

# Good Scholarly Practice

Murray Cole

School Academic Misconduct Officer (SAMO)

School of Informatics

# 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.

# 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.
- ▶ Work presented as one's 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.

# Individual Assessment

All work assessed *for credit* must be (unless explicitly specified otherwise) **your own individual work**.

# Individual Assessment

All work assessed *for credit* must be (unless explicitly specified otherwise) **your own individual work**.

This applies to, e.g.:

- ▶ Coursework.
- ▶ Programming assignments.
- ▶ Essay submissions.
- ▶ Research proposals.
- ▶ Dissertation, etc.

# Individual Assessment

All work assessed *for credit* must be (unless explicitly specified otherwise) **your own individual work**.

This applies to, e.g.:

- ▶ Coursework.
- ▶ Programming assignments.
- ▶ Essay submissions.
- ▶ Research proposals.
- ▶ Dissertation, etc.

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



## Two Examples of Academic Misconduct

1. Copying a portion of a research paper from the internet and then editing the words.

# Two Examples of Academic Misconduct

1. Copying a portion of a research paper from the internet and then editing the words.
  - ▶ This is **plagiarism**.

# Two Examples of Academic Misconduct

1. Copying a portion of a research paper from the internet and then editing the words.
  - ▶ This is **plagiarism**.
  - ▶ Copied text must always be included **verbatim** in **quotation marks** with the original source explicitly attributed.

All other text should be written **in your own words from the start**. Not an edited version of someone else's text.

**Myth:** It is OK to have 20% copied. **FALSE!**

# Two Examples of Academic Misconduct

1. Copying a portion of a research paper from the internet and then editing the words.
  - ▶ This is **plagiarism**.
  - ▶ Copied text must always be included **verbatim** in **quotation marks** with the original source explicitly attributed.

All other text should be written **in your own words from the start**. Not an edited version of someone else's text.

**Myth:** It is OK to have 20% copied. **FALSE!**

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

# Two Examples of Academic Misconduct

1. Copying a portion of a research paper from the internet and then editing the words.

- ▶ This is **plagiarism**.
- ▶ Copied text must always be included **verbatim** in **quotation marks** with the original source explicitly attributed.

All other text should be written **in your own words from the start**. Not an edited version of someone else's text.

**Myth:** It is OK to have 20% copied. **FALSE!**

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.

# 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.

Any accusation is a very serious charge, hence 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](mailto:inf-samo@inf.ed.ac.uk)).

# 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](mailto:inf-samo@inf.ed.ac.uk)).

## 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).

# 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).

# 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).

## Any Questions?

Please send them to me by e-mail

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