

Academic Integrity Charter

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1. Introduction

The multidisciplinary education offered at Sciences Po encourages students to learn about and comprehend temporal and spatial changes in contemporary societies, drawing on knowledge and methods in the fields of law, economics, history, the humanities, political science, sociology and the sciences.

Our purpose is to educate enlightened, creative citizens and professionals who are agents of change and who contribute to the common good, fully aware of their responsibilities in terms of equity, ethics and collective well-being.

Academic integrity is the foundation of trust in scholarly and scientific communities and institutions, as well as in the value of educational programmes and degrees. It is closely linked to scientific integrity, whose principles for research activities are set out in the Sciences Po [Research Ethics Charter](#).

In order to meet these requirements, **academic integrity** is the cornerstone of high-quality study programmes in which every student is able to uphold the values of intellectual honesty in all university and professional contexts, and to:

- **Forge their own critical reflections**, by selecting and analysing relevant sources, including academic literature and authors, in order to support an argumentative scheme;
- **Increase their knowledge** of both content and form by making ongoing and renewed intellectual efforts, acquiring rigour and transparency, mastering scholarly methods, particularly with respect to referencing, structure, and clarity of expression in their work;
- **Develop original and innovative ideas, practices, and solutions**;
- **Respect copyright covering text and images**.

2. Breaches of academic integrity

By contrast, fraud, including plagiarism and falsification, as well as attempted fraud are among the most serious violations of academic integrity. They represent a grave threat to the quality of educational programmes, to the value of the degrees obtained, and to the functioning and to the reputation of academic institutions, undermining the educational goals and exemplarity of Sciences Po.

2.1. What constitutes fraud and attempted fraud?

Fraud and attempted fraud can be defined as any act or attempted act, committed during registration, continuous assessment evaluations or final exams, with the aim of falsifying, cheating or deceiving, in violation of legislation and regulations.

The following list of situations is non-exhaustive:

- Fraud or attempted fraud relative to any data or documents submitted by the student to the Sciences Po administration;
- Fraud or attempted fraud in written on-site examinations through the use of crib sheets, prohibited tools, Internet access when prohibited, copying a neighbour's work, etc.;
- Fraud in home assignments (with allowed access to sources) as part of continuous assessment evaluations or a remote final exam, including recourse to paid or unpaid third parties, online purchases of assignments, etc.;
- Online distribution, without consent, of materials produced by students or instructors, reserved for internal course use;
- Falsifying documents, data, results, messages or web links (modification or forgeries).

2.2. What constitutes plagiarism?

- **Legal and scientific principles**

Plagiarism simultaneously violates the rules of law and the rules of deontology:

- **In legal terms**, plagiarism is an infringement of intellectual property and copyright laws that is comparable to counterfeiting and is liable to disciplinary criminal prosecution;

- **On a scientific level**, plagiarism is defined as the complete or partial appropriation of an idea or content (text, images, tables, graphics, data, computer programmes, outlines, etc.) without citing sources in an appropriate manner (even with author consent).

Plagiarism concerns the **appropriation of all or part of a text or other content created by others** (through copying and pasting, for example) without correct referencing (i.e., through the use of quotation marks and bibliographic footnotes or reference lists at the end of a text), as well as the **appropriation of ideas** through paraphrasing (reformulation) and/or translation. This includes **self-plagiarism**, i.e., the reuse of an individual's previously produced work without explicit citations, which undermines the unpublished, original character required of individual reflection and assignments.

- **Best practices**

In academic work, it is often necessary to engage in critical reviews of the state of the art or relevant literature, which involves discussing an author's ideas in such a way as to support one's own thoughts. It is definitely crucial to properly cite the sources that inform and inspire us.

Readers are therefore able to refer to these sources and verify the accuracy of the interpretation, which in turn allows students' work to be correctly appraised by evaluators, while also providing a record of their readings, and their familiarity with the range of sources.

Proper citation and referencing practices require an explicit, coherent citation of sources:

- A **direct, in-full citation**: the use of quotation marks (or occasionally the use of italics for the cited passage), numbered footnotes or bracketed references in the text, the complete bibliographical reference via an endnote or bibliographical entry at the end of a text;

- It should be noted that **the translation of a text from a foreign language** amounts to a direct citation and must be referenced as such;

- Lastly, **rephrasing** and **reformulating an original idea** (outline, reasoning scheme, demonstration, etc.) by a third-party using summary or paraphrase must always be accompanied by **a reference to the author** and the original source in which the idea was initially expressed.

3. Student obligations

In the course of their academic activities and assignments, students undertake not to commit any fraudulent acts, specifically of plagiarism or falsification of materials, of any kind¹:

- individual or collective,
- written, oral, audio, audiovisual, photographic, cartographic, digital, etc.,
- reports, reading summaries, oral presentations, essays, written analyses, master's theses, articles, databases, open-source archives, blogs, websites or computer programmes, etc.

