

Contract cheating

What is contract cheating and why is it important to avoid it?



What is contract cheating?

Contract cheating happens when someone completes part or all of an assessment for a student and then the student submits that work as their own. This is the most serious academic misconduct offence. Academic misconduct is defined as deliberately or accidentally using the work of others without giving them credit.



Examples of contract cheating are:

- Buying or attempting to buy an assessment from an individual or company
- Asking or allowing a friend or family member to complete your assignment for you
- Submitting an assignment found on the internet as your own
- Appointing a proof reader that substantially alters your work, whether this is a person you know or a service you have paid for



Why students cheat?

Students cheat for a number of reasons including:

- Difficulty managing time
- Difficulty understanding the assessment requirements
- Not knowing how or where to get support
- Feeling overwhelmed with studies
- Finding skills such as referencing, researching and essay writing difficult
- Thinking it is easy to get away with cheating
- Lack of self confidence
- Pressure to perform/excel academically

Remember if anyone completes or makes substantial changes to your work, whether paid or unpaid, then you may be investigated for an academic misconduct offence. If you are found guilty of committing an academic misconduct offence then penalties will be applied.

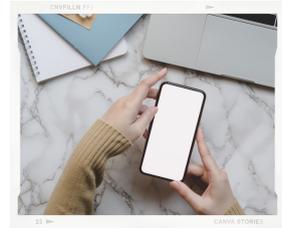
Typical situations in which contract cheating can happen



You pay for your spelling and grammar to be checked but they change the sentences and structure of your work. You like the new version and submit it.



A contract cheating service contacts you on social media and offers to write your assessment for a fee. They may claim that you won't get caught for using their service and that their work is plagiarism free. Students have often felt dissatisfied with the grade they have received.



In an online group chat for your course, for example, WhatsApp, a person from outside the university asks if you want help with your assignment for a fee. They claim that you are simply getting help with your studies.



Negative effects of contract cheating:

- You will not develop the professional skills needed to work in the field that you gained your qualifications in.
- In qualifications like nursing and law not having expertise in a certain area can endanger life. If you commit an academic misconduct offence that is a part of a profession that is regulated they will be notified that cheating took place.
- Essay writing services have blackmailed students by reporting the student to the university for cheating when there is a disagreement between the student and the essay writing service or if they want more money.
- You could be exposed to fraud as your bank details may be held with minimal security.

How contract cheating can affect your degree?

- You are awarded a lower qualification (exit qualification) for the modules you have completed with no opportunity to resit.
- You may be expelled.
- You could lose your degree years later if an academic misconduct offence committed at university comes to light years later.



We have put together an online course called Student Success Essentials which covers how to complete assessments with integrity and avoid academic misconduct. [Click here](#) to complete the online course today within My Learning.

Support

There is plenty of support at the university to help you avoid contract cheating.

- LET - The Learning Enhancement Team (LET) provide free support with Academic Writing & Language and Maths, Stats & Numeracy.
- Counselling and Mental Health team provide mental wellbeing support and individual counselling services to help you manage any challenges that you might face while you study with us.
- Library - The library have good resources on referencing and plagiarism.
- UniHelp - For any student enquiry.