

DATE

31.08.2026

SUBJECT

Information on fraud for students of the Faculty of Science

Dear student,

This letter is from the Examination Board of your degree programme. The Examination Board assesses whether students meet the requirements for obtaining a degree. A degree is only of value if academic results accurately reflect students knowledge, understanding and skills. That is why we take fraud and plagiarism seriously. As it is not always clear what constitutes fraud (and plagiarism) and what the consequences might be, we explain this below.

What are fraud and plagiarism?

According to the [Rules and Guidelines of the Examination Board](#) (BETA) (article 19.1) fraud is defined as *any act or omission by a student that partially or entirely precludes making an accurate assessment of their knowledge, understanding and skills, or those of another student*. Plagiarism is a form of fraud.

Some examples of fraud include:

- submitting work that has been produced (in whole or in part) using artificial intelligence (unless explicitly permitted by the examiner);
- having aids with you during an examination that are not explicitly;
- sharing your work on an assignment with another student (who then submits it as their own work).

Some examples of plagiarism are:

- citing directly from another author without clearly indicating this (e.g. quotation marks);
- using information from fellow students, academic sources, the internet or your own previous work without correctly citing the source reference.

Important: even if you did not intend to commit fraud, it may still constitute fraud.

What happens when fraud is suspected?

A lecturer reports a suspected case of fraud to the Examinations Board. The Examinations Board investigates the report thoroughly and invites you to a hearing. In some cases, you will first receive a provisional decision. Following the investigation, the Examinations Board will reach a final decision.

What are the consequences?

If fraud is established, the Examinations Board will impose a measure. In this regard, consideration is given to the seriousness of the fraud and whether it is a repeat offence.

The sanction includes:

- invalidation (or awarding a mark of 0.0) of the assignment or assessment;
- a note in your file of the Examination Board;
- the possibility of exclusion from the next assessment opportunity for the course in question;
- the possibility of being excluded from participating in examinations up to one year (depending on the nature, severity and whether it is a repeat offence);
- in the case of serious or repeated fraud: a recommendation to the Executive Board to permanently terminate your registration on the programme.

Furthermore, if you commit fraud, you will no longer be eligible for a 'cum laude' classification.

Generative AI

The use of generative AI is not permitted, unless in a manner that is explicitly permitted by the examiner. Do you have any questions about this? Please contact the examiner or teacher of the course. Information on the use of generative AI can be found on the following website: [Generative AI, Copilot and ChatGPT - VU Amsterdam](#)

More information

Please read Rules and Guidelines of the Examination Board (BETA) article 19 and 20 for more information on fraud, the procedure and measures. Please also read Appendix 1 at the next page, which contains some practical examples of fraud.

We wish you an enriching time at the Faculty of Science.

Kind regards,

Examination Board Faculty of Science
VU Amsterdam

Appendix 1: Some examples of fraud based on real-life situations:

1. You are not permitted to have a mobile phone in your pocket during an exam.
2. The use of generative AI is not permitted, unless explicitly authorised by the examiner. Text editing tools are also considered to be generative AI. See also [Generative AI, Copilot and ChatGPT - VU Amsterdam](#).
3. If you use information from other sources, you must cite it. This applies, for example, to the use of:
 - a. Use of generative AI permitted by the examiner
 - b. The internet
 - c. Work by other students
 - d. Your own work
 - e. Figures, photographs or tables
4. Continuing to work on an exam after the official exam time has ended (with the exception of students who have been granted extra exam time) is not permitted.
5. Where you reproduce text literally, you must clearly indicate this, in addition to citing the source. For example, by using quotation marks (“...”). You are expected to be able to present information in your own words, so use verbatim reproduction sparingly. This also applies to text that you translate verbatim from another language.
6. For (programming) assignments, you must submit your own work. You must not, therefore, copy sections from the work of generative AI (unless specifically permitted by the examiner), fellow students, senior students or the internet.
7. Interviews must have actually taken place. You must not make them up yourself, even if it is difficult to find enough respondents.
8. For (homework) assignments, you must not copy the answers verbatim from the model answers.
9. Sharing information via WhatsApp (or other means) during an exam is not permitted.
10. Looking up information on the internet during an exam is not permitted.