



Working with academic integrity

'Academic integrity' describes the values held to be essential in university study in the UK. The five core values have been identified as:

- **Accuracy** – making sure that your work is free from errors.
- **Honesty** – being truthful about which ideas are your own and which are derived from others, and about the methods and results of your research.
- **Fairness** – not trying to gain an advantage by unfair means: for instance, by passing off others' work as your own.
- **Responsibility** – taking an active role in your own learning: for instance, by seeking out the information you need to study effectively.
- **Respect** – for your fellow students, your tutors, and the work of other scholars.

(Adapted from International Center for Academic Integrity (1999), The Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity, online at <http://www.academicintegrity.org/ica/assets/FVproject.pdf>, accessed 20 May 2013.)

What does this mean for my academic writing?

You practise academic integrity in your academic writing by working with the five values in mind, and particularly by using correct and accurate referencing. This shows that you can: be **accurate** in transcribing details; be **honest** about which ideas were derived from others; act **fairly** by not taking credit for others' work; take **responsibility** by finding out what is required of you and how you should carry it out; and show **respect** for others by acknowledging the part they have played in building your knowledge and understanding.

How does this differ from what I did at school/college?

You may have used a simplified referencing system at school or college, with only direct quotes given citations. At university, you need to give a citation whenever you refer to an idea that you derived from a source. This is the case whether you use a direct quote, a paraphrase, or just a mention. There are many different styles of referencing, and you will need to find out which one is used in your department and how to set out your citations and bibliographies. You will need to learn how to cite a variety of sources correctly, and get into the habit of doing this accurately and with attention to detail.

How might this differ from what I did in my home country?

In the UK, critical analysis and building new knowledge are key aims of academic study at university. This means you will be expected to read widely to gather a range of ideas, be critical by questioning everything you read and hear, and draw your own conclusions. You then need to support these in your writing by reference to what you have read, and to acknowledge the sources with correct citations.