

**EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY**

**STUDENT CONDUCT REGULATIONS 2015/16**

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## **SC1 INTRODUCTION**

- SC1.1** The Student Conduct Regulations set and maintain acceptable standards of behaviour within the University community, to encourage individuals to accept their obligations to the University community, to protect the rights of members of that community to participate freely in the educational purposes of the University and to help maintain the University's good name and standing.
- SC1.2** The purpose of these regulations is to ensure that all matters relating to the conduct of students are dealt with fairly and consistently.
- SC1.3** These regulations are presented in two major sets: Non-Academic Conduct Regulations (Section SC4 – SC6) and Academic Conduct Regulations (Section SC7 – SC9). Allegations under either set of regulations may be made by staff, students or members of the public (who need not have been personally and/or adversely affected by the alleged breach) and should normally be received by the University in writing and signed by the person making the allegation. However, the University will give consideration to allegations of misconduct of any nature from any source.
- SC1.4** These Regulations apply to all matriculated students of the University. Any allegations of academic misconduct concerning a graduate of the University will be dealt with in accordance with a [Graduate Academic Misconduct Procedure](#) as approved by the Academic Board.
- SC1.5** It should be noted that where a finding of a breach of these Regulations has been made, it may in certain professional settings, affect the student's fitness to practice resulting in the University being unable to certify this and may lead to exclusion from membership of requisite professional bodies. In such circumstances, the University will invoke the [Fitness to Practise Regulations](#).
- SC1.6** The principles of these regulations apply to all students irrespective of their location of study. It may be necessary to vary procedure for research students, students on placements or for students undertaking their studies via distance learning in the UK or overseas.
- SC1.7** These Regulations do not preclude the possibility of the University having recourse to the police and the criminal courts where necessary.
- SC1.8** References to days throughout these Regulations shall mean working days during the academic session except where expressly stated otherwise.

## **SC2 KEY PRINCIPLES**

The application of these Regulations relies on the following key principles:

- SC2.1** Cases will be addressed promptly and resolved quickly and efficiently at the level of the University appropriate to the nature of the offence.
- SC2.2** Each case will be handled fairly and equitably with due regard to the individual circumstances of each case.
- SC2.3** Students shall have the right of appeal against the finding and/or penalty of their case.
- SC2.4** Any issues relating to pastoral care and welfare that arise while addressing a student disciplinary matter will be handled with sensitivity and due regard to confidentiality. Staff engaged with disciplinary matters should be aware of the University's Data Protection Code of Practice with particular attention paid to Section 8 (Data Sharing) and Section 19 (References).
- SC2.5** Penalties imposed as a result of conduct issues being referred for action under the terms of these regulations will only be overridden by Extenuating Circumstances procedures in exceptional cases.
- SC2.6** A student shall be entitled to be accompanied and, where applicable represented, by a person who can provide support and, where applicable, guidance to the student concerned at investigation meetings or hearings. That person may not be present either as a legal or trade union representative and must be a member of the Edinburgh Napier University 'community', i.e. a member of University staff, an office bearer or member of staff of Napier Students' Association, a member of staff from the Independent Student Advice Service (ISAS) or another student. Any 'accompanying' person or representative must not have been involved in the incident under investigation.
- SC2.7** With regard to the Edinburgh Napier University 'community' as defined in SC2.6 above, only ISAS staff will be regarded as being permitted to represent the student. All other members of the 'community' will be regarded as accompanying the student.
- SC2.8** Investigation records will normally be made available to all parties involved in the disciplinary hearing.
- SC2.9** All allegations received will be treated confidentially. Each will be investigated informally in the first instance to establish whether or not there is a case to answer before any formal investigation is started.
- SC2.10** All records documenting the conduct and findings of disciplinary proceedings against individual students will be retained until the last action on the case, plus six years, has elapsed.

### **SC3 CRIMINAL OFFENCES, WITHDRAWAL AND EXCUSION**

**SC3.1** Where a matter reported under either set of these Regulations would also constitute an offence under the criminal law, the member of staff receiving the allegation under these Regulations shall, as soon as practicable, inform their Dean of School or Director of Service who shall discuss the matter with the University Secretary. If the University Secretary decides the matter should be further addressed, s/he, after consulting such persons as s/he sees fit, make a report to the Principal and Vice Chancellor. The Principal and Vice Chancellor shall then determine which of the following apply:

SC3.1.1 Where the offence under the criminal law is not considered to be serious i.e. unlikely to attract a custodial sentence on conviction, action under these Regulations may continue, but such action may be deferred pending any police investigation or prosecution;

SC3.1.2 In cases of all other offences under criminal law, no action, other than suspension, may be taken under the terms of these Regulations unless the matter has been reported to the police and the offender either prosecuted, or a decision not to proceed has been taken, at which time the Principal and Vice Chancellor may decide whether internal disciplinary action should continue or be taken in the interests of the University community.

**SC3.2** Where a finding of a breach of Regulations is made and the student has already been sentenced by a Criminal Court in respect of the same facts, the Court's penalty shall be taken into consideration in determining the penalty under these Regulations.

**SC3.3** A student against whom a serious criminal charge is pending or who is the subject of police investigation may be temporarily excluded by the Principal and Vice Chancellor pending trial or other conclusion of the investigation. Such exclusion shall be reviewed and subject to confirmation at intervals of not more than one month by two members of the University Court. Where a student is temporarily excluded under this clause and either the police investigation is discontinued or the student is found not guilty, two members of the University Court shall make a recommendation as to any remedial action required for lost tuition and or fees.

