

# 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.

**It is now illegal to pay for and use services to complete your assignments for you, and the use of them is facilitating an illegal activity.**



### 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 family member that is familiar with the topic of your assessment offers to complete the assessment for you

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 such as nursing and engineering, 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 have to resubmit or retake the whole module but only ever get a Grade of 16 for the module no matter how well you have done.
- 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 Available

**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.

**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.