

Cheating and its consequences



“The fundamental values relating to academic activities at UiB are openness, verifiability, scientific integrity and critical discussion.”

UiB's pillars

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Content

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What is cheating?

Academic dishonesty or cheating means achieving a result by unlawful means.

The university reacts strongly to cheating and attempts to cheat in connection with class exams, take-home exams, mandatory assignments and other assignments/tasks that the student is required to submit. Cheating is a serious breach of trust in relation to fellow students and the university.

Examples of cheating:

- Not referring to your sources
- Referring to fake sources
- Not marking text from other sources as citations (plagiarism)
- Finding a paper on the internet and submitting it as your own
- Submitting a paper used by another person earlier or by the student him/herself in another exam or assignment.
- The paper is written by someone other than the student
- Breaking the rules for collaboration and working together
- Using aids that are not allowed (for example pieces of paper with subject-related information on them, mobile phones, your own notes containing information)

How is cheating discovered?

Cheating and attempts to cheat can be discovered by exam invigilators, by the examiner when grading an exam or paper, or by a lecturer when grading an exam or assignment. The University of Bergen also uses Ephorus, an anti-plagiarism program that checks students' assignments electronically against other students' papers and the internet.

What are the consequences of cheating?

If cheating or attempts to cheat are discovered, this can have serious consequences for a student. Pursuant to the Act relating to Universities and University Colleges, if the suspicion is justified, this *can* result in the exam being annulled and in expulsion from all universities and university colleges in Norway for one or two semesters. No time bar applies to the right to annul an exam.¹ Suspicion of cheating can therefore be investigated long after it happened, even after the student has left the university. If it is decided to annul an exam, transcripts of grades and any diploma must be returned to the university.²

1 The Act relating to Universities and University Colleges, § 4–7 nr. 4

2 The Act relating to Universities and University Colleges, § 4–7 nr. 5

Your rights

While the department or faculty are carrying out investigations to decide whether or not to initiate a case on grounds of cheating, the student is entitled to see relevant documents, to explain her/himself and to voice her/his opinion. The student can also be assisted by a lawyer or another person, although such expenses will not be covered by the university.

Once the faculty has sent the case to the Appeals Committee, the student is entitled to a lawyer at the university's expense. The student is still entitled to have access to the case documents and to comment on the case in writing. The student can also request a meeting with the committee's secretary. If the student is convicted, he/she can appeal the decision to the national "Felles klagenemnd" (Joint Appeals Committee for Student Matters) within three weeks. The student is entitled to have her/his legal expenses covered if he/she has been expelled, but not otherwise.

How can you learn more and get help?

UiB wants all its students to be familiar with the correct use of sources in written work and with the requirements for academic integrity. These topics are raised by lecturers at both bachelor and master level. The document "The use of sources in written work at the University of Bergen" gives an introduction to correct referencing and is available at My Space and uib.no/academic-integrity.

In addition, the university library offers courses, both online and at the libraries, in how to write an assignment and how to use sources. For more information, see: www.uib.no/ub/en.

The Student Welfare Organisation (SiB) offers counselling when it comes to study techniques, exam preparation and other topics related to studying in Norway. For more information, see: www.sib.no.

If you are uncertain about the requirements for academic integrity and use of sources, please ask your lecturer, your academic advisor or a librarian.

uib.no/academic-integrity