**Aston University**

**Student Code of Conduct Assessment**

The University and Students’ Union have developed this Code of Conduct to support the integrity of Aston awards. It is important for your future that employers, professional bodies, and any organisation where you choose to study after Aston, has confidence in the standard of your award, and the University and SU are committed to doing everything they can to assure those standards. University staff and the Students’ Union are here to help you.

**We expect that the work you submit is your own work** and not the work of anyone else.

If it is identified as being the work of someone else you may be charged with plagiarism or collusion. If you’re not sure what these terms mean please take up the advice offered by the University’s Learning Development Centre at

<https://vle.aston.ac.uk/webapps/blackboard/content/listContent.jsp?course_id=_3709_1&content_id=_566018_1&mode=reset>

and/or your Personal Tutor. For more specific queries that relate directly to particular assessments, then please contact the relevant module leader.

Please note that it is an offence to share your work with other students in a way that may allow them to have an unfair advantage. This includes sending emails, video chats, use of social media and uploading content for others to use. **Please do not share your assessments or associated know-how with any other students.**

Contract cheating describes the practice of buying custom-made academic work and submitting it as your own, whether online or directly from another student; ‘essay mills’ refer to the websites which enable this practice. Essay mills view any disruption, whether through industrial strike or the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, as an opportunity to exploit students and have been increasing their promotional activity. **Do not contact these organisations. The use of essay mills and contract cheating is a serious academic misconduct offence.** By making use of essay writing services, you risk losing your place at University. We are also aware of some of these sites blackmailing students who have used their services. We recommend that you contact your Personal Tutor/the University in the event you, or anyone else you know of, receives such an approach or blackmail attempt from these websites.

For reference, the full regulations for the discipline of students may be found here:

<https://www2.aston.ac.uk/clipp/discipline-of-students>

The University, and the University’s External Examiners, carry out sampling of work and other checks for evidence of cheating. As part of this work, they also look at assessment results against those of other years.

**Do not cheat***.* Being found guilty of these offences generally leads to a reduction of marks to zero for that assessment and may result in you being expelled from the University.

The University and the Students’ Union are working in partnership so that you can benefit from a high quality educational experience, and are committed to ensuring that the hard work and dedication of the majority of students is not undermined by a minority who might seek an unfair advantage. You can help us by approaching all assessments in a professional and responsible way.

Approved by the University’s Learning and Teaching Committee May 2020

Education Team/SJD