

# Academic Honesty in the Faculty of Engineering

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Faculty of Engineering

# Why *Academic Honesty*?

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- University trains intellectuals and promotes creativity, therefore **CUHK will not tolerate**
  - Plagiarism (i.e. “copying”) assignments or course works
  - Cheating and/or misbehaving in tests and exams
  
- What is *plagiarism*?
  - “an attempt to pass off the works”  
(i.e. take some else’s work as yours)  
e.g. creative ideas, **report, course work, writing** or **computer program** of others (or even your own previous works, i.e. self-plagiarism), as your own

# General Principles

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- ❑ Do not look at solutions that are not your own
  - ❑ Do not share your solution with others
  - ❑ Give proper acknowledgement to any help you received
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- ❑ Bottom Line: Discussion of ideas are encouraged, but each student must **work out their own submission** and **give credits where they are due**

# Common mistake #1 – Direct Copying

## Assignments, Laboratory and Project reports

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- ❑ Professors and tutors perform routine spot checks
- ❑ Do not copy classmate's assignment solution or computer program lines – *tell your classmate politely that copying is against CUHK regulation if such request arises*
- ❑ Do not copy classmate's data
  - Redo experiment or information search if necessary
  - Write your own report even you take the data with your classmates unless it is a group report
- ❑ Discussions between classmates are good, but direct copying of analysis is not acceptable
- ❑ If a case of plagiarism is established, **BOTH PARTIES** *(source student and copying student) will get the same penalty*

# Common mistake #2 – Direct Copying without quotation

A case of plagiarism on a General Education term paper: Direct copying from internet



Use quotations "... " to denote text copied from internet, then cite the source in reference list

# Proper use of source materials

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- Mark relevant text by **quotation marks**

e.g. ...."To be, or not to be" [1]



Cited reference listed in end of document

- **A reference to the original source**

e.g. An effective motion control strategy based on video image feedback [2].....

- **A bibliography, giving the list of references**

This is usually given at the end of the article/paper, or at the end of each page.

Example:

[1] D. Davids, Journal of Nanotechnology, vol..., page..., year...

[2] Y. Smith, Electronic Letters, vol..., page..., year...

.....

# Common mistake #3 – Computer program

## Computer programming assignments

```
/*-----*/
/******
/* Copied from my classmate Student A * /
/******
int findLargest(int size, int a[]) {
    int i, tmp = 0;

    for (i = 1; i < size; ++i)
        if (a[i] > a[tmp])
            tmp = i;

    return(tmp);
}
/*-----*/
```

Direct  
copying



```
/*-----*/
int findLargest(int size, int a[]) {
    int i, tmp = 0;

    for (i = 1; i < size; ++i)
        if (a[i] > a[tmp])
            tmp = i;

    return(tmp);
}
/*-----*/
```

Slight  
structural  
changes



```
/*-----*/
int findLargest(int size, int a[]) {
    int tmp;
    int i;
    tmp = 0;
    i = 0;
    ++i;
    while (i < size) {
        if (a[i] > a[tmp])
            tmp = i;
        ++i;
    }

    return(tmp);
}
/*-----*/
```

FOR loop →  
WHILE loop

Change of  
variable names



```
/*-----*/
int findL(int s, int b[]) {
    int j, tmp1 = 0;
    for (j = 1; j < s; ++j)
        if (b[j] > b[tmp1])
            tmp1 = j;
    return(tmp1);
}
/*-----*/
```

"a" → "b"

Superficial  
changes



```
/*-----*/
int findLargest(int size, int a[]) {
    int tmp;
    int i;
    tmp = 0;
    for (i = 1; i < size; ++i)
        if (a[tmp] < a[i])
            tmp = i;
    return(tmp);
}
/*-----*/
```

"(a[i]>a[tmp])"  
→ "a[tmp]<a[i]"

# Handling of Cases in the Faculty

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- ❑ Teachers and tutors will carry out checking on assignments and course works; sometimes using anti-plagiarism software such as **VeriGuide**
- ❑ Teachers/Tutors will collect evidences of suspected cases and report to **Faculty Disciplinary Committee (FDC)**



# Handling of Cases in the Faculty

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- FDC will interview the student(s) in question, look into case details, and decide on the penalty if the case is established
- The penalty scheme adopted by FDC is clearly stated in **Faculty Guidelines**

# Handling of Plagiarism Cases in the Faculty

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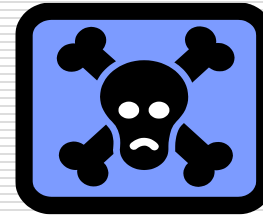
- Minimum penalty: one demerit (may be removed at graduation if no further offence committed), zero mark for the work concerned and completion of relevant training in academic honesty
- For severe cases, the penalty could be a fail grade for the whole course, **AND** permanent demerit(s) to be recorded in transcripts



# Handling of Plagiarism Cases in the Faculty

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- Repeated (e.g. second time) offenders will be given at least two demerits (at least one will be a permanent record) and a fail grade for the whole course.



