Taking Action Against Contract Cheating

How to get involved with the 5th International Day of Action Against Contract Cheating, taking place on 21 October 2020

Register your institution to take part at:
https://academicintegrity.org/day-against-contract-cheating

Dr Thomas Lancaster
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Webinar Presenter

Dr Thomas Lancaster

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Researcher and speaker on academic integrity issues

Published the first research paper referring to contract cheating (with the late Robert Clarke)
@DrLancaster
@TweetCAI
#contractcheating
Questions For Discussion

• Why do we need to take action against contract cheating?
• What is the International Day of Action (DoA) against Contract Cheating?
• Who should get involved?
• What activities are going to happen during the day?
• What do we need to know about the DoA in light of Covid-19?
• How can we use the DoA to raise awareness about contract cheating and promote academic integrity?
Contract Cheating Is Out There!
The Industry There To Help You In Your Time Of Need!
If you use such a service to complete your assignment, you are contract cheating.
Even If You Just Get Your Friend To Do Your Assignment, You Are Contract Cheating
The Challenges of Contract Cheating

Students miss out on learning. That makes their future studies difficult.

Contract cheating is unfair to the vast majority of students, who want to learn.

Students are vulnerable to future (and continued) exploitation by the contract cheating industry.
The Social Consequences

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Direct</th>
<th>Long Term</th>
<th>Surrounding</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student has not benefited from teaching</td>
<td>Difficult finding/keeping jobs</td>
<td>Shortage of skills and knowledge impacting families and economy</td>
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<td>Anxiety</td>
<td>Depression</td>
<td>Unethical practices at workplaces</td>
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<td>Low self esteem</td>
<td>Suicide</td>
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<td>Loneliness</td>
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Why We Care

The global contract cheating industry is deceptive, out there to make money from students and puts students at risk.
The Solution
The 5th International Day of Action Against Contract Cheating, 21 October 2020

(one of many pieces of the solution)
Where Are We At Now?

2006
First paper referring to contract cheating
Academic ghost-writing did happen before 2006

2016
First International Day of Action against Contract Cheating
The contract cheating industry took advantage of “a perfect storm”

2020
Education changes as a result of Covid-19
What should we do in 2020 and beyond?
Previous International Days Of Action

- 2016: 22
- 2017: 75
- 2018: 88
- 2019: 117
- 2020: ?
Who Can Get Involved?

Everyone!

Academic Institutions    Quality Agencies    Commercial Providers

Schools    Individuals

Even if your institution isn’t officially taking part, you are still encouraged to join in and promote the online activity.
What Kind Of Activities Can You Use?
(examples from 2019 DoA)
University at Buffalo

Whiteboard Declarations

Thompson River University

I DON'T CHEAT because...

I WANT TO BE A BETTER BULL!

#defeatthecheat

I don't contract cheat because...

You'll Never learn if you don't try yourself!
Photo Frames

Majan College
Board Games

Deree, The American College of Greece
HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO HAVE YOUR ASSIGNMENT WRITTEN FOR YOU?

Paying someone (online or in person) or getting a friend to write an assignment which you submit as your own work is known as contract cheating.

Contract cheating is serious academic misconduct and you risk:
- failing your unit
- expulsion from your course and the University
- damaging your long term career prospects
- having your VISA cancelled and being asked to leave Australia.

Your assignment may cost you a lot more than you intended – it’s not worth the risk!

Your success is in your hands.

if you are worried about completing your assignment on time, or are tempted to cheat, there is help available:
- Academic Learning Centre and Studylinkwards to help you improve the quality of your academic work and online review of assignments [www.cqu.edu.au/alc](http://www.cqu.edu.au/alc)
- Student Counselling Services – help with developing effective study skills, motivation and time management [counselling@cqu.edu.au](mailto:counselling@cqu.edu.au)

CQ University Australia

Information
Graffiti Wall

Majan College
Individuallity
Fingerprint

Deree, The American College of Greece
Discussion Opportunities
Subject Specific Activities

Deree, The American College of Greece
Gifts

College of DuPage
UniClinic Wellbeing Days

x

Academic Integrity Week

I am an Integrity Ambassador
Moving To An Online IDoA
Activities you could consider...

- Encourage students to debate contract cheating – to compare the risk and the reward
- Ask staff to discuss contract cheating in their class
- Online graffiti walls
- Competitions
- Online pledges
- Join in with the online activity
- Signpost support services
How can we encourage online students to share their declarations on social media?
Local Messaging

What would work to generate interest or address challenges at your institution?
Publicity

We are really keen to get coverage about the positive work that is taking place to improve academic integrity.

Please shout about your local activity.

ICAI are preparing a media kit to help you to engage local journalists.

There is a Covid-19 news story here!
“Twenty Live in 20 — Global Conversations about Contract Cheating”

20 hours of online academic integrity content to celebrate 2020!

Like – Share – Subscribe!
Discussion

Thoughts, ideas and questions are welcome
Sign Up To Take Part

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Deree, The American College of Greece