

Research Degrees: Guidance notes series

**#8.** MISCONDUCT, APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS

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Key words: academic misconduct, appeal, complaint

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### Related documents

Policy 2R: Regulations for Postgraduate Research Students  
<http://portal.solent.ac.uk/documents/academic-services/academic-handbook/section-2/2r---regulations-for-pgr-students.pdf?t=1534525946909>

Academic Handbook 4L: Academic Misconduct Procedure  
<http://portal.solent.ac.uk/documents/academic-services/academic-handbook/section-4/4l-student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf?t=1535991420349>

Academic Handbook 4N: Student Complaint Procedure  
<http://portal.solent.ac.uk/documents/academic-services/academic-handbook/section-4/4n-student-complaint-procedure.pdf?t=1535991301976>

Academic Handbook 2N: Student Complaint Policy  
<http://portal.solent.ac.uk/documents/academic-services/academic-handbook/section-2/2n-student-complaints.pdf?t=1535991354891>

### Further reading

Academic Handbook 2S: University Research Ethics Policy  
<http://portal.solent.ac.uk/documents/academic-services/academic-handbook/section-2/2s-university-ethics-policy.pdf?t=1535991559667>

UK Research Integrity Office  
[www.ukrio.org](http://www.ukrio.org)

Solent Researchers library guide on Reference Management  
<https://libguides.solent.ac.uk/c.php?g=657980&p=4665038>

## ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

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1. Solent University is committed to helping and supporting students understand the expectations associated with academic writing and provides advice, guidance and self-help material, so that students can fully understand what is considered unacceptable behaviour. Students are expected, with the support provided by the University, to make themselves fully aware of what constitutes good academic conduct and consequently what academic misconduct entails.
2. In order to protect the standard and integrity of its awards, the University will identify any incidence that meets the definition of academic misconduct and will bring this to the attention of the student. The University would consider any incidence of academic misconduct at the level of a postgraduate research degree as very serious. Where proven, the University will impose an academic penalty under the Student Academic Misconduct Procedure (postgraduate research degrees). See Section 4L of the Academic Handbook.

## APPEALS PROCEDURE

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3. The appeals policy and procedure governing postgraduate research students are held in within the University's regulations for postgraduate research students (*Academic Handbook 2R*).
4. A doctoral student may make a formal appeal to the Head of Compliance to have the following academic decisions reconsidered under this policy:
  - a) A decision to withdraw a student through lack of academic progress and/or failure to engage,
  - b) A decision to suspend a student due to ill-health,
  - c) The outcomes of a viva examination (including transfer to PhD).
5. An appeal must be lodged by the student within 20 working days of from the date of the communication indicating termination, re-registration or notification of an examination decision. Appeals cannot normally be lodged by a third party acting on behalf of the student.

## COMPLAINTS

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6. Where a student is dissatisfied with their learning experience or with the services provided by the University they may follow the University Complaints Policy and Procedure (*see Academic Handbook, section 2N and 4N*).