

Collusion

What is collusion and why is it important to avoid it?



What is collusion?

Collusion is when two or more students work together on an assessment that should be completed individually. The students then submit the work without acknowledging they have worked on the assessment with others.

Examples of collusion include:

- Two or more students, without official approval, submitting the same or very similar work and handing it in as their own.
- Letting others copy your work.
- Presenting group work as your own.
- Communicating or attempting to communicate with other students during an online exam and/or sharing information during an online exam.



When are you allowed to work with others?

In the University community we want you to learn from your peers and share knowledge. Here are some situations in which you can work with others:

- You can discuss the different components of the assessment, such as the topic and requirements.
- You can work with others on group assessments set by your tutor.
- Your lecturer instructs you to work with your peers in a class activity; for example, in lab experiments.

How to avoid collusion



Avoid sharing your work with other students.

They may copy part or all of your work. If collusion is suspected, it may be hard to prove that you completed the work first and by yourself.



Avoid asking to see other students' assessments as you may be tempted to copy and submit their work, or use their work as a template. You could get into trouble for submitting similar work to others.



Complete assessments using your own words, ideas and structure (unless the tutor has asked you to use a specific template).



Consequences

The consequences vary in severity depending on the circumstances around the individual case; whether it's your first year of study or not; or if you have committed any academic misconduct offences previously.

Examples of academic misconduct penalties are:

- Grade being reduced due to over reliance on external sources.
- Resubmitting work but only ever getting a Grade of 16 for the component or module no matter how well you have done.
- Repeating the whole module in the future and having to pay for it and only being awarded a Grade of 16 no matter how well you have done.

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 Available

There is plenty of support at the University to help you avoid collusion:

LET- The Learning Enhancement Team (LET) provide free support with Academic Writing & Language and Maths, Stats & Numeracy.

Library-The library have good resources on referencing and plagiarism.

UniHelp-UniHelp is the first place to go as they can direct you to the relevant services. Click [**here**](#) to access their services.