Academic Integrity and Academic Misconduct in Research

Research students are expected to uphold the University’s expected standards on academic integrity and academic misconduct.

Academic Integrity

The following statement was adopted by the University in June 2016.

‘Academic integrity describes the values held to be essential in university study in the UK. The five core values have been identified as:

- **Accuracy** - making sure that your work is free from errors
- **Honesty** - being truthful about which ideas are your own and which are derived from others, and about the methods and results of your research
- **Fairness** - not trying to gain advantage by unfair means; for instance, by passing off another’s work as your own
- **Responsibility** - taking an active role in your own learning
- **Respect** - For your fellow students, staff, and the work of other scholars.

Academic misconduct

Academic misconduct is a breach of University discipline and is punishable by a range of sanctions. It includes:

- **Plagiarism** - this is the fraudulent representation of another’s work as one’s own. This applies whatever the source of the material, whether the work is directly copied or paraphrased, and whatever the extent of the material used.
- **Reproduction of your own work** that has been formally assessed elsewhere (excluding in annual progress and confirmation of registration reports).
- **Falsifying data, evidence, or experimental results.**
- **Collusion** - acting with another student with the intention to deceive
- **Contracting to cheat**, such as commissioning another party to produce assessed work for you, (excluding where permission has been given to use third party data collection services).
- **Cheating in written examinations** that form part of the student's formal assessment.
- **Suspensions / extensions.** It is an offence to submit false or misleading evidence in support of an extenuating circumstances form.

Further details on procedures for investigating academic misconduct, the penalties that may be applied, and the appeals procedure can be found in Section 9 of the University Assessment Handbook: Academic Integrity and Academic Misconduct (http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/files/qualitysupport/9_Academic_integrity_and_academic_misconduct_final.pdf)
Additional points that are specific to research students

- Suspected cases of academic misconduct should be reported to the School / Department Director of PGR Studies, who should liaise with the School Director of Teaching & Learning to agree how best to investigate.

- A first instance of plagiarism in the early stages of a programme (up to and including Confirmation of Registration) can normally be dealt with at School level unless the scale is major or gross, in which case it should be reported to the University Appeals and Academic Misconduct Officer. Students who are found guilty of committing plagiarism by the School should be directed towards available documentation on how to avoid plagiarism, and to the relevant RRDP course run through the Graduate School.

- Cases of suspected plagiarism in published work or in submitted theses should be reported to the University Appeals and Academic Misconduct Officer. The Dean of PGR Studies should also be informed.

- Other forms of academic misconduct would normally be reported to the University Appeals and Academic Misconduct Officer. Again, the Dean of PGR Studies should also be informed.