SPECTRUM
International University College
DKU055 (B)

Spectrum International University College's anti-plagiarism and AI-cheating strategy

In more than 24 years since being established, our college has experienced numerous transformations. But not in our values. Since 2000, Spectrum International University College has strived to foster critical thinkers and independent experts with strong working ethics, ready to learn and grow in sync with the fast-paced professional environment. Along with caring for our graduates' well-being, we focus on a bigger picture, driven by a mission to shape problem-solvers and leaders able to face modern challenges and make our world a better place. This ambition calls on us to be the example we set for students, tackling the modern educational dares, shaping the learning landscape of the future, and finding solutions to protect academic integrity and equip young specialists with the best practices and tools we discover.

Academic integrity importance

Academic integrity is one of the pillars of Spectrum International University College's honor code, as our mission relies on original thinking, honesty, leadership skills, and equal opportunities.

Spectrum International University College's mission and values

Shaping a better future. We believe a better future is an honest future built on respect, inclusion, and inspiration. *Therefore we see supporting academic integrity as a crucial contribution to the community's well-being, as the educational environment shapes young specialists' mindset and impacts the way they show up in their careers and personal relationships.*

Innovation. Instead of fighting the change, we suggest embracing it and learning to implement even the most controversial tools in a beneficial and ethical way. We have witnessed numerous times how every challenge ignites the development of novel solutions, leading to progress and inspiring creativity. *Hence, we are in constant search of relevant technologies that can accelerate the teachers' and students' routines, and equip our graduates with the best practices for their future tasks without violating the academic honesty code.*

Collaboration. Making inclusion and cultural understanding our priorities, we foster global citizens ready to collaborate with people of various backgrounds and build efficient and supportive working environments. *Here, working ethics and personal qualities come first, and respect towards intellectual property and authorship, along with original thinking, can not be overestimated.*

Fostering independent thinkers. In the age of easy access to limitless amounts of data, fabricated news, fake photos, and occasionally hallucinating AI chatbots, fact-checking, and critical mindset are paramount. That is why our task is to encourage young people to fact-check and compare the sources and reflect on any information they receive. *The ability to question the sources, dig deeper into the subject, and express one's own beliefs and ideas is also essential for maintaining academic integrity and writing originality.*

Leadership. We tailor education to each student's needs so they can uncover their talents and fulfill their potential. At the same time, we strive to promote the concept of ethical leadership and healthy competition, where young specialists learn to reinforce each other's ambitions rather than become rivals. We believe this way we prepare our graduates for productive and fulfilling work, ensuring they contribute to the community on both professional and personal levels. *Ethical leadership strategy applies not only to our students–we as an educational institution aspire to this goal too, and academic honesty is one of the fundamental components of this journey.*

Real-world approach to problem-solving. "Future-ready" is our motto when it comes to planning learning programs. We believe practical skills are more important than school grades, and students should focus on becoming efficient specialists and fulfilling their aspirations rather than academic success itself. Hence, digitalization is a big part of our educational process, and implementing all the newest technologies, bringing up the most controversial topics, and being ready to solve the most burning issues are essential to prepare our students for facing modern world challenges. *This also requires us to embrace the challenges and be responsive and flexible, yet true to our values, where academic honesty remains the key to maintaining both relevance and excellence.*

Comprehensive strategy and constant improvement. Our task is to equip young people with the skills and knowledge required to succeed in the demanding job market. Hence, we need not only to stay in sync with the current tendencies but to foresee the future trends. Moreover, we believe that soft skills and working ethics value no less than expertise. For these reasons, we ensure our programs are constantly updated to stay relevant and allow our graduates to become competitive candidates in the international job arena, and our curriculum focuses not only on professional but personal development. *In these terms, academic honesty and independent thinking become of paramount importance.*

Equality & diversity. We teach our students to respect cultures, backgrounds, and views in all their diversity, and embody the same approach towards them. In our experience, academic honesty violations often come not from malicious intentions but from a lack of self-confidence or understanding of the rules or originality's importance. We also believe that preventative measures and education work better than punishment. *For these reasons, we tend to educate our learners on academic honesty issues and encourage them to express their ideas, speak their truth, and take risks of making mistakes instead of resorting to copying someone's thoughts.*

Challenges in the digital era

Along with the exciting opportunities of the digital age, the educational system nowadays faces challenges unimaginable even five years ago. Here are the most common and burning issues our teachers encounter daily.