**SC3.4** A student may be withdrawn from the University if authorities external to the University place restrictions upon the student which prohibits their attendance at the University or otherwise impinges upon the student's ability to fulfill the academic requirements expected of them. Withdrawal of a student does not prohibit the student from enrolling at the University in the next academic year, but admission may be subject to qualification, such as exclusion from certain programmes of study.

**SC3.5** In exceptional circumstances, a student may be partially excluded from the University by the Principal without invoking the Conduct Regulations. The following are examples of exceptional circumstances

- i) For failing to comply with any prevailing fees policies;
- ii) Where there is genuine concern or belief that a student may be suffering from ill-health which has caused or may cause detriment to the University Community. If the behaviour of an individual is the cause of concern, if appropriate, the matter may be reported to the University's Mental Health Advisor (UMHA). The UMHA can provide advice in accordance with the University's [Mental Health Policy](#). The period of exclusion in this case will be determined by the receipt of a satisfactory medical report from an appropriately qualified medical or psychiatric expert, approved by the University (such approval not to be unreasonably withheld).
- iii) Where there is consideration for the safety of the University Community.
- iv) Whilst a decision is made on whether Fitness to Practise regulations should be invoked. This measure should be temporary and for no longer a period than two working days
- v) For failing to comply with any immigration laws/policies/regulations or failure to meet criteria stipulated by such laws/policies/regulations.

## **NON-ACADEMIC CONDUCT REGULATIONS**

### **SC4 Introduction and Definition**

**SC4.1** Non-academic misconduct relates to the improper interference, in the broadest sense, with the proper functioning of the activities of the University, or persons who work or study in the University, or any action which otherwise damages the University whether or not this takes place on University premises.

**SC4.2** A breach of Non-academic Conduct Regulations will be taken to include the examples listed in Appendix I. This list is illustrative and not exhaustive.

**SC4.3** Any misconduct prior to a student's enrolment at the University which has only just come to light, or is still in the process of being dealt with by the proper authorities, shall not form the basis of an offence under these Regulations unless:

SC4.3.1 the conduct is of such a serious nature and character that it raises questions about the fitness of the student to be a member of the University community or, if repeated would pose a threat to other members of the community or threaten the discipline and good order of the University;

SC4.3.2 the student is matriculated on a programme directly leading to a professional qualification and the conduct raises questions about the student's fitness to be admitted to and to practise that profession. In which case, the Fitness to Practise Regulations may be invoked.

### **SC5 Disciplinary procedure for suspected/alleged non-academic misconduct**

#### **SC5.1 Authorised Officers**

The members of staff detailed below- i) – iii) - are Authorised Officers who have responsibility for taking procedural decisions and disciplinary action and to impose penalties within the limits set out in section 6

- i) Alleged offences occurring within academic areas of activity (whether on University premises or not) will be dealt with by the relevant Dean of School or the Dean of Learning and Teaching.
- ii) Alleged offences occurring in any other University premises, property or service area will be dealt with by the relevant Director of Service.
- iii) Alleged offences relating to any activity out with University premises, property or service area, will be dealt with by a member of staff designated by the University Secretary.

#### **SC5.2 Initial investigation**

On receipt of an alleged offence the Authorised Officer will designate an appropriate member of staff to carry out an initial investigation of the offence which

should include the taking of statements from relevant parties, including where appropriate the accused student and any witnesses.

On receipt of the details of the initial investigation, the Authorised Officer may rule that:

- i) the matter should not be the subject of further action
- ii) a Summary Hearing should be convened
- iii) the matter is of a substantial nature and the case is to be referred for action by a University Disciplinary Committee. Where appropriate, the Authorised Officer should provide a summary or report of the case to be used by the committee.

In most cases, if further action is required, it is expected that all matters will be dealt with under SC5.2 ii) rather than SC5.2 iii) in the first instance if possible. If an Authorised Officer has any doubts with regard to which of the above is the best course of action, s/he should consult the University Secretary.

### **SC5.3 Summary hearing**

- SC5.3.1 The student shall be informed as soon as practicable in writing, of the detail of the alleged offences and in any event not less than ten working days in advance of the date, time, and venue of the Summary Hearing.
- SC5.3.2 The Summary Hearing will be undertaken by the Authorised Officer along with another member of staff of the University (normally a member of academic staff from the appropriate School) and the meeting will be minuted by a member of staff as deemed appropriate by the Authorised Officer.
- SC5.3.3 The student shall be entitled to be accompanied by a person as defined in SC2.6.
- SC5.3.4 If the matter giving rise to the alleged offence(s) involves consideration of any documentation, the student will have the opportunity to inspect the documentation before the Summary Hearing takes place and shall be entitled to question the accuracy of such documentation up to five working days before the scheduled Summary Hearing.
- SC5.3.5 Any personal and/or sensitive personal information shall only be included in the documentation in conformity with Data Protection legislation.
- SC5.3.6 Failure by the student to attend at the time and place specified by the Authorised Officer, except for a written reason acceptable to the Authorised Officer, shall not preclude the Authorised Officer from considering the matter and reaching a decision.

SC5.3.7 The decision of the Authorised Officer shall be communicated to the student as soon as reasonably practical and confirmed in writing within five working days. The written notification of the decision will give reasons for the decision and detail the right of appeal.

