be someone else in order to produce the work for another or arranging for another to take one's place in an assessment/examination/test. • Facilitating and allowing impersonation. • Presenting another's work as your own. • Failure to carry out assessment or quality assurance in accordance with awarding organisation requirements. • Improper assistance to candidates by centre staff, for example assisting learners in the production of work for assessment where the support has the potential to influence the outcomes of assessment, or where the assistance involves centre staff producing work for the learner.

- Allowing evidence, which is known by the staff member not to be the learner's own, to be included in a learner's assignment/task/portfolio/ coursework.
- Misusing the conditions for special learner requirements, for example where learners are permitted support, such as an amanuensis, this is permissible up to the point where the support has the potential to influence the outcome of the assessment.
- Deliberate submission of false information to gain a qualification.
- Deliberate failure to maintain appropriate records of assessment and certification.
- A loss, theft of, or a breach of confidentiality in any assessment materials.
- Unauthorised amendments, copying or distribution of exam/assessment papers/materials.
- Falsifying records/certificates, for example by alteration, substitution, or by fraud.
- Fraudulent certificate claims, that is claiming for a certificate prior to the learner completing all the requirements of assessment.
- Failure to declare any conflicts of interest in relation to students.
- Persistent instances of maladministration in a centre.

This list is not exhaustive and other instances of malpractice may be considered by Highlands College.

Definition of maladministration:

Any activity or practice which results in non-compliance with administrative regulations and requirements and includes persistent mistakes or poor administration within a centre.

- Failure to adhere to awarding organisation approval requirements.
- Failure to maintain appropriate records of enrolments, registrations, claims, appeals, conflicts of interest, etc.
- Late candidate registrations.
- Inaccurate claims for certificates.
- Failure to keep candidate coursework/portfolios of evidence secure.
- Inappropriate retention of records or certificates.

This list is not exhaustive and other instances of malpractice may be considered by Highlands College.

<p>Policy:</p>	<p>Highlands College will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to avoid potential malpractice (academic misconduct) by using the induction period and the learner handbook to inform learners of the centre's policy on malpractice and the penalties for attempted and actual incidents of malpractice. • Show learners the appropriate formats to record cited texts and other materials or information sources. • Ask learners to declare that their work is their own. • Ask learners to provide evidence that they have interpreted and synthesised appropriate information and acknowledged any sources used. • Conduct an investigation in a form commensurate with the nature of the malpractice allegation. Such an investigation will be supported by the Senior Leadership Team and all personnel linked to the allegation. It will proceed through the following stages: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make the individual fully aware at the earliest opportunity of the nature of the alleged malpractice and of the possible consequences should malpractice be proven. 2. Give the individual the opportunity to respond to the allegations made. 3. Inform the individual of the avenues for appealing against any judgment made. • The college will document all stages of any investigation.
<p>Operational arrangements:</p>	<p>Responsibilities</p> <p>Lecturers and Coordinators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will ensure students are made aware of the college policy on malpractice through the student course handbook and through the course induction process. • Will, with module tutors, show learners how to reference and cite texts and other sources of information correctly. • Ensure that there is a declaration that the student's work is their own in accordance with awarding organisation requirements. • Ensure learners provide evidence that they have interpreted and synthesised information and acknowledged their sources. • Where potential academic malpractice is identified by unit tutors the Course Coordinator should raise this with the Head of Department.

	<p>Head of Department</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will ensure that all members of their teams are aware of the college policy on malpractice and maladministration. • Will seek guidance from Registry on the process of investigation, commensurate with the nature of the malpractice. • Undertake the investigation if appropriate. • Ask Registry to undertake an investigation on behalf of the college Senior Leadership Team. <p>Registry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will log all allegations of malpractice and maladministration. • Will document and record the investigation process related to academic malpractice. • Will undertake investigations when requested to by the Head of Department. • Inform the awarding organisation of any malpractice or maladministration within 48 hours using awarding organisation documentation and processes and supply the awarding organisation with personal details of staff as required. <p>Investigation Process (Student)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A full description of the investigation process can be found in the Student Academic Misconduct Guidelines document. This process takes place in stages with the student being entitled to support at any meetings and with the right to appeal the college's final decision. <p>In summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student will be made aware of the allegation of malpractice at the earliest opportunity and the possible consequences if the allegation is found to be proven. • The student will be provided with a copy of the evidence leading to the allegation of malpractice. • The student may respond to these allegations. • The student can be supported by a friend, relative or student council representative during any meetings relating to the investigation of the allegation. • Each stage of the investigation will be documented by Registry.
--	--

	<p>Investigation process (staff)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the college discovers or suspects anyone of malpractice or maladministration, the Principal or their nominee will make the individual fully aware at the earliest opportunity of the alleged malpractice and possible consequences. • An investigation into allegations of malpractice will be carried out using the appropriate CYPES and/or Government of Jersey policies and/or procedures. • The alleged incident will be reported to the appropriate awarding organisation using relevant documentation. • The Governing Body will be informed of the outcome of the above processes.
Sanctions	<p>Student</p> <p>(For full process see Student Academic Misconduct Guidelines document.)</p> <p>The sanctions applied are dependent on the outcome of investigations undertaken. These range from advice and guidance on how to avoid academic malpractice to potential removal from the student's programme of study.</p> <p>Staff</p> <p>If allegations are found to be substantiated, sanctions range from an unrecorded verbal warning to removal from post.</p>
Produced by:	Quality and Compliance Manager (Further Education)
Approved by:	Policy Subcommittee (Assistant Principal Curriculum and Quality)
Approval date:	4 th July, 2022 Revised by Quality and Compliance Manager on 12 th December, 2022 to include requirement to notify awarding organisations of any malpractice/maladministration within 48 hours. Approved by Director of Governance and Compliance.
Supersedes:	Academic Malpractice 20201016
Supporting documentation:	<p>https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/Support/policies-for-centres-learners-and-employees/Centre-Guidance-malpractice-maladministration.pdf</p> <p>http://www.icq.org.uk/exams-office/malpractice Student Academic Misconduct Guidelines</p>
Review date:	July 2023
To be reviewed by:	Registry