

## International Day of Action Against Contract Cheating 2022

### List of news reports to discuss with students about the long term professional and social impacts of academic integrity problems

This list of news reports about the long-term professional and social impacts of academic integrity problems was produced by the International Day of Action Against Contract Cheating 2022 Faculty planning group. It includes news items from Canada, Germany, New Zealand, US and UK. The list was summarised and compiled by Dr Mary Davis, UK, Faculty co-chair.

Academic integrity issue	Brief description	Additional notes - how it could be used/ learning outcomes	Website link (eg to news site) (Please note URLs are given because hyperlinks may not work in different regions)
1. Impersonation	<p>The story of the impact of a construction manager who stole the identity and qualifications of a colleague. The building he constructed collapsed during the Christchurch earthquake in 2011, killing 115 people. <b>New Zealand</b></p> <p>The story of someone unqualified working as a nurse and using needles on patients</p>	<p>These stories can be used to discuss the impact of people working in professions without genuine qualifications. A list of different professions could be generated with suggestions for what would be the impact on (and danger for) the person, their colleagues and the wider public, if they worked in these professions</p>	<p><a href="https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/124243373/collapse-revisiting-the-odd-case-of-gerald-shirtcliff-the-fake-ctv-engineer">https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/124243373/collapse-revisiting-the-odd-case-of-gerald-shirtcliff-the-fake-ctv-engineer</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/canada/fake-nurse-sentenced-7-years-for-impersonation-using-needles-on-patients/ar-AAWuTmT">https://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/canada/fake-nurse-sentenced-7-years-for-impersonation-using-needles-on-patients/ar-AAWuTmT</a></p>

	<b>Canada</b>	without genuine qualifications.	
2. Plagiarism	<p>The story of Germany's education minister who was found to have plagiarised their PhD. The minister was responsible for overseeing universities, then lost their degree and post as education minister.</p> <p><b>Germany</b></p> <p>The story of a Dean who plagiarised a speech to graduates</p> <p><b>Canada</b></p>	These stories could be used to discuss the value of qualifications and respect for positions of responsibility.	<p><a href="https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/feb/09/german-education-minis">https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/feb/09/german-education-minis</a><a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/erik-wemple/wp/2014/05/16/cnn-fires-news-editor-marie-louise-gumuchian-for-plagiarism/ter-quits-phd-plagiarism">https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/erik-wemple/wp/2014/05/16/cnn-fires-news-editor-marie-louise-gumuchian-for-plagiarism/ter-quits-phd-plagiarism</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/probe-of-deans-plagiarized-speech-wont-be-made-public-university-of-alberta-says/article594045/">https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/probe-of-deans-plagiarized-speech-wont-be-made-public-university-of-alberta-says/article594045/</a></p>
3. Cheating	Schools resorted to online instruction during the pandemic, and access to technology during assessments blurred the lines between unauthorised collaborations and cheating. The story in the link explores different challenges some teachers faced and the measures they tried to help the students understand why integrity matters.	This story could be used for a general discussion of online cheating and what institutions, faculty and students need to do about it.	<a href="https://www.npr.org/2021/08/27/1031255390/reports-of-cheating-at-colleges-soar-during-the-pandemic">https://www.npr.org/2021/08/27/1031255390/reports-of-cheating-at-colleges-soar-during-the-pandemic</a>

	<b>US</b>		
4. Cheating	<p>EY employees cheated on exams required to obtain and maintain Certified Public Accountant licenses</p> <p><b>US</b></p> <p>Medical student is caught cheating 'with Bluetooth device surgically implanted in his ear' as he took exams in India</p>	<p>These stories could be used to discuss the implications of people working after cheating through qualifications.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.theguardian.com/business/2022/jun/28/ernst-and-young-fined-cheating-audit-settlement">https://www.theguardian.com/business/2022/jun/28/ernst-and-young-fined-cheating-audit-settlement</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10543377/Medical-student-caught-cheating-Bluetooth-device-surgically-implanted-ear-India.html">https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10543377/Medical-student-caught-cheating-Bluetooth-device-surgically-implanted-ear-India.html</a></p>
5. Impersonation	<p>Company reported to be advertising a job to write university applications for international students to UK universities, including personal statements. The job advert requires writers to 'adjust or rewrite your prose style to match the voice of different students'.</p> <p><b>UK</b></p>	<p>This story could be used to discuss the impact of impersonation in order to enter different professions.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-62305043">https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-62305043</a></p>
6. Inappropriate professional behaviour	<p>Lawyer charged with breaking the law.</p> <p><b>Canada</b></p>	<p>This group of stories about inappropriate professional behaviour can be used to discuss the importance of integrity in professions.</p> <p>Students could each read a</p>	<p><a href="https://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/lakeshore-councillor-charged-in-alleged-road-rage-incident">https://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/lakeshore-councillor-charged-in-alleged-road-rage-incident</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.firstcoastnews.com/article/news/crime/florida-paramedic">https://www.firstcoastnews.com/article/news/crime/florida-paramedic</a></p>