Plagiarism

Copying from one another is no news, as students have been doing it since the first writing assignments. Internet, mobile devices and online studying, however, have brought the problem to a whole new level, making plagiarism even more of a major issue. Here, we can pinpoint the following aspects:

- *Sometimes students plagiarize even without knowing it.* It is called *accidental plagiarism* and happens when the author mistakes for common knowledge or even their own idea the information that needs attribution; or when two people come up with the same concept by pure coincidence. Is this unfortunate situation still considered plagiarism? It absolutely is. Does it entail the same repercussions as intentional plagiarism cases? It does, as the institution can not risk its reputation by publishing unoriginal works. Is it fair? Well, it may sound controversial, but we believe students should learn from mistakes, and our task is to accelerate the process and provide methods to prevent or avoid plagiarism in the future.
- *Often, plagiarism is rooted in fear.* Students are nervous because of looming deadlines or do not feel safe and confident enough to express their own ideas. As an institution, we want to ensure our instructors are well aware of this phenomenon and create a supportive environment encouraging self-expression and inviting discussion.
- *Lack of awareness is a common reason behind copying.* Welcoming students from various backgrounds, we know that not all of them are familiar with the concept of plagiarism and proper paraphrasing instead of synonymization. For this reason, we believe raising writing ethics awareness and explaining the importance of originality and the consequences of plagiarism is the key to preventing intentional cheating attempts in academia.
- *Plagiarism, in the first place, harms the plagiarizer.* Copying someone's ideas one loses the chance to learn and process new information, reflect on it, and demonstrate creativity. Moreover, the consequences of uncovered plagiarism go far beyond getting a lower grade, jeopardizing reputation, and breaking the trust between the student and the teacher as well as among the peers.

AI cheating

AI tools are here to stay, so we at Spectrum International University College would never advocate banning them at educational institutions; as we believe our task is to prepare our students to work in the modern environment with all its challenges. AI cheating, however, is a completely different issue, which jeopardizes AI technologies, prevents students from progressing, and disrespects teachers' efforts. Therefore, passing AI output for one's authentic writing is an absolute no-go in the academic environment. Distinguishing between robot-generated text and students' writing is not an easy task, especially since we do not want teachers to waste efforts and time on checking AI-generated assignments just to conclude they are not authentic.

AI plagiarism

AI plagiarism is a new term induced by AI technologies. Since AI models can not create anything unique and generate content based on all the data they have been trained at, their output can not be considered truly original, even if it sounds authentic. Therefore, using AI writing entails even more issues than violation of academic integrity norms:

- AI output is not always accurate, as not all the data presented online is;
- AI content may sound original, but it is plagiarized by definition, as the chatbot never attributes or mentions the sources it recruits to generate the output;
- recognized as plagiarism, AI texts can entail the same repercussions as other copied content, including expulsion from educational institutions, and doctorate revocation.

Adaptive antiplagiarism strategy of Spectrum International University College

One of the superpowers we pass to our students is the ability to transform any challenge into improvement and growth. That is how AI and plagiarism issues have encouraged us to implement new steps for protecting academic integrity.

Embracing the change. Flexibility and responsiveness allow us to provide up-to-date solutions to our students so they are prepared for work in an AI-challenged environment.
Educating. Motivation and explanation are our key strategies for preventing plagiarism. Being aware of academic honesty's importance and cheating repercussions, students are eager to present original work instead of thoughtless copying.
Building a dialogue. We believe in trust and communication, hence our students can count on open conversation instead of accusations.

Implementing new tools. While prevention is vital, fast and efficient uncovering of plagiarism and AI cheating is crucial for ensuring equality and academic honesty. Moreover, knowing that our faculty is equipped with such tools, students tend to maintain their writing originality rather than taking the risk of being caught.

Plagiarism and AI detection

The plagiarism checker and AI detector have become game-changers for Spectrum International University College. These tools embody everything our institution stands for, supporting innovations, saving teachers' resources, protecting academic honesty, and helping students to improve their writing.

- **Our instructors have time to prepare creative tasks,** emotionally engage in the class, and upgrade their expertise instead of manually checking assignments for AI and plagiarism. The tool does it in seconds, providing a convenient PDF report.
- **Having proof enhances trust between teachers and students:** instead of guesses and abstract accusations, they can discuss particular problematic parts of the assignment flagged by the detector.
- **Students improve their writing.** Checking the paper for plagiarism before submission, they can work on mistakes even before the teachers' feedback, educating themselves on plagiarism importance and proper attribution.
- **Integration with LMS, Google Doc add-on, and browser extensions** make it easy to implement plagiarism and AI detection without extra steps and demanding training. Teachers and students can check writing right in the convenient working space with one button click and get the results immediately.
- **Teachers can upload their own repository,** checking the papers not only against webpages and the PlagiarismCheck.org database but also to other students' works to prevent them from copying from one another.
- **Grammar Checker and Citation Generator** which are included in the PlagiarismCheck.org toolkit assist teachers and students in working on the assignments without the need to master separate instruments.
- **We feel confident facing emerging technologies.** With the mentioned tools, our teachers can detect AI traces and potential plagiarism within seconds; our graduates learn to work with the newest technologies, and our institution implements groundbreaking solutions in response to arising problems.

We believe in a human-to-human approach, which is why AI-based tools will never replace teachers. For this reason, we encourage our instructors to consider AI and plagiarism check reports and make the final decisions based on their expertise and experience. In these terms, detailed information provided by the report with the links to the sources where matches have been found and highlighted problematic pieces come in handy to our faculty members.

As a result, we ensure our institution's reputation is safeguarded, our graduates' work ethic is sharp, and our teachers are equipped with the solutions that help them withstand even the most tricky tasks of nowadays education.