



An Introduction to Academic Integrity

Academic integrity underpins all aspects of higher education, including all activities relating to research, learning, assessment, and scholarship at Trinity. Academic integrity is a core feature of Trinity's academic culture and is the cornerstone of university life. Maintaining academic integrity involves a commitment to and demonstration of honest and moral behaviour in the academic setting.

This section aims to help you to:

- refine your understanding of academic integrity as it applies to teaching, learning, and assessment at Trinity and in the Irish national context;
- identify Trinity's Principles of Integrity for all staff.

What is Academic Integrity?

Academic integrity can be described as **a commitment to, and compliance with,**

'ethical and professional principles, standards, practices and consistent system of values, that serve as guidance for making decisions and taking actions in education, research and scholarship'
([NAIN Lexicon](#), p.3)

Academic integrity is a **broad concept** that advocates for **ethical standards and practices** in all aspects of **academic practice**; this includes programme development, assessment and feedback practices and teaching methodologies. Promoting and maintaining academic integrity is a **shared concern for all those who teach and support learning at Trinity**.

Ethical behaviours in education and research, **perceptions of 'quality', the value of a Trinity degree, and broader institutional reputation** are all potentially impacted by breaches of academic integrity and instances of academic misconduct.



Statement of Principles on Integrity

Following guidance from Council, Trinity's Academic Integrity Working Group disseminated a College-approved [Statement of Principles on Integrity](#).

"At Trinity College Dublin, **we commit ourselves as staff and students to acting responsibly and ethically, embracing integrity in all our actions and interactions** as members of the College community. Understanding that integrity requires **honesty, transparency and accountability**, we agree to:

- **Strive** to do what we say we will, ensuring that we are aware of our commitments and responsibilities in order to fulfil them, and abiding by College and other relevant policies and the highest standards of conduct.
- **Give credit** where credit is due, recognizing and acknowledging the contributions and achievements of others in scholarship, teaching, research and service.
- **Tell** the truth, as a community and as individuals, speaking out and listening even when it is difficult, naming problems and honestly acknowledging mistakes.
- **Hold** ourselves and others to account for the things for which we are each responsible.
- **Use** resources for the purposes for which they are intended and be above reproach in financial dealings.
- **Deal** fairly, consistently and transparently with others."

Key Takeaways

- Academic integrity **underpins all aspects of research and education** at Trinity and is key to Trinity's mission and values.
- Academic integrity is a **shared responsibility** for all members of the College community.
- Trinity **staff play a key role** in supporting students' understanding of academic integrity and the requirement for honesty, transparency and accountability in all aspects of academic practice.

Resources

- Trinity College Dublin (February 2022) [Trinity Statement of Principles on Integrity](#)
- National Academic Integrity Network, Quality & Qualifications Ireland (QQI) (2021) (1st edition) [National Principles and Lexicon of Common Terms](#)

Last updated on: 13 October 2023