	<p>Paramedics accused of mistreating patients <b>US</b></p> <p>Bar Exams - Breach <b>Canada (Ontario)</b></p> <p>Provincial Exams - Breach <b>Canada (Alberta)</b></p> <p>Medical Exam - Cheating <b>Canada (British Columbia)</b></p> <p>Engineering offered services outside his expertise <b>(Canada)</b></p>	<p>different news story and then share what they felt about the ethical issues, and how this kind of behaviour by professionals could affect them personally.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/engineer-designed-bridge-collapsed-facing-discipline-1.6450110">s-accused-of-taking-selfies-with-unconscious-patients-as-part-of-challenge/77-279634254</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ontario/law-society-of-ontario-cancels-upcoming-bar-exams-over-potential-test-material-leak-1.6450110">Law Society of Ontario cancels upcoming bar exams over potential test material leak   CTV News</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/alberta/alberta-education-investigating-social-media-leak-of-provincial-exam-answers-1.6450110">Alberta Education investigating social media leak of provincial exam answers   CBC News</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/high-tech-medical-exam-cheating-alleged-1.6450110">High-tech medical exam cheating alleged   CBC News</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/engineer-designed-bridge-collapsed-facing-discipline-1.6450110">https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/engineer-designed-bridge-collapsed-facing-discipline-1.6450110</a></p>
7. Blackmail	<p>Students being blackmailed and extorted by individuals who are connected with contract cheating “services” <b>UK</b></p>	<p>This story can be used to discuss the dangers of the dark web of contract cheating sites, and to what extent students may be victims.</p>	<p><a href="https://theconversation.com/students-who-cheat-dont-just-have-to-worry-about-getting-caught-they-risk-blackmail-and-extortion-172403">https://theconversation.com/students-who-cheat-dont-just-have-to-worry-about-getting-caught-they-risk-blackmail-and-extortion-172403</a></p>
8. Contract Cheating	<p>Recognition of the problem as TEQSA (Tertiary</p>	<p>This very new story (August 22) could be used to discuss</p>	<p><a href="https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/academic-cheating-crackdown">https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/academic-cheating-crackdown</a></p>

	<p>Education Quality Standards Agency) formally bans 40 contract cheating sites in Australia.</p> <p><b>Australia.</b></p>	<p>the legal means of controlling contract cheating and the consequences of blocking websites.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.ruthlesswebsites.com.au/news/education-quality-standards-bans-40-contract-cheating-sites">-ruthless-websites-banned-in-bid-to-disrupt-criminal-operations/88arogqr6r</a></p>
9. Plagiarism	<p>In 2021, the President of the University of South Carolina (UofSC) plagiarized portions of his commencement address. The week following the commencement ceremony, the president resigned.</p> <p><b>US</b></p>	<p>This story can be used to discuss values (honour, duty) and how they intersect with good practice in attribution, and avoiding plagiarism. There is an interesting discussion of the plagiarist in question, including support from the author he plagiarised!</p>	<p><a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/13/us/usc-president-speech-plagiarism.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/13/us/usc-president-speech-plagiarism.html</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.postandcourier.com/news/usc-president-fumes-after-quitting-amid-plagiarism-scandal-regrets-coming-to-columbia/article_1114122-3ccd-11ec-8ddb-af60588e85f0.html">https://www.postandcourier.com/news/usc-president-fumes-after-quitting-amid-plagiarism-scandal-regrets-coming-to-columbia/article_1114122-3ccd-11ec-8ddb-af60588e85f0.html</a></p>
10. Contract cheating	<p>Deakin University students kicked out for 'contract cheating'</p> <p><b>Australia</b></p>	<p>This story can be used to discuss the outcomes of contract cheating with students.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/deakin-university-students-kicked-out-for-contract-cheating-20160518-goxm1y.html">https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/deakin-university-students-kicked-out-for-contract-cheating-20160518-goxm1y.html</a></p>
11. High Profile plagiarists	<p>Summary of a number of cases picked up by a Romanian journalist (ex-presidents, high profile police officers etc) - though this has led to personal danger for her.</p> <p><b>Romania</b></p>	<p>This story could be used to discuss the threats and retaliation sometimes found in cases of plagiarism allegations beyond academia.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20220906-romania-s-plagiarism-hunter-becomes-the-hunted">https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20220906-romania-s-plagiarism-hunter-becomes-the-hunted</a></p>

