SECTION 4
Assessment Regulation 9: Research misconduct for candidates registered on an approved course of supervised research

Students are advised to seek impartial help, advice, guidance and support from sabbatical officers in the Students’ Union and Students’ Union Advice Centre.

9.1 Research misconduct involving plagiarism, piracy or falsifying results is a form of dishonesty which is viewed by the University as a serious offence. The University’s Regulations for Awards contain provisions, in section F1.8, under which the University’s Research Committee may penalise candidates who are found to have dishonestly obtained work for assessment. The purpose of this section is to explain what research misconduct is, to describe the procedures which will be followed when it is suspected, and to indicate the penalties which are likely to be imposed when it is detected.

9.2 Common forms of misconduct include but are not limited to piracy, plagiarism and fraud.

a) Piracy is the deliberate exploitation of ideas from others without acknowledgement.

b) Plagiarism is the copying of ideas, data or text without permission or acknowledgement.

c) Fraud involves deliberate deception including the invention of data and the omission from analysis, and non-publication of inconvenient data.

9.3 Where a supervisor or an examiner (internal or external) suspects that research misconduct has occurred, the Dean of the School (or nominated deputy) will interview the candidate concerned and will establish whether or not the accusation is contested. The supervisor(s) and/or examiner(s) may also be asked to take part in the interview. If all parties agree that misconduct has taken place, a report will be prepared by the Dean (or nominated deputy) for consideration by the University’s Research Committee. The report will be signed by all parties.

9.4 Where it has been found that research misconduct has been committed, the University’s Research Committee shall determine whether or not the candidate shall be permitted to continue, submit or be re-examined. In the latter case the candidate shall submit for re-examination within the period of one calendar year from the date of the latest part of the examination.

9.5 If the candidate concerned disputes the allegation, a full report will be made to the Head of Registry and a formal Academic Misconduct Committee will be convened in accordance with the procedure referred to below. The candidate’s performance will not be considered further until the Academic Misconduct Committee has completed its investigations.
9.6 Action following a report to the Head of Registry of suspected dishonest behaviour by a student registered on an approved course of supervised research

9.6.1 If the Head of Registry receives a report of suspected dishonest behaviour by a candidate, a meeting of an Academic Misconduct Committee shall be convened, as soon as possible, to consider the case. The Academic Misconduct Committee will consist of the following persons:

- Two members of the Senate with no direct involvement in the assessment in question,
- One member of the relevant School’s Research Committee with no direct involvement in the assessment in question,
- The Head of Registry (or nominated deputy),
- The President of the Students’ Union, or a deputy.

9.6.2 The Head of Registry will inform the candidate of the action taken and will supply to the candidate a copy of the report.

9.6.3 The Academic Misconduct Committee shall consider the report and take evidence as necessary from those involved. The candidate shall have the right to appear before the Committee in person to present his/her evidence and to be accompanied by a friend when doing so.

9.6.4 Where it is established that a candidate has cheated or has otherwise sought to gain an unfair advantage, a report to that effect shall be made to the University’s Research Committee.

9.6.5 The student’s performance will not be considered further until the Academic Misconduct Committee has completed its investigations.

9.6.6 The University’s Research Committee shall then consider the matter and shall determine whether or not the candidate should be allowed to be reassessed.

9.6.7 The candidate shall be informed of the decision of the Academic Misconduct Committee and shall have a right of appeal against that decision.

Note: This regulation will apply to the research element only of an integrated course. For those candidates following a taught element of an integrated course of work, Assessment Regulations 3 and 4 will apply.