

# PORTFOLIO - Survey Team

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## Project Report

### Academic Integrity Champions for foreign students

It is not a secret that the majority of students studying abroad face various problems and challenges. One of the challenges faced in academic education is the lack of knowledge about academic writing and plagiarism. As a result, they may be unjustifiably guilty of fraudulent writing. Realizing this, there is a growing need for a system that can act as an intermediary between foreign students and the university and academic writing. Realizing this, our Life project took steps to introduce a Peer monitoring system to find out how much foreign students' knowledge of academic writing and their level of awareness of plagiarism is.

In a peer-mentoring system that puts an emphasis on academic integrity, foreign students could receive the support they need to meet the requirements of their study program and achieve academic success. To achieve this idea, our Life team of twelve first divided the relevant work into two main groups. Accordingly, our team was tasked with conducting a survey and retrieving data from it.

As the survey team , we were able to collect more than forty responses at the end of the survey. We , five members of the team, played significant and different roles to achieve our goals as a team.

### **Our Group Members and their roles**

1. Iurii Mysin
2. Loureen Mwendwa
3. Irina Voss
4. Mher Hambardzumyan
5. Geethma Sudarshani Madanayake

#### **1. Iurii Mysin**

Iurii Mysin is a MA first-year student who is studying social entrepreneurship. Iurii Mysin is the leader of the survey team. He discussed with the team members every week and tried to make the survey a success. Iurii consulted with all members of the team, identified the capabilities of the team members, and assigned them various tasks to maximize the team's commitment to the project. When preparing the questions required for the survey, the views of all of them were sought and the relevant questionnaire was prepared. In addition, Iurii contributed to sharing the questions with the target groups, shared the results with the Plagiarism group, and worked with them to do teamwork well.

#### **2. Loureen Mwendwa**

Loureen Mwendwa is studying for an MA in Wellbeing and Health Behavior, and she is a first-year student. As an active support group member, she was able to handle all the tasks given by the team leader. She held the mid-term report presentation in March and was able to earn good credits from the committee and all the members. Loureen helps to spread the survey to TLU foreign students by taking printouts of the QR code of the google survey and pasting them all around the university. Loureen's experiences with academic writing as a foreign student helped to create a successful questionnaire.

#### **3. Irina Voss**

Irina Voss is doing her MA degree and she is a first-year student studying art therapy. Irina, as an Estonian student, has recognized that most foreign students are facing different difficulties when it comes to academic writing. Irina has an overall knowledge of how the Estonian universities dealt with academic writing and plagiarism, so her knowledge is super supportive for all the foreign students in the group. Irina helps to create mid-term reports and presentations in March and her knowledge about creating questions for the survey is admirable since she supported adding valuable questions so that the team can get exact details about foreign students' academic writings and plagiarism knowledge.

#### **4. Mher Hambardzumyan**

Mher Hambardzumyan, 3rd year audiovisual media student. He inputs the team by helping with the visualization of materials such as presentation design, poster design, and other visual materials creation. His overall knowledge of visual media and designs help the team to create the survey results in a more eye-catching and detailed oriented way. Mher participated in all the group meetings and shared the survey among his colleagues to make it successful.

#### **5. Geethma Sudarshani Madanayake Kotte Pathirannehelage**

Geethma is a MA first-year student, who studies Literature, Visual Culture, and Film studies. As a student from Asia, she is a first-hand experience holder of academic writing and plagiarism at Tallinn University. In her first semester, she faced such a problem and it occurred to her to join this LIFE project too. As a foreign student, she gives her best to create the questions more relevantly to earn the exact details and results that the group needs. She is taking Academic Writing as a subject this semester and her reading materials and knowledge about plagiarism problems helped to create the questionnaire. Geethma actively participated in all the meetings and contributed to pasting the posters which include the QR code of the survey in university along with Laureen. Geethma shared the questionnaire among her colleagues and actively participated to collect information for the survey.