#### **SC5.4 Penalties**

SC5.4.1 The Penalty or Penalties that may be imposed by an Authorised Officer if the offence(s) are proved are:

- i) A reprimand – oral or written (a written reprimand will specify the length of time the reprimand will remain on file)
- ii) Exclusion from defined areas of the University or defined activities for a period not exceeding one calendar month.
- iii) In cases where there is damage to University premises or property, a requirement to make good the cost, in whole or in part, of any damage caused (or to replace University property damaged). The timescale during which any costs must be paid will be agreed with the University's Finance Office.
- iv) The removal or restriction of privileges for a specified period of time.
- v) A valid 'Notice to Quit' issued by the Student Accommodation Manager for offences committed within University residential accommodation.

SC5.4.2 If a penalty is issued, the Appeals, Complaints and Conduct Officer (ACCO), within Student & Academic Services should be notified for the purposes of record keeping and future reference.

#### **SC5.5 Appeal against the decision of an Authorised Officer**

SC5.5.1 A student may appeal, in writing, to the University Secretary against the decision of the Authorised Officer. The appeal must be submitted within ten working days of the receipt of the decision and may be made on the following grounds:

- i) The penalty was outwith the scope of the Regulations set out in section SC5.4.
- ii) There was a procedural irregularity in the process undertaken by the Authorised Officer which materially influenced the final decision.
- iii) The decision reached was unreasonable as a result of the Authorised Officer's actions or omissions.
- iv) The penalty imposed was unreasonable or in excess of the penalties specified in section SC5.4.
- v) New evidence is now available which might have caused the hearing to reach a different conclusion, but could not have been made available at the time of the hearing

- SC5.5.2 The University Secretary will consider the written appeal together with the documented reasons for the finding and shall notify his/her decision within fifteen working days of receipt of the appeal.
- SC5.5.3 If the University Secretary allows the appeal he/she may review or quash the penalty imposed.
- SC5.5.4 The decision of the University Secretary will be final.

## **SC6 University Disciplinary Committee**

### **SC6.1 Process**

- SC6.1.1 An Authorised Officer having considered the details of the initial investigation may decide not to proceed with a Summary Hearing as outlined in SC5.2 and as a result refer the case to the University Secretary for action by a University Disciplinary Committee.
- SC6.1.2 Within fifteen working days of the results of the referral from an Authorised Officer, the University Secretary will convene a University Disciplinary Committee.
- SC6.1.3 The student will be given at least ten working days' notice of the committee date and time.

### **SC6.2 Constitution**

A University Disciplinary Committee will comprise of a member of the University Leadership Team, one member of the Senior Managers Forum and one student member nominated by the President of Napier Students' Association. All members of the Committee will have had no direct or previous involvement with the student or work directly within the area where the alleged offence took place. The member of the University Leadership Team shall act as Convenor and the Director of Student & Academic Services or his/her nominee shall act as clerk and keep a record of the proceedings. The clerk shall be responsible for issuing the student and all Committee members with relevant documentation and evidence ahead of the meeting.

### **SC6.3 Proceedings**

- SC6.3.1 The University's case against the student will be presented by a senior member of staff, normally the appropriate Authorised Officer. Where possible, the Authorised Officer should attend in person in order for the Committee members to ask him/her questions should they feel this to be appropriate.
- SC6.3.2 The student shall receive a copy of any documentation, as issued to the Committee, five working days ahead of the meeting. This includes any summary document or report issued in accordance with SC5.2 iii). In exceptional circumstances, if it is apparent this timescale is not possible, this will be communicated to the student and the reasons for any delay will be detailed.

- SC6.3.3 The student shall be entitled to be accompanied by a person as defined in Section SC2.6 above.
- SC6.3.4 Adjournment of proceedings may be requested by any party concerned and will be granted at the discretion of the Convenor. The Convenor may choose to adjourn at any point during proceedings
- SC6.3.5 If witnesses are to be called by any party, statements from the witnesses, together with their full contact details will be made available to the clerk to the committee at least five working days in advance of the meeting. Evidence from witnesses will normally take the form of signed statements and witnesses will not usually attend in person. Where possible, all parties will be given a copy of any witness statements in advance of the Committee meeting.
- SC6.3.6 If the Disciplinary Committee receives oral evidence from any person not called by the student or the Authorised Officer, either party shall be allowed to question that person for the purposes of clarifying any points made.
- SC6.3.7 The Convenor of the Disciplinary Committee may elect not to proceed with the whole or any part of the case and may therefore dismiss the whole or irrelevant part as appropriate.
- SC6.3.8 Failure by the student to attend at the time specified, except for a written reason acceptable to the Convenor of the Disciplinary Committee, shall not normally preclude the Disciplinary Committee from considering the matter and reaching a decision.
- SC6.3.9 The Disciplinary Committee shall consider the alleged offence and reach its decision in private. The decision shall be communicated to the student by the clerk to the Committee as soon as reasonably practicable after the meeting and in any event within no more than five working days. The notice communicating the decision will give reasons for the decision and give details of the right to appeal.

#### **SC6.4 Penalties imposed by a University Disciplinary Committee**

- SC6.4.1 The Penalty or Penalties that may be imposed by a University Disciplinary Panel if the offence(s) is/are proved are:
- i) A reprimand – oral or written (a written reprimand will specify the length of time the reprimand will remain on file).
  - ii) In cases where there is damage to University premises or property, a requirement to make good the cost, in whole or in part, of any damage caused (or to replace University property damaged). The timescale during which any costs must be paid will be agreed with the University's Finance Office.

In the event of non-payment under the terms agreed above, all debts due to the University will be collected in accordance with the University's policy on

Student Debt Collection.