12. Impersonation	<p>“A third of the pilots of <b>Pakistan</b> International Airlines have been grounded for flying with fake or dubious licences a month after crew error <a href="#">caused a crash</a> that killed 98 people”.</p> <p>(Hugh Tomlinson &amp; Haroon Janjua, The Times, 26th May 2020)</p> <p>(Charles Bremner, The Times, 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020)</p> <p>This crash was found to be pilot error, on investigation it was discovered that many pilots had asked other people to sit their air safety exams for them. Led to retraining for some and dismissal for others.</p>	<p>This is a real example that can be used to show the importance of studying and passing all subjects, even if they are not seen as relevant at the time. Can be used as the starting point for discussion and further examples can be introduced that are relevant to the students, eg, why should a nurse study maths? Are there any subjects on your programme that you don't think are relevant to you? Why do you think they are included?</p>	<p><a href="https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/pakistan-crash-there-were-cries-and-people-prayed-then-the-plane-hit-6tbtz0360">https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/pakistan-crash-there-were-cries-and-people-prayed-then-the-plane-hit-6tbtz0360</a></p> <p>Tuesday 26th May 2020</p> <p><a href="https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/pakistan-international-airlines-grounds-third-of-pilots-after-crash-nkdwj8gxs">https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/pakistan-international-airlines-grounds-third-of-pilots-after-crash-nkdwj8gxs</a></p> <p>26th June 2020</p> <p>Note: The Times is now asking readers to register There may be other articles and footage on this story that is more accessible.</p>
13. Medical ethics	<p>Culture of Silence and nonchalance protected disgraced trachea surgeon. This is a report by the Swedish medical council from 2016 after a surgical procedure involving a synthetic trachea led to the death of several patients. The surgeon was dismissed following the investigation,</p>	<p>The messages from this story are (1) the culture of “group think” and lack of transparency in the workplace meant that the flaws in this procedure were covered up and not reported. (2) The blame must be shared by everyone who was aware, but stood by and did nothing, allowing more people to die needlessly. (3) It takes courage to stand up for what is right in this type of environment.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.nature.com/news/culture-of-silence-and-nonchalance-protected-disgraced-trachea-surgeon-updated-1.20533">https://www.nature.com/news/culture-of-silence-and-nonchalance-protected-disgraced-trachea-surgeon-updated-1.20533</a></p> <p>Abbot, A. (2016). Culture of Silence and nonchalance protected disgraced trachea surgeon. Nature, 2nd Sept 2016.</p>
14. Contract cheating	<p>Plagiarism in Pop Culture: The Conners. This article describes a TV sitcom episode that explores cheating both for</p>	<p>This article describes the plot of the film. If this film can be located and played to students, it provides an accessible way to</p>	<p><a href="https://www.plagiarismtoday.com/2022/03/07/plagiarism-in-pop-culture-the-conners/">https://www.plagiarismtoday.com/2022/03/07/plagiarism-in-pop-culture-the-conners/</a></p>

	admissions and essay writing, much of the dialogue is apparently based on the recent varsity blues scandal	talk to students about the short and longer term consequences and impacts of contract cheating	Jonathan Bailey, Plagiarism Today, 7th March 2022
15. Sex for grades	<p>A shocking story about professors at the Universities of Lagos and Ghana offering students the opportunity to increase their grades in return for sex with them. The evidence was obtained by undercover reporters.*</p> <p>*Note: video contains distressing scenes</p>	This footage and the story could be used in classes with students and/or staff concerned with how to protect students from abusive conduct by lecturing staff or in the workplace in general and to encourage students to report any unethical conduct by staff. It is also about making sure students are aware of their rights and are not intimidated by bullies and predators like this.	<a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-51546271">https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-51546271</a> BBC Africa 18th February 2020
16. Corruption in medical admissions, education and research	<p>Vyapam: India's deadly medical school exam scandal</p> <p>Medical education, rigging of clinical trials, threats of violence to whistle-blowers, impersonation, Leaking of question papers, teachers filling in answer sheets after the exam, unfair marking practices -bribery.</p>	This is such a shocking story, it could be used in medical ethics training settings or it could be used in teacher training, induction for early career researchers etc. There is so much material here, something for everyone!	<a href="http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-33421572">http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-33421572</a> BBC News, 8th July 2015