

## EXEMPLARY ACADEMIC INTEGRITY PROJECT: KEY LESSONS FOR AUSTRALIA, EUROPE AND BEYOND

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**Abstract:** The call to examine consistency in academic integrity in the United Kingdom came from the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education and resulted in the development of the project, Academic Misconduct Benchmarking Research (AMBeR). The AMBeR Project looked at the range and spread of penalties available for student plagiarism among UK higher education institutions. The Impact of policies for plagiarism in Higher Education Across Europe (IPPHEAE) project was funded by the European Union and has investigated the policies and procedures for detecting and preventing student plagiarism in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across Europe. In Australia, the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA), following the work of the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA), made clear its expectation that Australian higher education providers should have “systematic, mature internal processes for quality assurance and the maintenance of academic standards and academic integrity”. It could be argued that by failing to adequately confront/prevent lapses in academic integrity, many HEIs across the globe are neglecting a broader duty to society to ensure that students are learning rather than cheating and that they have in fact earned their degrees. When academic integrity breaches go unchecked, this has the potential to undermine the credibility of degrees and the reputations of educational providers. Furthermore, society as a whole suffers because it is difficult for employers to determine who is and is not qualified and this potentially puts at risk the people who rely on well-trained professionals such as doctors, nurses, lawyers, pilots, engineers and teachers, to mention a few. While individual HEIs are interested in protecting their own reputations, it is imperative for the credibility of the higher education sector as a whole that they are seen to embrace a proactive and reliable approach to academic integrity, particularly in light of international student mobility and internationalisation more generally.