



**Kungsbacka**

# Academic Integrity Policy

Last revision May 2024

## School's Philosophy

According to the Academic Integrity Policy in the IB educational context, Academic Integrity is part of the student being “principled” which implies that the student should strive to act with integrity and honesty<sup>1</sup>. The school's philosophy is that Academic Integrity is a critical component of any education and as such needs to be both taught and enforced to help students avoid accidental or intentional academic misconduct. Academic misconduct may include plagiarism such as:

- Double dipping: meaning re-publication of texts.
- Collusion: meaning inappropriate collaboration on examination assignments.
- Submitting someone else's text as one's own (including if written by AI).
- Patchwriting, i.e. when paraphrasing is not done in a proper fashion.

Other forms of academic misconduct may include:

- Behaviour that gains an unfair advantage for a candidate or that affects the results of another candidate.
- Insufficient referencing.

To avoid incidents of academic misconduct, the school believes it is important to foster an attitude of honesty and fairness in students, and mutual trust and respect between staff and students. This is achieved through informing students about good practices, including taking responsibility for their own work and acknowledging sources with formal referencing systems, and supporting them to develop the skills they need to be successful in working independently.

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<sup>1</sup> International Baccalaureate Organization, *Academic honesty in the IB educational context*, 2014

## **Rights and Responsibilities of Members of the School Community**

The school does the following to promote Academic Integrity:

- The school offers a preparation year before the Diploma Programme where students follow the Swedish national curriculum that has a strong focus on learning based on a scientific basis. This enforces Academic Integrity to a high degree and promotes honesty, trust, and respect for the process.
- At the start of and throughout the Diploma Programme, the students are introduced to the importance of Academic Integrity by participating in workshops where they learn organizational and self-management skills to enable them to take responsibility for their academic endeavours. This provides students with the tools needed to understand the importance of acknowledging and respecting the contributions of others through good academic practice, such as by in-text citation and the preparation of a bibliography or reference list.
- Each teacher explicitly introduces the specific referencing conventions and good practices used in their subject and continues to reinforce the importance of fairness and honesty.
- The school librarian continuously collaborates with the IB students and teachers by, for example, taking the students to the University Library in Gothenburg during year one of the Diploma Programme. They are introduced to national and international databases in order to find appropriate, peer-reviewed, articles in academic journals and how to properly reference them in accordance with the Academic Integrity Policy.
- The school uses internet-based services as well as evidence from formative assessment to help with detection of plagiarism. Teachers responsible for marking internally assessed work keep up with current good practice in this area.

## **Procedures and Practices**

- When misconduct is suspected or has been confirmed, the IB team discusses the situation and decides how to handle it.
- If the misconduct is considered minor and unintentional, the teacher and the student make a plan of action in order to improve the student's conduct.
- For any more serious misconduct, the principal will issue a verbal warning and the student will redo the assignment on a different topic.
- If the misconduct is repeated, the principal will issue a written warning and the student will be awarded zero marks for that assignment.
- If the misconduct is repeated again, found out at a late stage or during an exam, the candidate will be reported to the IBO and the principal will decide on further consequences for the student. These consequences could include not being entered for examinations in the subject concerned or in all subjects and/or being suspended from school for up to 2 weeks while an investigation into the circumstances of the misconduct is carried out.