



Malpractice Policy | Procedures



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1. Introduction

For the purpose of this document 'malpractice' is defined as:

Any act, or failure to act, that threatens or compromises the integrity of the assessment process or the validity of qualifications and their certification. This includes: maladministration and the failure to maintain appropriate records or systems; the deliberate falsification of records or documents for any reason connected to the award of qualifications; acts of plagiarism or other academic misconduct; and/or actions that compromise the reputation or authority of Geason or of its centres, officers and employees.

Geason will report all relevant cases of suspected malpractice to the relevant awarding body, accepting that in certain circumstances awarding bodies may take action of their own, including imposing sanctions.

2. Purpose

Geason Training treats all cases of suspected malpractice* very seriously and will investigate all suspected and reported incidents of possible malpractice. The purpose of this Policy is to set out how allegations of malpractice in relation to all qualifications are dealt with. The scope of the policy is to provide:

- a) a definition of malpractice
- b) examples of learner and centre malpractice and maladministration
- c) possible sanctions that may be imposed in cases of malpractice

*The term 'malpractice' in this policy is used for both malpractice and maladministration.

3. Scope

This policy covers all learners and all centre employees and stakeholders.

4. Related Documents

Learner Disciplinary Policy

Staff Disciplinary Policy Examining Body Regulations

5. Responsibilities

Quality Manager

The associated policies for staff and learner disciplinary procedures have their own clearly laid out responsibilities if these are invoked.

6. RISK ANALYSIS

Failure to have a Malpractice Policy leaves the college at risk of complaints of unfair treatment. It also has become a requirement of examining bodies. The policy ensures that we are meeting examining body regulations and mitigating the risk of complaints.

8. Data Protection

All notes, letters and incident logs pertaining to malpractice procedures will be stored securely for a period of 5 years. If a crime has been committed, then information relating to the crime and perpetrator may need to be passed to the police under strict information sharing protocols.

9. Procedure - Malpractice by Learners

Some examples of learner malpractice are described below. These examples are not exhaustive and all incidents of suspected malpractice, whether or not described below, will be fully investigated, where there are sufficient grounds to do so.

- » Obtaining examination or assessment material without authorization.
- » Arranging for an individual other than the learner to sit an assessment or to submit an assignment not undertaken by the learner.
- » Impersonating another learner to sit an assessment or to submit an assignment on their behalf.
- » Collaborating with another learner or individual, by any means, to complete a coursework assignment or assessment, unless it has been clearly stated that such collaboration is permitted.
- » Damaging another learner's work.
- » Inclusion of inappropriate or offensive material in coursework assignments or assessment scripts.
- » Failure to comply with published examination regulations.
- » Disruptive behaviour or unacceptable conduct, including the use of offensive language, at centre or assessment venue (including aggressive or offensive language or behaviour).
- » Producing, using or allowing the use of forged or falsified documentation, including but not limited to: personal identification; supporting evidence provided for reasonable adjustment or special consideration applications; and results documentation, including certificates.
- » Falsely obtaining, by any means, a certificate.
- » Misrepresentation or plagiarism
- » Fraudulent claims for special consideration while studying.

- » Possession of any materials not permitted in the assessment room, regardless of whether or not they are relevant to the assessment, or whether or not the learner refers to them during the assessment process, for example notes, blank paper, electronic devices including mobile phones, personal organisers, books, dictionaries / calculators (when prohibited).
- » Communicating in any form, for example verbally or electronically, with other learners in the assessment room when it is prohibited.
- » Copying the work of another learner or knowingly allowing another learner to copy from their own work.
- » Failure to comply with instructions given by the assessment invigilator, i.e., working beyond the allocated time; refusing to hand in assessment script / paper when requested; not adhering to warnings relating to conduct during the assessment.

Malpractice by centre employees and stakeholders

Examples of malpractice by, trainers, coaches and other staff, are listed below. These examples are not exhaustive and all incidents of suspected malpractice, whether or not described below, will be fully investigated, where there are sufficient grounds to do so.

- » Failure to adhere to the relevant regulations and procedures, including those relating to centre approval, security undertaking and monitoring requirements as set out by the examining body.
- » Knowingly allowing an individual to impersonate a learner.
- » Allowing a learner to copy another learner's assignment work or allowing a learner to let their own work be copied.
- » Allowing learners to work collaboratively during an assignment assessment, unless specified in the assignment brief.
- » Completing an assessed assignment for a learner or providing them with assistance beyond that 'normally' expected.
- » Damaging a learner's work.
- » Disruptive behaviour or unacceptable conduct, including the use of offensive language (including aggressive or offensive language or behaviour).
- » Allowing disruptive behaviour or unacceptable conduct at the centre to go unchallenged, for example, aggressive or offensive language or behaviour.
- » Divulging any information relating to learner performance and / or results to anyone other than the learner.
- » Producing, using or allowing the use of forged or falsified documentation, including but not limited to: personal identification; supporting evidence provided for reasonable adjustment or special consideration applications; portfolio documentation, including certificates
- » falsely obtaining by any means a certificate, including false internal verification documents
- » Failing to report a suspected case of learner malpractice, including plagiarism, to the examination body.
- » Moving the time or date of a fixed examination.

- » Failure to keep examination question papers, examination scripts or other assessment materials secure, before during or after an examination.
- » Allowing a learner to possess and / or use material or electronic devices that are not permitted in the examination room.
- » Allowing learners to communicate by any means during an examination in breach of regulations.
- » Allowing a learner to work beyond the allotted examination time. Leaving learners unsupervised during an examination.
- » Assisting or prompting candidates with the production of answers.

Possible malpractice sanctions

- » Following an investigation, if a case of malpractice is upheld, Geason may impose sanctions or other penalties on the individual(s) concerned. Where relevant we will report the matter to the examination body, who may impose one or more sanctions upon the individual(s) concerned. Any sanctions imposed will reflect the seriousness of the malpractice that has occurred.
- » Listed below are examples of sanctions that may be applied to a learner, or to a trainer, coach, invigilator or other officer who has had a case of malpractice upheld against them. Please note that this list is not exhaustive and other sanctions may be applied on a case-by-case basis.
- » where the malpractice affects examination performance, the examination body may impose sanctions of its own.

Possible study centre sanctions that may be applied to learners

- » A written warning about future conduct.
- » Notification to an employer, regulator or the police.
- » Removal from the course.

Possible sanctions that may be applied to trainers, coaches, invigilators, and other officers

- » A written warning about future conduct.
- » Imposition of special conditions for the future involvement of the individual(s) in the conduct, teaching, supervision or administration of learners and/or examinations.
- » Informing any other organisation known to employ the individual in relation to courses or examinations of the outcome of the case.
- » Geason may carry out unannounced monitoring of the working practices of the individual(s) concerned.
- » Dismissal