

# *What is collusion?*

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A guide for students



# Definitions

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What is collusion?

Collusion is when a student or students permit or condone another student or students, to **share a piece of work subject to assessment** in order to **gain a mark** or grade to which they are not entitled. Students who allow another student to copy their work are also committing collusion and both the copier and the provider of the work are liable to be penalised

# *What is collaboration?*

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- Collaboration means working together and sharing ideas and resources to achieve a common goal.
- Students should feel supported to collaborate and this can take many different forms, whether it is digital collaboration or face-to-face

Examples of collaborations include:

- Students forming study groups to prepare for tests and exams
- Group members completing projects together, i.e. when completing a group assignment

# *Successful collaborations include the following examples*

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Different types of collaboration:

- **Explicit** – e.g. when students are asked to work on group projects
- **Implicit** – e.g. when students work together outside the context of the assignment, for example group study sessions for tests, proof-reading each others assignments prior to submission

# *Collusion vs explicit collaboration*

## *Collusion*

- This is intended to be an individual assessment, however if student share pieces of work intended for assessment this is seen as collusion
- Student permit or condone another student(s) to share a piece of work subject to assessment in order to gain a mark or grade to which they are not entitled.
- Example: sharing work, copying from each other

## *Collaboration*

- This can either be intended to be an individual assessment or a group assessment
- The work submitted is attributable to the student submitting it and is their own individual work, possibly with some feedback from peers
- Examples: group study sessions for tests, commenting on each others' writing for individual assignments

# *However...*

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There are circumstances when students are expected to complete a piece of work on their own, examples of which are

- Assignments which are assigned individually
- Tests or exams

It is important to make sure that you are well informed of what is and is not allowed.

# *How do I avoid collusion?*

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- Avoid sending your friends/course mates your own work, as both parties are liable to be penalised
  - Make sure you are aware of the type of assessment you are taking, whether it's group work or an individual assignment – if in doubt, just ask
  - If you shared the same initial ideas with your peers, make sure that you paraphrase and write the actual assignments in your own words

# *Summary - collusion issues*

## *DOs*

- Inform yourself about the assessment type (group vs individual)
- Share ideas if it's permitted
- Can comment on each other's work

## *DON'Ts*

- Copy other students' work
- Allow your peers to copy your work
- Upload your work on social media platforms
- Send your work to students in lower years
- Write someone else's assignment for them.



# *Assessments – general guidance*

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- Contact academic staff if you are struggling with assessments – they are here to help
- Collaborating with others in preparation for assessments can be very helpful
- Remember mitigating circumstances if needed
- Make sure you plan ahead. Do not leave assessment till the last minute

# *Helpful resources*

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- The [Academic Phrasebank](#) is a general resource for both staff and students that will help you with academic writing.
- This [Avoiding Plagiarism](#) workshop provided by the library will help you gain some insight into ways to maintain academic integrity when submitting your work
- This is the university's [guidance](#) to students on plagiarism and other forms of academic malpractice