- iii) The removal or restriction of privileges, such as email/intranet access, access to library services, for a specified period of time.
- iv) A valid Notice to Quit issued by the Student Accommodation Manager for offences within University residential accommodation.
- v) Exclusion from the University for a defined period of time.
- vi) Exclusion from defined areas of the University or from defined activities for a period not exceeding one trimester.
  
- vii) Permanent expulsion and resultant exclusion from the use of any facilities or services available to students of the University. This will include visits to any University premises or attendance at University events which have not been authorized under SC6.4.4 below.

SC6.4.2 With reference to the penalties outlined in section SC5.4, at the discretion of the Convenor of the Disciplinary Committee penalty ii) may be applied in addition to any other penalties.

SC6.4.3 If a penalty is issued, the Appeals, Complaints and Conduct Officer (ACCO) should be notified for the purposes of record keeping and future reference.

SC6.4.4 If the penalty vii), as detailed in section SC6.4.1, is imposed, the Principal and Vice Chancellor will determine whether this precludes the student from attending any graduation ceremony or other University event.

## **SC6.5 Appeal against the decision of a University Disciplinary Committee**

SC6.5.1 The student may appeal, in writing, to the University Secretary against the decision of the University Disciplinary Committee. The appeal must be submitted within ten working days of the receipt of the outcome and may be made on the following grounds:

- i) There was a serious procedural irregularity in the conduct of the University Disciplinary Committee which resulted in an unfair decision;
- ii) New evidence is now available which might have caused the Committee to reach a different conclusion, but could not have been made available at the time of the Committee hearing; or
- iii) The student can substantiate a claim that the penalty imposed was unreasonable or out with the penalties set out in section SC6.4.1.

SC6.5.2 The University Secretary will arrange for the Principal and Vice Chancellor to consider the appeal together with the documented reasons for the findings of the University Disciplinary Committee.

- SC6.5.3 The Principal and Vice Chancellor will notify the appellant of the outcome (via the University Secretary) within fifteen days of receipt of the appeal. This notification will include confirmation that the appellant has now reached completion of the University's procedures with regard to the matter.
- SC6.5.4 If the Principal and Vice Chancellor allows the appeal he/she may review or quash the penalty imposed.
- SC6.5.5 The decision of the Principal and Vice Chancellor will be final.
- SC6.5.6 If a student remains dissatisfied following the communication referenced in section SC6.5.3 above, information on external appeals can be found in section SC10.

## ACADEMIC CONDUCT REGULATIONS

### SC7 Introduction and Definition

#### SC7.1 Definition

Any attempt by a student to gain an unfair advantage in any assessment, including examinations will be regarded as a breach of Academic Conduct Regulations. (see section SC8.2 below).

#### SC7.2 Categories of Breaches of Academic Conduct Regulations

Breaches of Academic Conduct Regulations will be taken to include acts of plagiarism (including self-plagiarism), cheating, collusion, falsification or fabrication of data, personation or bribery, all as defined in Appendix II.

### SC8 Disciplinary procedure for suspected/alleged academic misconduct

#### SC8.1 Responsible Officers

SC8.1.1 Each School shall designate an appropriate member of staff, *other than a Dean of School*, to have responsibility for investigating allegations of breach of Academic Conduct Regulations. This person is referred to below as the Academic Conduct Officer (ACO).

SC8.1.2 In any allegation in which the ACO is directly involved, either as module leader, marker or programme leader, another appropriate member of staff shall be required by the Dean of School to carry out the role of the ACO.

SC8.1.3 The ACO shall investigate allegations relating to students taking modules provided by the School or on a programme registered to the School, as appropriate.

SC8.1.4 Where an incident of an alleged breach of Academic Conduct Regulations arises, the School in which that relevant module is delivered shall be responsible for applying these Regulations in the first instance. Should a number of incidents occur during a student's programme of study, responsibility for applying these Regulations will normally be transferred to the School in which the student is matriculated.

SC8.1.5 In situations as detailed in SC8.1.4, the Investigating ACO should make contact with the ACO from student's own School and/or the student's Programme Team or Personal Development Tutor and inform them of any investigation taking place and the outcome on completion.

#### SC8.2 Breach of Academic Conduct Regulations

SC8.2.1 Three categories of breach are recognised:

SC8.2.1.1 **Negligence**, i.e. a minor incident, usually the first, which has occurred through carelessness or

inexperience;

SC8.2.1.2 **Malpractice**, i.e. an incident in which the student should have known that the behaviour was unacceptable, e.g. incidents in later years of a programme, repeat incident(s) or behaviour deemed more serious than negligence;

SC8.2.1.3 **Misconduct**, i.e. an attempt to gain advantage by behaviour which it is difficult not to see as intentional, e.g. stealing work from another student, repeat incident(s), fabrication of data or professional records, cheating in an exam.

SC8.2.2 In assessing the level of any breach of Academic Conduct Regulations, the Academic Conduct Officer (ACO) shall have regard to accepted practice in the University. Thus certain types of behaviour are very unlikely to be seen as 'negligence' e.g. fabrication of professional records or attempted cheating in an exam are likely to be seen as 'misconduct'.

SC8.2.3 The range of penalties available to an ACO in every hearing is defined in section SC8.3.2. It is likely that negligence will attract a lower penalty than malpractice which will attract a lower penalty than misconduct.

SC8.2.4 A student's previous record of breach of Academic Conduct Regulations is likely to lead to a subsequent incident being regarded as malpractice or misconduct, as appropriate, even if the subsequent incident might otherwise have been deemed of a lower category.

