

GAIN Collective Statement

Communications pack for GAIN members

Background

Internationally, higher and vocational/further education quality assurance agencies, regulators and other similar organisations along with education providers are working together within several jurisdictions to combat the threat posed by global commercial cheating services.

However, action at a national level has limitations when set against the global nature of commercial contract cheating. The Global Academic Integrity Network (GAIN) launched in 2022 and provides an international platform and coordinating structure for discussion, collaboration, and information-sharing in relation to commercial contract cheating services and other threats to integrity.

Part of GAIN's remit is to publish collective statements on the prevention of commercial contract cheating and other threats to integrity. Additionally, GAIN members seek to collaborate to influence digital intermediary services (including internet service providers, social media platforms and advertising platforms) to inhibit the hosting and promotion of commercial contract cheating.

The open letter urging leading social media and online platforms to take a stand against academic dishonesty, is the first collective statement issued by GAIN since its inception in 2022. The statement was agreed by a majority vote of member organisations.

Supporting Communications Activities

1. Media Release
2. Website Article
3. Social Media Posts
4. Newsletter Article

Media release

Global Academic Integrity Network urges leading social media and online platforms to take a stand against academic dishonesty

Today, the Global Academic Integrity Network (GAIN), representing 40 education regulatory bodies from around the world, calls on major social media and online platforms to take a stand. In an open letter, GAIN asks these platforms including X, LinkedIn and Google, to join the fight against academic dishonesty and take action to stop the advertising of contract cheating services.

Contract cheating involves students paying someone else to complete assignments or take exams on their behalf. This severely undermines the integrity of the student's education and the qualifications that they ultimately receive. It is academic dishonesty, and it compromises the credibility of educational systems worldwide and society's trust in qualified professionals.

Recent years have witnessed a proliferation in the marketing and promotion of contract cheating services across digital platforms. These services not only violate the principle of academic integrity, but also deprive students of an authentic learning experience and leave them vulnerable to the threats of identity theft, blackmail and mental health issues.

By major online platforms working together with GAIN, and reviewing and upholding their community guidelines, GAIN believes we can significantly reduce the visibility and impact of the harmful content advertised by essay mills and contract cheating services. A partnership between GAIN and influential online platforms would send a powerful message worldwide about the value of legitimate academic achievements and would represent a positive step towards eliminating this threat.

Quote

"In an age of digital interconnectedness, the threat to academic integrity is not confined to any single region or country; it is a global issue which challenges the very fabric of our knowledge-based societies and our trust in the professions we rely on."

"While in **CYPRUS** some progress has been achieved to date with, it is only through a more systematic, global approach and unified action that we can hope to enhance and safeguard the integrity of academic quality and qualifications, and protect student wellbeing, particularly amongst more vulnerable cohorts of learners."

To learn more about the Global Academic Integrity Network, visit the official website on the link below: www.globalacademicintegrity.network.

Media contact:

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About GAIN

Supporting communications: channel and content

Key messages

- The Global Academic Integrity Network (GAIN) has issued a collective statement to social media and online platforms. The statement calls on these organisations to take action to stop the advertising of contract cheating services.
- GAIN is a consortium of 40 education quality and integrity agencies worldwide focussed on fighting the rise of commercial academic cheating services targeting students.
- Students paying someone else to complete assignments and take exams on their behalf, called contract cheating, is academic dishonesty.
- Commercial contract cheating undermines students’ learning as well as trust in the qualifications which they ultimately receive. Further they leave students vulnerable to the threat of identity theft and blackmail.
- Recent years have witnessed a proliferation in the promotion of online cheating services across digital platforms.
- Safeguarding the integrity of academic qualifications is a shared responsibility of governments and regulators, higher and vocational/further education institutions and students, and the technology companies whose platforms are used to advertise contract cheating services.
- GAIN believes that if social media and online platforms were to review and uphold their community guidelines to stop the advertising of contract cheating, it would significantly reduce the visibility and impact of contract cheating services and send a powerful message worldwide about the value of legitimate academic achievements.

