

# Promoting Good Scholarly Practice

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# Good Scholarly Practice in Research

Suppose I submit a paper then I must:

- ▶ Be clear about use of work by others.
  - ▶ Citation of relevant work (publication details, url etc.).
- ▶ Acknowledge help received.
  - ▶ Conversations/discussions that led to *significant* progress.
  - ▶ Comments from an anonymous referee that led to improvements.
  - ▶ etc.
- ▶ **Work claimed as one's one really is one's own.**

**Exception.** No need to credit standard general knowledge, e.g., *the solutions to  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$  are given by ...!*

## 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 assessed work 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.
  - ▶ 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.

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 ideas and difficulties with fellow students, but **write the code by yourself**.

# Information About Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct includes:

- ▶ plagiarism,
- ▶ collusion,
- ▶ falsification,
- ▶ impersonation, . . .

University information page on academic misconduct:

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/academic-services/students/undergraduate/discipline/academic-misconduct>

School of Informatics guidelines on plagiarism:

<http://www.inf.ed.ac.uk/admin/ITO/DivisionalGuidelinesPlagiarism.html>

# Consequences of Misconduct

Three levels depending on case:

- ▶ Warning from School Academic Misconduct Officer.
- ▶ Interview and escalation to College of Science and Engineering, resulting in a possible reduction of mark(s), potentially to 0.
- ▶ Report to University Student Discipline Committee.

**Note:** Any accusation is a very serious charge, hence treated with great care and rights of all respected.

# Keeping to Good Scholarly Practice

If in doubt:

- ▶ Consult online guidance.
  - ▶ If necessary ask person who set assignment for help on specific points relating to it.
  - ▶ For a general point ask me ([kk@inf.ed.ac.uk](mailto:kk@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.

Danger to be avoided by all: a 'siege' mentality. This is not a police state!

- ▶ The vast majority of people have no intention of committing any crimes.
- ▶ The vast majority of students wish to follow good scholarly practice.

Any Questions?