



Asia Pacific Forum on Educational Integrity

APFEI 2011 Grant: Round 1

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PROJECT:

Translation into Chinese of the University of Canberra's Academic Integrity Module

RATIONALE

One significant challenge in transnational programs is to explain the culture of academic integrity to students. The University of Canberra has a number of transnational programs in China, including two bilingual Masters programs in Education in which students are able to complete their assessment in Chinese. In this context, it is particularly difficult to ensure that students conform to the standards of academic integrity expected by Australian universities; the students, too, find the idea of using academic references very foreign. Furthermore, the limited time available for face-to-face contact means that online tools to help explain the concept are urgently needed.

AIM of the PROJECT

The aim of this project is to develop a Mandarin Chinese version of the University of Canberra's Academic Integrity Module (AIM) for use in transnational learning-teaching contexts.

AIM was developed by the University of Canberra's Academic Skills Centre in 2008 under a learning-teaching grant, and is now widely used across campus. It is an online module using Moodle, the University's learning management system. The module consists of ten units, each explaining an aspect of academic integrity, for example: Writing at university; What is academic integrity? What is plagiarism? Why is plagiarism unacceptable?

Each unit finishes with a non-assessable self-quiz, leading to a final quiz in the last unit. Feedback is provided for each question. The questions appear in random order from a bank of 200 quiz questions. Students may take the final quiz as often as they like, but must achieve a score of 12/12 to successfully complete the module.

AIM can be embedded in the Moodle site of any unit, and is currently used in about 80 units across campus. Some unit conveners allot a small percentage of the unit grade to the unit; others simply make completion compulsory. Once students have completed the unit, they can keep a certificate of completion to present if lecturers request it.

Although AIM has been prepared in both APA and Harvard formats, only the APA version would be translated under this grant application. Examples may have to be sourced from Chinese language sources to replace some of the English texts which are cited, as the students in these courses generally use Chinese language databases for their literature search, or translated papers from a book of readings.

Once the site has been developed and trialed, it will be made available to other universities with similar transnational programs.