## Project Action Plan

Tasks	Deadline	Student(s) responsible
Creation Draft of survey	06.03.2022	Survey group
Getting feedback	11.03.2022	Plagiarism group +Supervisors
Improving questions	16.03.2022	Survey group
Finalize the survey	21.03.2022	Survey group
Post the Survey in different platforms	31.03.2022	Survey group
Collection of data	30.04.2022	Survey group
Analyzing data	31.05.2022	Survey group
Preparing recommendations	31.05.2022	Survey group
Integration with Survey Team (Group 1) on Survey Results	31-05-2022	Survey group
Preparing Portfolio	03-06-2022	Survey group
Preparing final Presentation	03-06-2022	Survey group

## Self Reflection Report

<b>Irina Voss</b>	<p>It was a nice challenge for me to join the Academic Integrity project. I had an opportunity to work with students from different countries. I was very interested to know much more about academic integrity. I got a lot of new knowledge about this topic – for example, different kinds of plagiarism. I learned that it is an important task for international students to understand what academic integrity is. I am glad that in our project we try to help them.</p> <p>My role in this project was to take part in the discussions, to take part in the correspondence and to help out in answering questions on our research, to write a mid term report and to prepare a presentation for the team. Now I'm summarizing and analyzing the results of the survey and the next step is to make recommendations to the other team.</p>
<b>Iurii Mysin</b>	<p>As a foreign student from Russia I noticed the difference in the educational process and came across with new academic rules, conditions, system of credits and assignments. I got similar feedback from my classmates who arrived from Pakistan, Nigeria, Kenia and Ukraine. This is why I joined this project. I had my own vision and I agreed to become a team leader of one of the teams. During the semester I had been trying to divide our tasks into smaller tasks and distribute them taking into account my teammates background and their opportunities and followed all common deadlines.</p> <p>During the project I increased my knowledge about academic integrity and experienced working in the project when you and your teammates do not understand what exactly you have to do</p>

	<p>and what results you have to achieve. We tried to figure it out together. More or less we did it successfully.</p> <p>At the end of the project I agreed with the Incoming Exchange Students Coordinator to use our materials for orientation week for foreign students with the purpose to raise their awareness about academic integrity and include them in training for buddies (support system for foreign students). I hope it will be useful especially for students who arrive from Third countries.</p> <p>One of the important things which I recognized about myself is that my way of leading is not effective in some cases. As a leader I should be more demanding. But when I had personal difficulties and couldn't participate in a project for a while my teammates became more self organized. I am very thankful to Loureen who took responsibility for our results and managed our team very effectively when I was not capable.</p>
<b>Loureen Ntonjira</b>	<p>Working in the academic integrity team and more specifically the team responsible for conducting the survey was quite a journey. Personally I was able to learn the different kinds of plagiarism and the rules and measures put in place by the Estonian law and Tallinn University, which makes it a big deal for us as students.</p> <p>I was able to help circulate the posters in school and share surveys to as many people as I could. It was unfortunate to notice that people don't like participating in surveys as much as we expected but we still pushed to as many as we can. I was also privileged to represent my team during the midterm presentation.</p> <p>Last but not least, I enjoyed working with people from different</p>