SC8.2.5 During an investigation into an incident, an ACO should check with the Appeals, Complaints and Conduct Officer (ACCO) whether previous findings (if any) for a student from out with the School can inform the investigation. Any previous finding may have a bearing on the category of breach and any penalty applied.

### **SC8.3 Penalties available to Academic Conduct Officers for breaches of Academic Conduct Regulations**

SC8.3.1 In the following list of penalties, standard University re-assessment regulations for the Modular Scheme are assumed to apply unless otherwise indicated. Where a component of assessment (normally coursework) is made up of several elements, the penalties indicated here only apply to the element in which the breach of Academic Conduct Regulations occurred, unless otherwise indicated.

SC8.3.2 The formal penalties and decisions available to an ACO are:

- i) formal warning; only applicable where this is the first recorded academic misconduct offence by a student.
- ii) mark reduction (if a mark is available);
- iii) mark allocation for element of assessment of bare pass

- iv) mark allocation for element of assessment of marginal fail (30%/F1) and re- assess at next opportunity (if appropriate);
- v) fail element of assessment (0%/F5) and re-assess at next opportunity (if appropriate);
- vi) referral to the University Academic Conduct Committee

SC8.3.3 A penalty may lead to a student being unable to continue with her/his current programme, e.g. a penalty which leads to a fail in a compulsory module. In such cases, the ACO should advise the student to seek academic guidance from their Programme Leader or Personal Development Tutor.

SC8.3.4 The ACO should inform the ACCO where penalty vi) is applied.

SC8.3.5 An ACO should use a penalty consistent with the category of breach (see Section SC8.2.1), the perceived gravity of the incident and the potential consequences for the student (see Section SC8.5.2). The ACO is required to inform other relevant School administrators as appropriate.

Category of Breach	Penalties Available
Negligence (see SC8.2.1.1)	All those listed in SC8.3.2
Malpractice (see SC8.2.1.2)	A <i>minimum</i> penalty of SC8.3.2 iii)
Misconduct (see SC8.2.1.3)	A <i>minimum</i> penalty of SC8.3.2 v)

SC8.3.6 As stated in regulation A.10.2.8e) iv of the University's Academic Regulations, a student will not be considered for an award of a compensatory pass in a module if a formal penalty for a breach of Academic Conduct Regulations has been recorded in the module. In such situations, the ACO should inform the Chair and/or Clerk of the relevant Programme Board of Examiners or an appropriate senior administrator who will inform the Chair and/or Clerk.

SC8.3.7 Cases of alleged misconduct by School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Care students, may be referred for investigation under the [Fitness to Practise Regulations](#).

## SC8.4 Investigating alleged breaches of Academic Conduct Regulations

### SC8.4.1 Examinations

SC8.4.1.1 Where cheating is suspected in an examination the Invigilator will endorse the student's script at the appropriate point with the time and a note of the alleged behaviour and inform the student that the

allegation will be reported. The student will be permitted to continue the examination, having been given fresh answer book(s).

- SC8.4.1.2 At the conclusion of the examination the Invigilator will complete a report and submit it with the student's examination script(s) to the appropriate Student & Academic Services personnel.
- SC8.4.1.3 The completed report and the script will be forwarded by Student & Academic Services to the Dean of School for the School in which the module is registered. The ACO for that School will conduct an investigation in accordance with Section SC8.5 below.
- SC8.4.1.4 Where an allegation of cheating is made after an examination has taken place, this must be passed to the relevant ACO or equivalent for the School in which the module is registered. The ACO for that School will conduct an investigation in accordance with Section SC8.5 below.

#### **SC8.4.2 Continuous assessment**

- SC8.4.2.1 On detecting a suspected breach of Academic Conduct Regulations in relation to an assessment other than a formal examination, the member of staff concerned should discuss the evidence with an appropriate member of the teaching team or subject group responsible for the module concerned. This will ensure a second opinion and help to eliminate suspicion based on misunderstanding.
- SC8.4.2.2 If after such suspicion is confirmed, the member of staff should pass the following documentation to the Academic Conduct Officer (ACO) for the School in which the module is registered:
  - i) Module descriptor including the assessment details;
  - ii) A brief resume of the case outlining the grounds for suspicion;
  - iii) Copies of the submitted piece(s) of work;
  - iv) Any appropriate evidence.

#### **SC8.5 Investigation by an Academic Conduct Officer (ACO) – Process**

The ACO will normally review within five working days all the information available and conclude whether or not there is a valid case to answer. Where possible this decision will be made before marks are due to be returned to students.

- SC8.5.1 If there is no valid case to answer, the matter will be dropped and any material pertaining to the allegations will be destroyed.
- SC8.5.2 If the ACO decides that there is a valid case to answer, the ACO will inform the student that an initial investigation is being carried out, including details of a meeting which the student shall be entitled to attend. Based on the outcome of the initial investigation, the ACO may rule that the matter:

- i) does not constitute a breach of Academic Conduct Regulations;
- ii) constitutes a breach of Academic Conduct Regulations which can be dealt with by the ACO, who will determine an appropriate penalty under Section SC8.3.2;
- iii) constitutes a breach of Academic Conduct Regulations which cannot be dealt with by the ACO, who will refer the case for action by the University Academic Conduct Committee or, where applicable, Fitness to Practise Convenor.

SC8.5.3 A student will be given ten working days' notice of a meeting to investigate an allegation. The student will only be offered another date if s/he contacts the ACO in advance to request an alternative arrangement, failing which the meeting will take place in the absence of the student.

