

The recording of plagiarism cases at the module level in SITS is reported in the Academic Registry Annual Report. From 2016/17 (45) to 2018/19 (47) the number of cases recorded remained stable, however, there was a 35% increase in 2019/20 to 73. A further increase to 124 plagiarism cases was recorded in 2020/21, (ref. AR Annual Report, 2020/21 Appendices: table E22). However, it is of note that a substantial proportion of the cases of plagiarism are related to a small number of courses and are not widespread across Trinity. Further data on examination infringement and plagiarism was obtained from the Office of the Junior Dean and the data is available from Appendix VIII.¹⁰ In 2020/21, 13 cases of examination infringement were reported, which is a decrease from 18 in 2019/20. It must be noted that two of these incidents involved collusion among a large number of students engaged in take-home examinations. One such incident involved approximately one third of all students on the course, and the exam was re-held as an in-person exam.

As more years of data become available, it will be important to track the distribution of the levels of plagiarism across all years of a programme as a means of informing possible future revisions to the policy and/or to educate students in relation to academic integrity. The increase since 2019/20 may be attributed to the shift to online assessments and open-book examinations due to the pandemic. A working group on Academic Integrity has been established (2022) to progress work on reviewing and updating regulations and policy relating to plagiarism and examination infringement, as well as developing support for the student and academic community. The establishment of a National Academic Integrity Advisory Network (NAIN) by Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) will inform the development of national policy, regulations, and practice guidelines in this area.

3.6 Examinations

Table E10(b) from the AR Annual Report below presents the breakdown of examination sittings from 2015/16 to 2019/20. The data from 2019/19 onwards provide a breakdown of sittings for semester 1 and semester 2.

Table E10(b): Breakdown of examination sittings, 2019/20 – 2015/16 (source: AR Annual Report 2019/20, pg. 62)

Examination Sittings	2018/19	2019/20		2018/19		2017/18	2016/17	2015/16	
End of Year / Semester	Semester 1	30,998	Semester 1	34,280	Semester 1	32,139	62,430	61,046	75,778
	Semester 2	28,292	Semester 2	30,235	Semester 2	36,246			
Reassessments / Supplementals	2,971	2,874		3,644		4,107	3,926	4,260	
Specials	1,644	24		-		98	109	147	
Council Approved Annual	3,101	4,121		6,649		15,161	15,269	12,562	
Council Approved Supplemental [^]	531	-		477		-	-	-	
Term Tests	-	2,361		2,754		6,433	5,509	5,533	

¹⁰ The data presented in Appendix VIII relates to incidents that have been reported to the Office of the Junior Dean and may contain cases that are not contained in the record held by Academic Registry.