Channel	Article
Social media post #1	<p>Joining education quality and integrity agencies worldwide, as part of the Global Academic Integrity Network, <i>The Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education (CYQAA)</i> is calling on social media and online platforms to take action to stop the advertising of contract cheating services.</p> <p>Read the Global Academic Integrity Network’s open letter.</p>
Social media post #2	<p>As part of the Global Academic Integrity Network (GAIN), education quality and integrity agencies across the globe including <i>The Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education (CYQAA)</i>, have united to call on social media and online platforms to stand up against academic dishonesty.</p> <p>In an open letter, GAIN has asked these companies to take action to prevent academic cheating services being advertised on their platforms.</p> <p>Read the open letter issued by the Global Academic Integrity Network</p>

Channel	Article
Social media post #3	<p>The Global Academic Integrity Network (GAIN), representing education quality and integrity agencies from around the world including <i>The Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education (CYQAA)</i>, has issued an open letter calling on social media and online platforms to take action to stop the advertising of commercial contract cheating services.</p> <p>Recent years have witnessed a proliferation in the promotion of online cheating services across digital platforms. These services undermine students’ learning and qualifications and expose them to criminals, leaving them vulnerable to the threat of identity theft and blackmail.</p> <p>Tackling this challenge is a shared responsibility that requires unified action. Share this post to help us make change to protect student wellbeing and society’s trust in the professions we rely on.</p> <p>Read the open letter issued by the Global Academic Integrity Network</p>
Newsletter article	<p>Title Global education quality and integrity agencies unite to fight academic dishonesty.</p> <p>Article The Global Academic Integrity Network (GAIN), representing education quality and integrity agencies from around the world, including <i>The Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education (CYQAA)</i>, has issued an open letter calling on social media and online platforms to take action to stop the advertising of commercial contract cheating services.</p> <p>Online contract cheating services facilitate academic dishonesty by allowing students to pay someone else to complete assignments and/or take exams on their behalf. These services undermine students’ learning as well as trust in the qualifications which they ultimately receive. Further they leave students vulnerable to the threat of identity theft and blackmail.</p> <p>GAIN’s members have united to address this global issue. The open letter calls on major social media and online platforms to join the fight against academic dishonesty. Safeguarding the integrity of academic qualifications is essential to protect students’ wellbeing and society’s trust in the professions we rely upon. This issue cannot be addressed by educators and institutions alone.</p> <p>By major online platforms working with GAIN, and by reviewing and upholding their community guidelines, GAIN believes that, together, we can significantly reduce the visibility and impact of contract cheating services and send a powerful message worldwide about the value of legitimate academic achievements.</p> <p>Read the open letter issued by GAIN.</p>

Channel	Article
Website article	<p>Title Global action to address academic dishonesty</p> <p>Introductory blurb As a member of the Global Academic Integrity Network (GAIN), <i>The Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education (CYQAA)</i> has united with similar agencies globally and calls on social media and online platforms to stand up against academic dishonesty.</p> <p>Article The Global Academic Integrity Network (GAIN), representing 40 education quality and integrity agencies from around the world including <i>The Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education (CYQAA)</i>, has issued an open letter calling on social media and online platforms to take action to stop the advertising of commercial contract cheating services.</p> <p>Online contract cheating services facilitate academic dishonesty by allowing students to pay someone else to complete assignments and/or take exams on their behalf. These services undermine students' learning as well as trust in the qualifications which they ultimately receive.</p> <p>GAIN's open letter calls on major social media and online platforms to join the fight against academic dishonesty.</p> <p>By major online platforms working together with GAIN, and reviewing and upholding their community guidelines, GAIN believes we can significantly reduce the visibility and impact of contract cheating services and send a powerful message worldwide about the value of legitimate academic achievements.</p> <p>Read the open letter issued by GAIN</p>