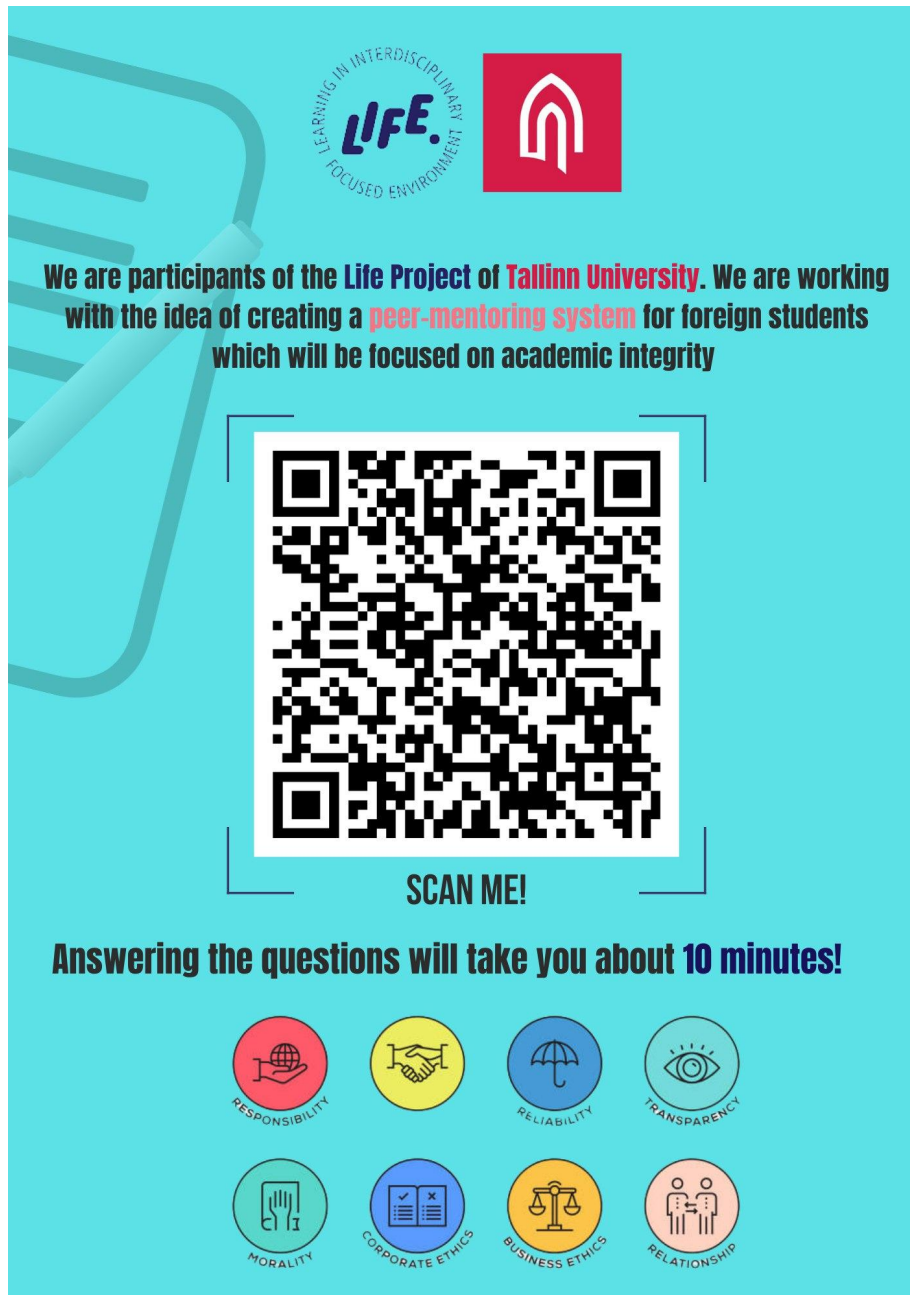
	<p>fields and although we didn't always agree on things, we managed to get things done. I look forward to the awareness this project will great about academic integrity to all students. Thank you supervisors for also being super helpful during the entire process.</p>
<b>Mher Hambardzuman</b>	<p>I am having a very fruitful experience working in the survey tram as we are working on gathering information and data about academic integrity. I must say this is very important for everyone one of us to understand the importance of academic integrity (and don't underestimate it) and create awareness among our students at Tallinn University.</p> <p>I am working mostly on visualizing our findings and data. Beside working on the materials it is a great opportunity to work closely with the results (data/information) received from the survey. It is challenging to understand and correctly move the data into visual graphs as each answer and approach is unique but with some time dedicated it has become very interesting and easy. Our team is very united and everyone has their clear tasks which are being delivered on time and everyone is open for feedback and criticism for improvements which is very essential and creates a very healthy environment to work in. I learned a lot about academic integrity and discovered many different things which I didn't know before and I must admit that working in this project is an honor as we are creating awareness about the things that matter so much.</p>
<b>Geethma Madanayake</b>	<p>It is an honor and a pleasure to work with such a team that is going to be a great help to all the foreign academics learning at Tallinn University. As a team that is preparing a peer monitoring system for all the foreign students to help overcome their academic writing issues, my part was to develop a questionnaire to collect information and recognize issues about</p>

