Reimagining educational approaches to academic integrity

Alison Reedy, Amanda Janssen, Alison Lockley and Penny Wurm, Charles Darwin University, Northern Territory

Focus Area: Academic integrity education

Universities have been increasingly under the spotlight to improve education for staff and students about academic integrity and its flipside, academic misconduct. To address this, Charles Darwin University (CDU) developed new educational approaches and resources. Although students were a key focus, the educational approaches are targeted towards three groups: the student, the lecturer, and the unit coordinator. The initial consultation process for each of these groups not only enabled the collection of useful information about the resource format, but also provided a vehicle for learning through the process of unpacking complex policy, procedures and practices within the CDU context.

The academic integrity educational resources include:

- Flowcharts to illustrate procedural pathways and consequences;
- Case studies adapted into comic strip scenarios that provide a fun, engaging, visual way to convey an important message, while avoiding stereotyping of students or lecturers;
- Interactive tools that assist with time management and assessment preparation, widely recognised as one of the contributing factors to academic breaches;
- Tips and tools that link to existing CDU support services.

These educational resources are utilised during student orientation, linked into course materials, and are also available online for access at any time by students and staff.

The reimagined approaches and resources leveraged four key elements:

1. Flexibility: in terms of range, type and format to suit different purposes and needs.
2. Interactivity: with web-based tools and creative approaches that can be used for practical activities.
3. Accessibility: through ease of access and different formats, with resources hosted in an easy-to-navigate website.
4. Expertise: including digital and educational expertise, academic expertise on content, and the student voice.

Key points:

- Engaging educational approaches that leverage flexibility, interactivity, accessibility and expertise.
- Graphically presented case studies depicting actual scenarios of breaches of academic integrity, why they occurred and consequences for students.
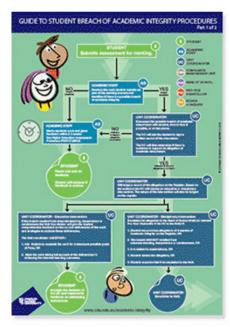- Contextualised information and resources that can be shared in a variety of ways.

Examples of educational resources to promote and maintain academic integrity
at Charles Darwin University