¹ In addition, the School of Journalism's [Student conduct charter](#) reiterates the integrity concerns linked to this study programme at Sciences Po and to journalistic professions.

The following are considered to be **aggravating factors**:

- **Repeated breaches** of academic integrity,
- Plagiarism committed as part of a **collective work**, causing the entire group to be penalized,
- Submitting work produced by a **remunerated third party**, including by **artificial intelligence** technologies (if not authorized by the teacher), or on a **website in exchange for payment**,
- Plagiarism committed in order to **obtain a diploma or university degree**, which undermines the value of the degree and the reputation of the institution that delivers it (Capstone projects for undergraduate students – Grand Écrit, Grand Oral, Master Theses, PhD dissertations),
- Committing plagiarism in documents intended for **publication** (Master's and doctoral theses or articles) which undermines the obligation of respecting scientific integrity and the quality of the scientific work.

Failure to comply with these obligations will result in the following **pedagogical measures**:

- In the case of a methodological error as opposed to plagiarism: points will be deducted from the grade, at the discretion of the teacher and according to the goals set out for the assignment concerned, both regarding content and format,
- In the event of plagiarism, the teacher will allocate a mark of 0/20 to the assignment.

For all types of fraud (plagiarism, falsification or fabrication of data, documents, links, etc.), the Director will be informed and may refer the matter to the relevant Disciplinary section. However, if the student accepts responsibility for the committed fraud, the Director may initiate a “plea-bargain” procedure as set out in Article R 811-40 of the Code of Education (see Section 5, dedicated to “Procedures and sanctions” within the present Charter).

Students registered for **Sciences Po's exchange programme**, at undergraduate or Master's level, are subject to the current academic rules and regulations at Sciences Po.

4. Support mechanisms at Sciences Po with regard to academic integrity

Sciences Po recognises that proper citation practices are part of the learning process of university methodology and that the internet, artificial intelligence and instant access to a wide array of sources have increased the risks associated with plagiarism. For this reason, the institution offers a variety of instructional, academic and methodological resources (see the dedicated Sciences Po webpage on Academic integrity) to train students regarding best citation practices and to raise awareness about the importance of academic integrity.

The following persons at Sciences Po work together to promote and support academic integrity:

- Instructors and teaching assistants
- School, campus, and programme academic advisors
- The Sciences Po “scientific integrity officer”

Sciences Po reserves the right to use plagiarism detection software. Students agree to provide, on instructor or administration request, digital versions of their work.

5. Procedures and sanctions

Breaches of the French Code of Education, the intellectual property code, Sciences Po’s [Academic Rules and Regulations](#), and the present charter, are subject to **pedagogical measures** and/or **disciplinary sanctions**.

The Director may refer the matter to the **Disciplinary section**, or he may decide, if the student accepts responsibility of the fraud, to initiate a “**plea-bargain**” **procedure** as set out in Article R.811-40 of the Code of Education. This procedure is subject to the student’s consent and adoption by the Disciplinary section.

Details regarding the two procedures and the subsequent sanctions:

a) Referral to the Disciplinary section: In accordance with article R.811-36 of the Code of Education, the following disciplinary sanctions can be issued by the Disciplinary section:

- Warning
- Reprimand
- Specific measure of accountability
- Exclusion from the institution for a period of up to five years: possibly with a deferral if the exclusion does not exceed two years
- Permanent exclusion from the institution
- Exclusion from all higher education public institutions for a period of up to five years
- Permanent exclusion from all higher education public institutions

In keeping with the same article, in the event of fraud or attempted fraud committed during continuous assessment evaluations, exams or competitive exams, the issuing of one of the sanctions listed above will result in the invalidation of the corresponding examination for the person concerned. The student is considered to have been present at the exam without taking it. The Disciplinary section may also decide, if appropriate, to void the group or series of exams.

Referral to the relevant Disciplinary section by the Director, does not preclude the initiation of civil or criminal proceedings.

b) “Plea-bargain procedure”: The Director may alternatively decide to initiate, should the student accept responsibility, a “plea-bargain” procedure as set out in article R.811-40 of the French Code of Education. One of the following sanctions may then be applied directly to the student concerned:

- Warning
- Reprimand
- Specific measure of accountability
- Exclusion from the institution for a one year, possibly with a deferral

The application of one of the sanctions listed above will result in the invalidation of the corresponding examination for the person concerned. The Director may also decide to void the relevant group or series of exams.

In the event of refusal by the student, the Director must refer the matter to the Disciplinary section.

Annex

Sciences Po Academic Rules and Regulations