

Academic Misconduct Policy

Record of changes to Academic Misconduct Policy

Section number	Log of changes since last issue date	Responsible person for authorising changes
Investigating academic misconduct	Head of Workforce Intelligence updated to Director of Education and Professional Development	Lauren Harrison

All trainees enrolled on an IPEM training scheme are expected to act with honesty and integrity at all times and as IPEM Members, are bound by the [IPEM Code of Professional and Ethical Conduct](#). This Policy is applicable to trainees on both IPEM's Technologist's Training Scheme, and IPEM's Clinical Scientist Guided Training Scheme.

IPEM encourages and supports academic integrity and good academic practice and will investigate all allegations of academic misconduct. Academic misconduct compromises integrity and credibility, and has the potential to undermine public confidence in the profession. As IPEM training schemes lead to eligibility for registration with either a statutory or PSA assured register, we take academic integrity very seriously and expect all trainees to uphold the highest standards of academic honesty. Sanctions will be applied where appropriate.

Academic misconduct may be intentional or unintentional and includes, but it not limited to:

- Plagiarism (intentionally or unintentionally using work not your own, including purely AI generated content, without appropriate acknowledgement, and self-plagiarism or duplication)
- Collusion (including working with others to prepare for or complete any assessment where this has been prohibited, or knowingly allowing work to be accessed or copied, or supply work to a third party to facilitate plagiarism)
- Impersonation (including undertaking any assessment on behalf of someone else, arranging for an assessment to be undertaken by another party, or procuring and/or submitting part or the whole of work undertaken by a third party)
- Fabrication or deliberate misrepresentation of any information
- Deception (intentionally fabricating or presenting misleading information in order to gain advantage in regard to an assessment, or procedural requirement)

Detection

Enrolment on an IPEM training scheme requires educational attainment of a minimum of a FHEQ Level 4. The Technologist Training Scheme combines this with a training plan to exit at FHEQ level 6, with Level 7 modules commonplace in Nuclear Medicine. Trainees are expected to be familiar with the concepts of academic misconduct at the start of their training. Support from training supervisors, advisors and/or moderators should be sufficient to prevent unintentional academic misconduct. However, it is not possible to prevent intentional misconduct, and so policies are in place to detect and take action where necessary, including informing IPEM of any misconduct relating to an IPEM member.

The Employer should ensure that staff and trainees are able to report academic misconduct confidentially, with the reassurance that their allegations will be handled in an appropriate manner. Any concerns may also be reported confidentially to the National Office.

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All trainee portfolios for assessment as evidence of competence must be submitted via Turnitin, a plagiarism detection service, and trainees must agree to this on enrolment onto an IPEM training scheme.

Each piece of work submitted is scanned, and if the resulting report suggests plagiarised material is present then a further investigation will take place.

Investigating academic misconduct

All allegations of academic misconduct, whoever identified by are fully investigated by a panel on a case-by-case basis. The panel shall consist of IPEM's Director of Education and Professional Development, and two IPEM members holding a role in the relevant Scheme.

In the instance of a technologist trainee, the allegation will first be referred to the accredited training centre, who are required to follow their own internal governance procedures and report back to IPEM with their findings. These findings must cover the actions taken and the procedures put in place to ensure no future repetitions. The Panel will consider if any further action is to be taken.

In the instance of a Clinical Scientist Guided Training Scheme Trainee, the Panel will investigate.

Sanctions

Plagiarism (whether intentional or unintentional), cheating, collusion, fabrication, improper conduct and any attempt to obtain an unfair advantage, will result in sanctions being taken against the individual responsible.

Outcomes

Depending on the severity of the academic misconduct, IPEM will apply appropriate sanctions, including:

1. For trainees examined by IPEM, removal from the scheduled examination pool, with the opportunity to sit in a later session, subject to a revised portfolio being submitted and approved
2. Restriction of final mark
3. A written warning
4. Removal from the programme

Appeals

The trainee may appeal against a sanction provided that such an appeal is lodged within 3 weeks of receiving the outcome in writing. Appeals will only be accepted on the following grounds:

- 1) The correct process was not followed or
- 2) Additional evidence becomes available that would have materially affected the outcome

Appeals will be reviewed by IPEM's Professional and Standards Council.