# Introduction to Academic Integrity

In coming to Southampton, you are joining two academic communities; that of the University of Southampton and also of Higher Education more generally. Within both of these communities everyone is expected to behave with academic integrity.

## Definition of Academic Integrity

The University of Southampton defines Academic Integrity as:

“At its most basic, Academic Integrity describes acting with honesty and responsibility in one's own academic work...

Maintaining academic integrity therefore requires:

* Appropriately acknowledging all sources of information…;
* Never seeking to obtain unfair advantage…;
* Collaborating with others when appropriate but knowing when you need to produce your own, independent work;
* Never obtaining unauthorised external assistance in the creation of work that you submit for assessment;
* Always presenting accurate data and information;
* Declaring when you have used academic work that you have previously submitted in another academic context…;
* Complying with the ethical requirements; and
* Complying with and undertaking your research responsibly.”

Importantly, everyone should behave with honesty and be respectful of others.

Click [here](https://www.southampton.ac.uk/calendar/sectioniv/index.page) to find the University’s Academic Integrity regulations. The link takes you through to the index page for Section IV of the University’s Calendar – you will need to scroll down to find the Academic Integrity regulations.

## A Breach of Academic Integrity

A breach of Academic Integrity means going against those guidelines and principles.

There are lots of ways that someone can breach the Academic Integrity regulations.

Example 1: Cheating in an exam.

If the exam regulations clearly state that students cannot take notes into the exam, then anyone doing this is not only in breach of the examination regulations but they are also in breach of the Academic Integrity regulations.

Example 2: Making up data.

If anyone makes up and reports data for a project rather than actually collecting and analysing it then they are in breach of the Academic Integrity regulations.

Example 3: Plagiarism

If anyone doesn’t acknowledge the words, thoughts and/or ideas of others within their work then they are in breach of the Academic Integrity regulations.

## You should…

Find and read the University of Southampton’s Academic Integrity regulations – they are in Section IV of the University’s Calendar. Click [here](https://www.southampton.ac.uk/calendar/sectioniv/index.page) to go to the Section IV index page – you will need to scroll down the page to find the Academic Integrity regulations.

## How many different types of breaches are there?

There are eight listed breaches of Academic Integrity in the University’s regulations for 2019-20:

1. Plagiarism;
2. Cheating;
3. Collusion;
4. External authorship/assistance;
5. Falsification;
6. Recycling;
7. Breaching ethical standards;
8. Misconduct in research.

Think of some examples for each one.

## What should you do next?

Complete the ‘Skills4Study Campus’ module on referencing and understanding plagiarism.

You will find the link from the University’s Library Skills Hub web page. But click [here](http://library.soton.ac.uk/sash/) for a direct link if you want to go there now.

Don’t forget to take the quiz which is part of this online resource. Keep a record of your score, we will be asking you about this later in the term.