

Paving the way for an higher ed academic integrity policy review in the UAE

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Abstract:

The aim of this work is to launch research in a very important facet, academic integrity, within higher education in the UAE. In this paper, our aim is to conduct the very first investigation of the state of academic integrity policies in universities accredited by the UAE Ministry of Higher Education. For practical reasons, we focus on universities whose websites provide an open access to their policies of academic integrity. The accessible policies were collected, then will be assessed against an international baseline. This project, funded by the Asia Pacific Forum on Educational Integrity, has found that of the seven universities whose policies were available as open access online, only one university's policies met the baseline standards as defined by the Academic Integrity Standards Project (AISP) conducted in Australia, while other highlighted disparities included unclear purpose of the policy, missing complete definitions of academic integrity, misconducts, reporting systems and so on. These findings lay the foundation for a more in-depth review and analysis of all the universities, not only those with open-access policies in order to work towards a standard practice and shared understanding of academic integrity across all institutions in the country, which the researchers will embark on in the future.

Keywords: Academic integrity, cheating, misconduct, plagiarism, policy, review, UAE.