

# Cheating and its consequences



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

*UiB's pillars*

January 2015

The paragraph "How is cheating discovered" is updated 3 May 2017



UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN

## Cheating in general

Cheating is a serious breach of trust in relation to fellow students, the university and society. The university will react strongly to cheating and attempts to cheat in all aspects of academic activities. For you as a student, this will not only apply during exams, but also in other work that is part of “taking the course in question” (as stated in the Universities and Colleges Act states).

<b>Examples of cheating</b>
Not referring to your sources
Referring to fake sources
Not marking text from other sources as citations (plagiarism)
Finding a paper online or in other sources and presenting it as one's own
Submitting a paper used by another person earlier or by the student him/herself in another exam or assignment
Submitting a paper or parts of a paper prepared by a different person than the student himself/herself
Breaking the rules for collaboration and working together
Using support materials that are not allowed (for example pieces of paper with subject-related information on them, mobile phones, smart watches)
Including non-permitted subject matter in permitted support materials
Having access to support materials that are not permitted (even though they are not used)
Complicity in cheating

Attempts to cheat may also lead to the same sanctions as cheating.

## **How is cheating discovered?**

Cheating and attempts to cheat may be discovered by exam invigilators or by other checks at the exam premises, by the examiner when assessing the exams/papers, by the teacher when assignments are submitted, or through notification from co-students or others. UiB uses text recognition applications that checks your submitted paper against your own, previously submitted papers, against the papers of other students, against previously submitted texts and on the Internet.

## **What are the consequences of cheating?**

If cheating or attempts to cheat are discovered, this may have serious consequences for you. If the suspicion is justified, it may, pursuant to the Colleges and Universities Act relating to universities and university colleges lead to the annulment of the exam, test or approval of courses. In addition, you may be expelled from the institution for up to one year and be denied the right to sit for exams at all universities and university colleges in Norway. Complicity in cheating or complicity in attempts at cheating may lead to exclusion for a corresponding period.

There is no period of limitation on the right to annul an exam.<sup>1</sup> Cheating can thus be investigated long after it has taken place, and even after you have left the university. If a decision is made to annul an exam, grade transcripts and any diploma must be returned to the university.<sup>2</sup>

## **Your rights**

While the department and faculty investigate whether there is cause to initiate a case on grounds of cheating, you are entitled to access case documents, to explain yourself, and to provide your opinion in writing and orally, but you are under no obligation to give statements or explanations.

When the faculty has transferred the case to the University Central Appeals Committee which initially handles cases of cheating in the first instance, you are entitled to legal counsel or other assistance, at the cost of the university. Legal fees are covered in accordance with public rates. Throughout the process you are entitled to access to the case documents and to com-

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1 Act relating to universities and university colleges Section 4–7 no. 4

2 Act relating to universities and university colleges Section 4–7 no. 5



ment on the case in writing and orally. You may also request a meeting with the committee's secretary. You may appeal decisions from the University Appeals Committee to the national "Felles klagenemnd for studentsaker" (Joint Appeals Committee for Student Affairs) within three weeks. In appeal cases the main rule is that the student is entitled to coverage of legal counsel in the event of *exclusion*, but not in the event of *annulment*.

## **How can you learn more and get help?**

UiB desires that all students should have knowledge of the correct use of sources and demands toward academic integrity. This is raised as a subject by teachers at all levels. The document "The use of sources in written work at the University of Bergen" gives an introduction to correct referencing and is available from UiB's website.

The University Library offers courses, also online, in information competence and the correct use of sources. More information is available at: [uib.no/ub](http://uib.no/ub).

The Student Welfare Organization (SiB) also provides courses in studying proficiency, and exam preparations, among other things.

See: [sib.no](http://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.

