

Good Scholarly Practice

Murray Cole

School Academic Misconduct Officer (SAMO)

School of Informatics

Audio/Questions

- ▶ If you can't hear
 - ▶ Check the Audio/Visual settings in the Collaborate Panel
 - ▶ Check the Audio settings on your computer/headset
 - ▶ Try signing out and signing back into the session

- ▶ Asking Questions
 - ▶ Type questions in the “Text Chat Area”, or
 - ▶ If you want to ask a question verbally, use the Raise your Hand button and I'll invite you to speak (then lower your hand)
 - ▶ You can also ask me questions by e-mail any time

This Session Will Be Recorded

- ▶ This session will now be recorded. Any further information that you provide during a session is optional and in doing so you give us consent to process this information.
- ▶ These sessions will be stored by the University of Edinburgh for one year and published for 60 days after the event. Schools or Services may use the recordings for up to a year on relevant websites.
- ▶ By taking part in a session you give us your consent to process any information you provide during it.

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Good Scholarly Practice...

... must be followed by

- ▶ All academic staff at the University
- ▶ All students at the University

Good Scholarly Practice in Research

Suppose I submit a paper for publication. I must:

- ▶ Be clear about use of other work (including my own).
 - ▶ Citation of relevant work (publication details, url etc.) including diagrams (even if modified).
 - ▶ If using a quote then give it clearly as such, e.g., *As stated by Cole (2021) "It is wise to follow good academic practice. . ."*
- ▶ Acknowledge help received.
 - ▶ Conversations/discussions that led to *significant* progress.
 - ▶ Comments from an anonymous referee that led to improvements.
 - ▶ etc.

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 - ▶ etc.
- ▶ Ensure that work presented as my own and new really is that, and the reader can see clearly which work is claimed as such.

Purpose of this Presentation

- ▶ Give some (quick) guidance on good practice for students.
- ▶ Give examples of bad practice.
- ▶ Give links to guidance.
- ▶ Explain briefly the consequences of bad practice.

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- ▶ Dissertation, etc.

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Breaches of this rule are regarded as **academic misconduct and are taken very seriously by the University**.

Two Examples of Academic Misconduct

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2. Working together with another student to produce a joint program and then each customizing the code to make the solutions appear distinct.

- ▶ This is **collusion**.

By all means discuss general ideas and difficulties with fellow students, but keep this at a general level well away from the solution and write the code by yourself.

Information About Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct includes:

- ▶ plagiarism,
- ▶ collusion,
- ▶ falsification (e.g. faking experimental results, deliberately untrue claims)
- ▶ impersonation (e.g. doing the work for somebody else)

School of Informatics guidelines are at

<https://web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/admin/policies/academic-misconduct>

which also contains links to other relevant pages, including the University information pages on academic misconduct.

Consequences of Misconduct

Three levels depending on case:

- ▶ Warning from School Academic Misconduct Officer.
- ▶ Report to College of Science and Engineering.
 - ▶ College contacts the student so they can respond to the allegation.
 - ▶ If necessary an interview is conducted.
 - ▶ A decision is made. This can result in a reduction of marks, potentially to zero.
- ▶ Report to University Student Discipline Committee.

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Any accusation is a serious matter and hence is treated with great care and the rights of all are respected.

For example, if a similarity is detected, we will consider whether this is significant and not innocent or to be expected (e.g. if two people implement quicksort in Java).

Keeping to Good Scholarly Practice

Do your own work

- ▶ Ask only for legitimate help, stopping well short of solutions, do not go searching for solutions to the exercise.
- ▶ Would you feel it reasonable to ask the lecturer for a certain level of help? If not, then don't ask anyone else either.

If in doubt:

- ▶ Consult online guidance.
 - ▶ If necessary ask the person who set assignment for help on specific points relating to it.
 - ▶ For a general point ask me (inf-samo@inf.ed.ac.uk).

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Publishing your solutions to coursework:

- ▶ By default you are *not* allowed to do this but a lecturer can give permission (on the handout).
- ▶ For the projects (UG4, MInf, MSc) the default is that you *can* publish unless the proposer stated otherwise (very rare).

Use of ChatGPT and other AI content generators

- ▶ The School's default position is that you **must not** use such tools (just as you must not get another person to do your work for you).
- ▶ For some courses, or some exercises, the course organiser may give explicit permission in writing to use such tools, for specific purposes only. This is then OK, but you should still explain in the coursework submitted that you have done so.
- ▶ The School academic misconduct pages contain further discussion on this issue, and links to further general guidance from the University.

Relax

This is not a police state and I am not out to get you!

Adopting good scholarly practice is part of your education.

- ▶ The vast majority of people have no intention of committing any crimes.
- ▶ The vast majority of students wish to follow good scholarly practice.
 - ▶ Do discuss things with each other, but only to a legitimate level (eg explaining material and examples from lectures and notes).
 - ▶ The response to an offer “I’ll show you my code” (or “solution”) is “No, please don’t” (unless explicitly permitted, e.g. in a team exercise).

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Any Questions?

Please send them to me by e-mail

`inf-samo@inf.ed.ac.uk`