

Transcript: Academic Integrity Workshop Summary video

What do we mean when we talk about Academic Integrity?

A simple definition is an expectation that teachers, students, researchers and all members of the academic community act with: Honesty, Trust, Fairness, Respect and Responsibility.

Unfortunately, research shows that breaches of academic integrity are common.

For example, as well as old-fashioned copying, academic information is easily accessible online for students to plagiarise and online essay writing services are being persuasively marketed to students looking to swap cash for higher grades.

The Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency recently commissioned a group of scholars to share research on academic integrity within the Australian higher education sector to prompt reflection on how academic integrity is promoted and maintained.

Researchers found that rates of self-reported cheating range from between 46 and 72 per cent while rates of self-reported plagiarism are as high as 81 per cent.

Students for whom English as additional language are particularly vulnerable to the unscrupulous practices of commercial contract cheating services.

In addition, if students are dissatisfied with the teaching and learning environment or perceive that there are opportunities they may be tempted to cheat.

Fortunately, TEQSA has provided examples of policies, procedures and guidelines to promote and uphold academic integrity.

TEQSA recommends working with student representatives to promote a culture of academic integrity, making academic integrity visible on campus and offering clear guidelines on integrity breaches.

These practices will ensure that higher education providers meet the criteria of both TEQSA and the Higher Education Standards framework and uphold a culture of academic integrity for all stakeholders.