

Plagiarism

Candidates presenting for College examinations will be subject to the respective plagiarism regulations of the College.

The statement '**I confirm that I have not plagiarised from any other source**' will be included as a cover sheet for all work based assessments, clinical case presentations or clinical logbooks that you submit. You are required to sign the cover sheet and the college requires this to be countersigned by the Training Programme Director of your host training institute. The College will expect this coversheet to bear the official stamp of the training institution. The text of the College policy on plagiarism is given below. Take some time to read the statement and the notes we have written to follow it.

All work submitted by candidates as part of the requirements for any examination or other assessment must be expressed in their own words and incorporate their own ideas and judgments. Plagiarism, that is, the presentation of another person's work as though they were one's own must be avoided with particular care in clinical logbooks and case reports written in candidates' own time. Deliberate plagiarism in these areas is as serious as cheating in an examination.

Direct quotations from the published or unpublished work of others must always be clearly identified as such by being placed inside quotation marks, and a full reference to their source must be provided in the proper form. A series of short quotations from several different sources, if not clearly identified as such, constitutes plagiarism just as much as does a single unacknowledged long quotation from a single source.

Use of another's computer program or data without acknowledgement also constitutes plagiarism. Equally, if a candidate includes a summary of another person's ideas or judgments the source must be acknowledged and the work referred to in the bibliography. Material taken from the Internet is covered by the same rules and it must always be acknowledged. Failure to observe these rules can result in an allegation of cheating, for which the penalties are severe.

Plagiarism is a serious matter, and it is vital that all candidates are completely honest about the sources of their work. No candidate will be accused of plagiarism unless the College finds strong evidence for it, and any candidate who is accused of plagiarism will have the opportunity to present his/her case to the College and to a specially convened College panel, usually chaired by a Vice-Dean/Convener. If the candidate is found to have plagiarised, s/he will be penalised at the discretion of this panel - and whilst this penalty can be as minor as a mark of zero for an individual piece of case presentation or logbook, it also includes the possibility of a mark of zero for the whole examination or even expulsion from that and/or future diets of the examination..

The process of assessing whether plagiarism has taken place is long and

unpleasant for both candidate and examiners. You should therefore consult your Training Programme Director if you are in any doubt as to what is permissible.

No one should be under the impression that they can slip through the net. The College has access to software for the detection of plagiarism. This said, the College is aware that the vast majority of candidates will not even consider plagiarising others work or case presentations.

March 2009

**Peter Durning
Deputy Convener
Dental Examinations Committee**