- Students who have received three demerits may be asked to **suspend / discontinue studies**

# Role of Faculty Disciplinary Committee

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- ❑ We are not the “Judge” or “Prosecutor”
- ❑ We aim to ensure that students appreciate the value of *academic integrity*  
(one of the most valuable aspects of university education)

# Important Websites

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## Faculty Guidelines

- [https://www.erg.cuhk.edu.hk/erg/sites/default/files/Guidelines\\_to\\_Academic\\_Honesty\\_2019.pdf](https://www.erg.cuhk.edu.hk/erg/sites/default/files/Guidelines_to_Academic_Honesty_2019.pdf)



## University Guidelines

- <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>

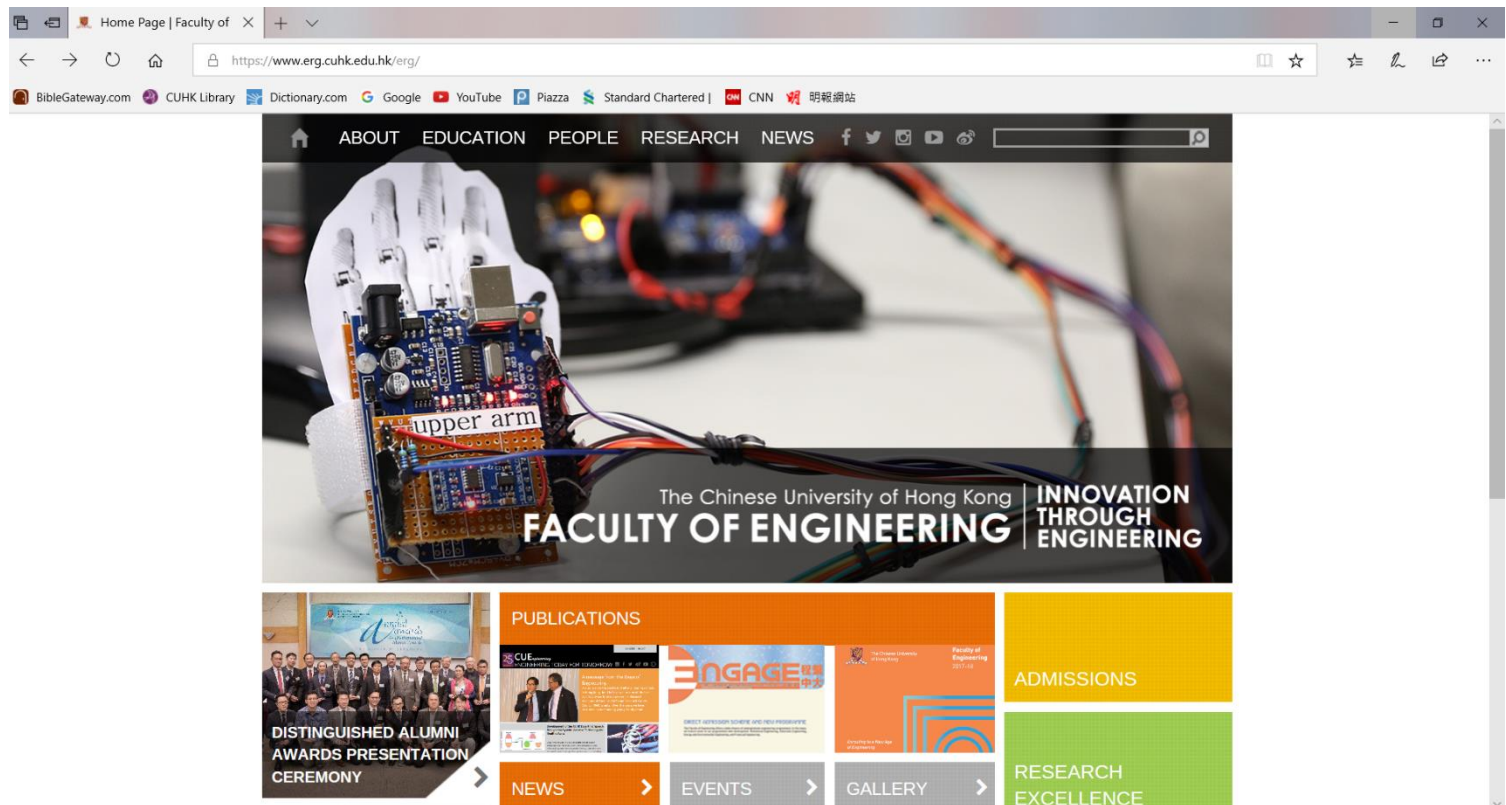




# Questions

Most information can be found on the  
Faculty of Engineering website:

<https://www.erg.cuhk.edu.hk/>



Faculty of Engineering



Have a fruitful academic  
year ahead!