SC8.5.4 Notice will be given to a student under investigation through the best practicable means. This will normally be by e-mail to the appropriate Edinburgh Napier University account, and it will be assumed that such notification will have been received by the student. Where it is known that the student is not present at the University, recorded-delivery mail must be used, with appropriate adjustment of dates. The address used will be that which is held on the University's SITS student record database. If the student cannot reasonably attend, submissions to the meeting may be made in writing.

## **SC8.6 Outcome**

SC8.6.1 The ACO will notify the student in writing of the outcome of the investigation and any penalty imposed as soon as reasonably practicable, but no later than five working days after the meeting to investigate the allegation. If communication is made via email, Edinburgh Napier University email address will be used unless otherwise requested by the student.

SC8.6.2 Where a finding has been made and a penalty imposed under SC8.5.2 ii), the student will be advised of the right to appeal against either decision as defined in Section SC8.7.

SC8.6.3 In all cases where a finding has been made under SC8.5.2 ii), details of the breach, the meeting and the outcome will be retained by the School in accordance with Section SC2.10.

SC8.6.4 Details of any penalties imposed shall be enacted in accordance with Section SC8.3 above.

## **SC8.7 Appeal against the decision of an Academic Conduct Officer (ACO)**

SC8.7.1 A student may appeal, in writing, to the appropriate Dean of School, who shall be the Dean (or his/her nominee) of the School in which the module concerned resides.

SC8.7.2 The appeal may be against any finding taken in relation to an alleged breach of academic conduct regulations and must be submitted within ten working days of receipt by the student of any decision by an ACO.

SC8.7.3 An appeal may be made on one of the following grounds:

- i) The penalty was out with the scope of the Regulations set out in section SC8.3.
- ii) There was a procedural irregularity in the process undertaken by the Academic Conduct Officer which materially influenced the final decision.
- iii) The decision reached was unreasonable as a result of the Academic Conduct Officer's actions or omissions.
- iv) The penalty imposed was unreasonable or in excess of the penalties specified in section SC8.3.
- v) New evidence is now available which might have caused the ACO to reach a different conclusion, but could not have been made available at the time of the investigation meeting.

SC8.7.4 The Dean will notify the outcome to the appellant as soon as reasonably practicable and no later than fifteen working days after the receipt of the appeal.

SC8.7.5 If the Dean allows the appeal s/he may review or set aside the penalty imposed. The Dean will be responsible for ensuring their decision is communicated to the appellant and any relevant academic and administrative staff.

## **SC9 University Academic Conduct Committee**

### **SC9.1 Referral**

SC9.1.1 An ACO having considered the details of the initial investigation may decide not to proceed with a meeting as outlined in SC8.5.2 ii) and due to the seriousness, refer the case to the University Academic Conduct Committee under SC8.5.2 iii). The ACO will advise the student of such a referral.

SC9.1.2 The Director of Student and Academic Services or his/ her nominee will convene the University Academic Conduct Committee.

SC9.1.3 The University Academic Conduct Committee will hear the allegation at its next scheduled meeting or as soon as reasonably practicable.

### **SC9.2 Constitution**

SC9.2.1 The University Academic Conduct Committee will comprise the Vice

Principal or his/her nominee as Convenor; one academic member of the Senior Managers' Forum; one Academic Conduct Officer and one student member nominated by the President of Napier Students' Association. None of the committee should come from the same School as the student against whom the allegations have been made.

SC9.2.2 The Convenor may elect to co-opt one subject specialist member of academic staff nominated by the relevant Dean of School for each case under consideration if appropriate.

SC9.2.3 All members of the Committee will have no direct or previous involvement with the student concerned.

SC9.2.4 The Director of Student and Academic Services or his/her nominee shall act as clerk and keep a record of proceedings.

### **SC9.3 Hearing**

SC9.3.1 The student will be notified in writing of the University Academic Conduct Committee Hearing no less than ten working days in advance of the Hearing and shall be entitled to attend the Hearing, accompanied as defined in Section SC2.6.

SC9.3.2 The student will be provided with the basis for the allegation and, where appropriate, copies of any documentary evidence no less than five working days ahead of the hearing. In exceptional circumstances, if it is apparent this timescale is not possible, this will be communicated to the student and the reasons for any delay will be detailed.

SC9.3.3 The student may call witnesses on his/her behalf and submit relevant documentary evidence provided the intention to do so is notified to the Convenor at least one working day in advance of the hearing.

SC9.3.4 The Committee will receive and consider a report of the current investigation (including any evidence) and any previous findings from the ACO. This report will be sent to the student with other documentation referred to in SC9.3.2 above. The student will be invited to comment on the presented report and evidence. If the student refutes the allegation s/he will be invited to present evidence in support of this.

SC9.3.5 The student shall be encouraged to put any relevant extenuating circumstances to the Committee.

SC9.3.6 Failure by the student to attend at the time specified, except for a written reason acceptable to the Convenor of the University Academic Conduct Committee, shall not normally preclude the Committee from considering the allegation and reaching a decision.

### **SC9.4 Penalties imposed by a University Academic Conduct Committee**

SC9.4.1 The formal penalties available to the University Academic

Conduct Committee are any of the penalties available to the ACO in section SC8.3.2 above and the following:

- i) fail module with no reassessment
- ii) fail programme with retained credit and eligibility for any award
- iii) fail programme with removal of credit and no eligibility for award
- iv) exclusion from the University for a specified period with or without the removal of credit
- v) permanent exclusion from the University with or without the removal of credit.

