



University of East Anglia

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[REDACTED]

24 March 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information request (ref: FOI_17-049)

We have now considered your request of 23 February 2017 for information relating to plagiarism.

Our response is on pages 2-3 of this letter, together with a copy of your request.

We hope this information will meet your requirements, however if you are not satisfied you have the right of appeal. If you wish to appeal, please set out in writing your reasons for appealing and send to the above address. You must appeal within 60 calendar days of the date of this letter. Any appeal received after that date will not be considered nor acknowledged. This policy has been reviewed and approved by the Information Commissioner's Office.

You also have a subsequent right of appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office. Further information is available on their website:

https://ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us, or by telephone on 0303 123 1113.

Please note that any material over which UEA has copyright is released on the understanding that you will comply with all relevant copyright rules regarding reproduction and/or transmission of the information provided.

Please quote our reference given at the head of this letter in all correspondence.

Yours sincerely

Dave Palmer
Information Policy and Compliance Manager
University of East Anglia

Response to Freedom of Information Act 2000 request (FOI_17-049)

What is the university's policy on its students purchasing essays/dissertations and handing them in as their own piece of academic work?

The University's policy on plagiarism and collusion is available on our website: <https://portal.uea.ac.uk/documents/6207125/8576642/plagiarism-and-collusion-policy.pdf>. Paragraph 2.2.4 of the Policy explicitly defines "The commissioning and submission of work as the student's own, where the student has purchased or solicited another individual to produce work on the student's behalf" as collusion.

In each of the last 4 years (2014, 2015, 2016 & 2017) how many students have been caught handing in purchased essays/dissertations?

There have been no recorded cases of students being caught handing in purchased essays or dissertations.

For each incident, how was the student punished?

Not applicable – see response to above question

Does the university have preventive measures in place to tackle this issue?

Yes. A summary of preventive measures adopted by the University to tackle the generic issue of plagiarism is provided below:

- All undergraduate and taught postgraduate students are provided with information and guidance at induction and are made aware of and referred to the UEA Handbook¹ which contains all published information and guidance on avoiding plagiarism and collusion.
- Research postgraduate students are provided with information and guidance at induction on avoiding plagiarism and collusion, in Personal and Professional Development courses on academic writing and through supervisory meetings and feedback.
- Staff training resources dealing with preventative measures are available on the University website at: <https://portal.uea.ac.uk/student-support-service/learning-enhancement/study-resources/plagiarism/resources-for-teaching-staff>
- Each school within the University has appointed plagiarism officers. Guidance for the plagiarism officers is available on the University website at: <https://portal.uea.ac.uk/documents/6207125/8576642/being-a-plagiarism-officer-at-uea-guidance-on-the-role-and-its-responsibilities.pdf/07ff2e33-574e-4b1b-b165-c41470bf5bde>
- Routine use of the plagiarism detection technology software where plagiarism is suspected.

¹ The UEA handbook for taught students is available on our website. See <https://portal.uea.ac.uk/learning-and-teching/students/getting-started/handbooks>

- In addition to the above, individual Faculties may use other techniques to prevent plagiarism, for example providing sessions on plagiarism for first year students, including plagiarism awareness within taught sessions, the provision of specific plagiarism avoidance guides and the adoption of assessment strategies that make it more difficult to purchase pre-written essays online