

Introducing the Academic Integrity Matters Ambassadors at Macquarie University!



What is AIMA@MQ all about?

The AIMA team was founded at Macquarie University in February 2014. We are a team of Macquarie University students who come from a variety of disciplines. We are a student organization comprised of undergraduates, postgraduate, higher degree research, internal and distance students from international and local backgrounds.

Our team is the first international branch of the *Academic Integrity Matters Student Organisation*, first established by Dr. Tricia Bertram Gallant at UC San Diego in 2009.

AIMA@MQ FAQs

WHY DOES ACADEMIC INTEGRITY MATTER?

AIMA members are passionate about the answer to this question! Ask any of us and we will tell you that academic integrity matters because it encapsulates the following 6 values and expectations that help make students' time at university a positive and rewarding experience: trust, honesty, responsibility, respect, fairness and courage (Center for Academic Integrity, 2014).



ARE BREACHES OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY REALLY A PROBLEM?

In a recent OLT study lead by Macquarie University in 2013-2014, 55% of Macquarie University students selected 'agree' when asked if they thought breaches were a serious problem at universities.

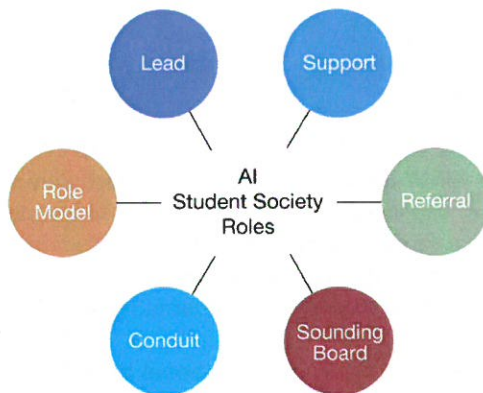
BUT WHAT EXACTLY IS THE HARM OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY BREACHES?

Academic integrity matters because in the absence of these values, the following can occur

- Program effectiveness and delivery is hampered
- Damages the reputation of the university, your program and fellow students
- Tutors and lecturers cannot appraise students' work effectively if AI breaches are prevalent
- Good scholarship is undermined.
- Lack of academic integrity breeds distrust among students and a lack of trust in universities' academic integrity policies
- It's unfair!

WHAT DO ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AMBASSADORS DO?

The Ambassadors at Macquarie University aim to improve academic integrity culture by disseminating and promoting academic integrity among their fellow students. By participating in university process that do not typically involved students as facilitators, Ambassadors aim to highlight student experiences, concerns and underscore the positive aspects of academic integrity. It's not all about penalties and punishments! Here are some examples of the ROLES that the Ambassadors will take on:



HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF AIMA'S ACTIVITIES

- Conduct surveys
- Presentations, workshops and seminars
- Competitions
- Awareness campaigns
- Create and share academic integrity resources
- Community outreach (speaking at high schools and other universities)
- Host debates
- Rewarding good academic integrity practice
- Social activities
- Collaborate with academic and support staff to disseminate academic integrity information to the university community

WHAT MAKES A GREAT ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AMBASSADOR?

An Academic Integrity Ambassador is someone who is passionate about the topic of academic integrity. They see the value in promoting and encouraging positive academic integrity cultures, which in turn improves the quality and reputation of the programs at their university, and the student experience in general. Academic Integrity Ambassadors are successful networkers and organisers who take pride in their

membership of an international team of likeminded students. They view their university as a community with the same common goals, and they desire to make the educational experience at their university a worthwhile, valuable and enriching experience for students.

THE ORIGINS OF AIMA

To find out more about AIMA's conception, please visit the *Academic Integrity in Australia Project* website at: <http://web.science.mq.edu.au/academic-integrity/index.html>

TO JOIN OR COLLABORATE WITH AIMA

Please email us at aimamacquarie@gmail.com

Like us on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AIMAMQ>

We'd love to hear from you!