SC9.4.2 If the penalty detailed in SC9.4.1 v) is imposed, the Principal and Vice Chancellor will determine whether this precludes the student from attending any graduation ceremony or other University event.

SC9.4.3 A penalty may lead to a student being unable to continue with her/his current programme, e.g. a penalty which leads to a fail in a compulsory module. In such a case, the University Academic Conduct Committee should advise the student seek academic guidance from their Programme Leader or Personal Development Tutor.

SC9.4.4 Penalty v) in Section SC8.3.2 and all those under SC9.4.3 will require to be entered on Student & Academic Services central student records system. The University Academic Conduct Committee is required to inform other relevant School administrators as appropriate, of the decision in lieu of any updates required to the student's record.

SC9.4.5 The University Academic Conduct Committee should use the lowest penalty consistent with the category of breach (see Section SC8.3.6), the perceived gravity of the incident and the potential consequences for the student. In the event that a University Academic Conduct Committee imposes the penalties listed iv) or v) in Section SC9.4.1, the Convenor must inform the appropriate Dean of School and the Principal and Vice Chancellor within the same timescale as in Section SC9.5.4 below. The ACCO will inform the Chair of the relevant Programme Board of Examiners or an appropriate senior administrator.

## **SC9.5 Outcome**

SC9.5.1 At the conclusion of the hearing the University Academic Conduct Committee will reach one of two outcomes as detailed below:

- i) The allegation is not upheld and no further action will be taken.
- ii) The allegation is upheld and a penalty may be imposed as outlined in Section SC9.4.1.

- SC9.5.2 Details of the alleged breach of Academic Conduct Regulations, the hearing and the outcome, including any penalties imposed under Section SC8.3.2 i) – v), will be retained in accordance with Section SC2.10 above.
- SC9.5.3 Details of any penalties imposed under Sections SC8.3.2 vi) and SC9.4.1 shall be enacted in accordance with Section SC8.3.4 above
- SC9.5.4 The outcome will be transmitted in writing to the student as soon as reasonably practicable but no later than five working days after the meeting and will outline the right of appeal as defined in Section SC9.6. If communication is made via email, Edinburgh Napier University email address will be used unless otherwise requested by the student.

### **SC9.6 Appeal against the decision of a University Academic Conduct Committee (UACC)**

- SC9.6.1 A student may appeal, in writing, to the Appeals, Complaints and Conduct Officer against any finding made by a UACC in relation to an alleged breach of academic conduct regulations. The Appeals, Complaints and Conduct Officer will arrange for a member of the University Leadership Team to hear the appeal. The appeal will be heard by Convenor a member of the University Leadership Team who has not had prior involvement with the case. The appeal must be submitted within ten working days of receipt of the UACC's decision by the student.
- SC9.6.2 An appeal may be made on one of the following grounds:
- i) There was a procedural irregularity in the conduct of the investigation and/or conduct of any hearings which materially influenced the outcome;
  - ii) New evidence is now available which might have caused the University Academic Conduct Committee to reach a different conclusion, but could not have been made available at the time of the Committee hearing; or
  - iii) The appellant can substantiate a claim that the penalty imposed was unreasonable or out with the penalties set out in sections SC8.3.2 and SC9.4.1.
- SC9.6.3 The member of University Leadership Team hearing the appeal will notify the outcome to the appellant in writing as soon as reasonably practicable and no later than fifteen working days after receipt of the appeal. This notification will include confirmation that the appellant has now reached completion of the University's procedures with regard to the matter.
- SC9.6.4 If the appeal is upheld, the member of University Leadership Team who heard the appeal may review or set aside the penalty imposed
- SC9.6.5 The decision of the member of University Leadership Team who heard the appeal will be final in all cases except where the appeal is

against the decision to exclude the student in which case the Principal and Vice Chancellor must confirm the decision or otherwise.

- SC9.6.6 If a student remains dissatisfied following the communication referenced in section SC9.6.3 above, information on external appeals can be found in section

## INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL REVIEW

### SC10.1 Introduction

Once the processes outlined in sections SC6.5 or SC9.6 above have been completed, should the student remain dissatisfied they are entitled to ask the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO) to look at the matter. The SPSO considers matters from students who remain dissatisfied at the conclusion of the University's Student Conduct Procedures. The SPSO looks at issues such as:

- service failure and maladministration (administrative fault)
- the way the University has implemented its regulations.

The SPSO will not consider matters that concern the exercise of academic judgment.

### SC10.2 Information about the SPSO

The Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO) is the final stage for complaints about public services in Scotland. This includes any dissatisfaction following the completion of a university's internal procedures. If you remain dissatisfied with a university or co-operative after fully engaging with an internal procedure, you can ask the SPSO to look into the matter. The SPSO cannot normally look at matters:

- where you have not gone all the way through the university's specific procedure to deal with the matter, or
- that have been or are being considered in court.

