

Dear Sir/Madam,

As an academic of 30+ years, I applaud this initiative.

It is critical, however, that an allied issue is explicitly tackled by TEQSA to support the efforts.

In particular, we must accept that some/many students will approach contract cheaters and use the assignments that have been provided as part of their assessment.

Some Universities have more recently removed the concept of “hurdles”. A hurdle is a situation where a particular assessment, viz an invigilated exam or similar must be passed in order to pass a subject.

The positive aspect of a hurdle is that it prevents a student who has, say, achieved 40/50 in their assignments (and has used contract cheating) and then obtained a hopeless 12/50 in their exam, to actually pass the subject.

This is an enormous problem of immediate currency and is due to a lack of recognition by some Universities that contract/other cheating will always be there occurring under the nose of the academic course leader.

To solve this anomaly, it is my view that TEQSA should insist that at least 50% of a subject is comprised of a hurdle requirement, such that the hurdle requirement/assessment(s) are formally invigilated so as to guarantee that the given candidate is the one who is submitting **their own work** and that they cannot accumulate marks so that they pass via assessments that are standard fair, and might be very good assessments, but which cannot be guaranteed to be the work of the candidate.

I consider the above lack of oversight by TEQSA to be an enormous issue which threatens the very credibility of any grade that a student achieves, in any University, and in any course.

Thank you for your consideration

[Name redacted]