The SPSO's contact details are:

SPSO  
4 Melville Street  
Edinburgh  
EH3 7NS

SPSO  
Freepost EH641  
Edinburgh  
EH3 0BR

**Freephone** 0800 377 7330

**Online contact** [www.spsso.org.uk/contact-us](http://www.spsso.org.uk/contact-us)

**Website** [www.spsso.org.uk](http://www.spsso.org.uk)

**Mobile site:** <http://m.spsso.org.uk>

**NON-ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

The following are examples of non-academic misconduct. The list is illustrative but not exhaustive:

1. Anti-social behaviour (including noise, nuisance and disorderly behaviour as a consequence of alcohol or substance misuse), which adversely affects staff, students, visitors or the local community.
2. The disruption of, or improper interference with, the academic, administrative, sporting, social or other activities of the University, whether on University premises or engaged in University activity elsewhere.
3. Obstruction of, or improper interference with, the function, duties or activities of any student, member of staff or other employee of the University or any authorised visitor of the University.
4. Violent, indecent, disorderly, threatening or offensive behaviour or language (whether expressed orally or in writing, including electronically), whilst on University premises or engaged in any university activity.
5. Any posting made to or on a Web 2.0 service or any other internally or externally hosted service (e.g. facebook, twitter etc) that is defamatory, in breach of copyright or the Data Protection Act 1998, brings the University into disrepute, constitutes bullying, harassment or otherwise generally unacceptable behaviour.
6. Fraud, deceit, deception or dishonesty in relation to the University or its staff or in connection with holding any office in the University or in relation to being a student of the University.
7. Failure to adhere to the University's intellectual property policy and/or breach of the University's copyright, designs or patents.
8. Behaviour likely to cause injury or impair safety on University premises.
9. Behaviour which puts or is likely to put at risk or harm any person with whom a student has dealings as part of a programme of study or research.
10. Sexual, racial or any other form of bullying or harassment of any student, member of staff or other employee of the University or any visitor to the University.
11. Breach of any university code of practice, regulation, rule, policy or code of conduct as previously approved by the University Court or Academic Board which provides for breaches to constitute misconduct.
12. Misuse or unauthorised use of University premises or items of property, including computer misuse, the misuse of fire-fighting equipment, the misuse or alteration of electrical fittings and the unauthorised use of electrical appliances.

13. Damage to, or defacement of, University property or the property of other members of the University community caused intentionally or recklessly, and misappropriation of such property.
14. The possession or discharge of any explosive device, firearm or detonator or the discharge of any firework (except with the prior consent of a Head of School).
15. Without prejudice to the right to raise academic and other concerns responsibly within or (out with) the University, the making of false, malicious and/or vexatious reports of malpractice or complaints which upon investigation are proved to be unfounded.
16. Conduct which infringes the beliefs, orientation, practices, or freedom of speech of others, whilst on University premises or engaged in University work, study or activity.
17. Failure to disclose name and other relevant details to a member of the academic, administrative or security staff of the University in circumstances when it is reasonable to require that such information be given.
18. Conduct which constitutes a criminal offence where that conduct:
  - i) took place on University premises/while engaged in University activity, or
  - ii) affected or concerned other members of the University Community, or
  - iii) damaged the good name of the University, or
  - iv) itself constituted misconduct within the terms of this procedure, or
  - v) is an offence of dishonesty, where the student holds an office of responsibility in the University, or
  - vi) is such to render the student unfit to practice any particular profession or calling to which that student's programme leads directly (i.e. nursing, midwifery, teaching).
19. Failure to comply with a previously imposed penalty, requirement or undertaking under these regulations.

**ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

Unacceptable academic conduct in assessments will be treated as a breach of the Academic Conduct Regulations and will include one or more of: plagiarism, cheating, collusion, falsification or fabrication of data, personation or bribery. These are defined as follows:

1. **Plagiarism:** Unacknowledged incorporation in a student's work in any assessment of material derived from the work (published or unpublished) of another. Plagiarism may therefore include:

- i) The use of another person's material without reference or acknowledgement;
- ii) The summarising of another person's work by simply changing a few words or altering the order of presentation without acknowledgement;
- iii) The use of the ideas of another person without acknowledgement of the source;
- iv) Copying of the work of another student with or without that student's knowledge or agreement;
- v) Use of commissioned material and presented as the student's own.

2. **Self-Plagiarism:** The use or re-use of a student's own work (material), the work having previously been submitted for marking. This includes the act of copying (or duplicating) from any previously submitted written work which has been marked and recorded, which is re-submitted without due reference or citation and is presented as original work.

3. **Cheating:** a student will be deemed to be cheating as a result of any of the following:

- i) Deliberately acquiring advanced knowledge of the detailed content of an examination or obtaining a copy of an "unseen" written examination paper in advance of the date and time for its authorised release;
- ii) Communicating with or copying from another candidate during an examination;
- iii) Permitting another candidate to copy from his/her examination script;
- iv) Possession of any printed, written or electronic material or unauthorised material during an examination which may contain information relevant to the subjects of the examination;
- v) Communicating during an examination with any person other than a properly authorised invigilator or another authorised member of staff;
- vi) Impersonating another examination candidate or permitting himself/herself to be impersonated;

- vii) Undertaking any other action with the intention of gaining an unfair advantage over other candidates.

4. **Collusion:** collusion may exist where a student:

- i) is in complicity with another student in the completion of work which is intended to be submitted as either that student's or the other student's own work;
- ii) knowingly permits another student to copy all or part of his/her own work and to submit it as that student's own work.

5. **Falsification or fabrication of data:** the presentation of data in reports, projects and records, such as records of attendance or of competencies achieved, which is based on evidence which is fictitious, falsely presented as having been carried out by the student, or has been obtained by unfair means.

6. **Personation:** the assumption of one student of the identity of another person with the intent to deceive or gain unfair advantage.

7. **Bribery:** the paying, offering or attempted exchange of an inducement for information or material intended to advantage the recipient in an assessment.

# STUDENT CONDUCT REGULATIONS

## FLOW CHART