	<p>academic integrity. As a student who has faced such issues at the beginning of my journey at TLU, I gained a lot of knowledge about plagiarism and Tallinn University guidelines as an academic.</p> <p>I was able to help create questions by using my own experiences with academic writing. It is a pleasure to see most students have the same issues as me and as a team we can find solutions for all of us. I dedicated myself to pasting the posters around the university about our questionnaire. I shared the links among TLU students as much as I could. I participated in all the group meetings and listened to everyone's ideas. I learned a lot from my colleagues.</p> <p>I am very satisfied working with foreign students from different academic fields on my team. We have overcome several issues together as a team. For example, we tried our best to involve most students in our survey because most students are busy with their work, and it is hard to find people for surveys these days. We all used our personal contacts and asked to develop this program. It is a good opportunity to deal with different students around the university. I am perfectly sure that our project will be a turning point in LIFE history and I am truly grateful for participating in this project.</p>
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## Media coverage

As a part of our Survey team task was to reach the maximum number of foreign students in Tallinn University as possible. We were trying to encourage them to fill the survey which we made.








We created a poster for this purpose.











### We used next channels

1. Newsletter "Study information April 2022" (from Academic Affairs Office)
2. Social media. We posted information in different FB groups
  - International Degree Students at Tallinn University  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/152070642120660>
  - TLU Student Union  
<https://www.facebook.com/yliopilaskond>

- Tallinn University Social Entrepreneurship MA program  
<https://www.facebook.com/tlusema>
- 3. Whatsapp chat (group chats of project members university program and all common students chats)
- 4. ÕIS university system (Announcement)

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  [ois2.tlu.ee/tluois/uus\\_ois2.tl](https://ois2.tlu.ee/tluois/uus_ois2.tl)  90 

**TU STUDY INFORMATION SYSTEM**    **Iurii Mysin** ÕIS  
212622STSEM.YK 



**GENERAL INFO** My data | ÕIS help | Log out

- Home
- Academic calendar
- ASIO timetables
- Courses
- Study programmes
- Pricelist

**MY STUDY INFORMATION**

**DOCUMENTS**

**QUESTIONNAIRES**

   
European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund  
Investing  
in your future

[Moodle](#)  
[TU homepage](#)  
[TUI library](#)

**MESSAGES / MY TIMETABLE**

**PARTICIPATE IN A SURVEY ON ACADEMIC ETHICS:**  
The survey is conducted by fellow foreign students as part of the Spring 2022 Academic Integrity Life project. The aim of the survey is to evaluate how much international students know about academic integrity like plagiarism. The information collected will inform awareness materials for peer-mentoring on issues of what is the Tallinn University paper writing standards. The survey is anonymous.  
To participate just click on the [Survey Link](#).

*study plan (SUBMITTED)*

- 5. Printing Poster were pinned in all university buildings (Astra, Terra, Silva, Mare, Nova and Dormitory)

## **Academic integrity Survey**

📄 Academic Integrity Survey\_Version - Google Forms.pdf

## **Perception of Academic Integrity by foreign students at Tallinn University in 2022.**

📄 Perception of Academic Integrity by foreign students at Tallinn University in 2022

## **Survey Findings Slides**

📄 Survey Findings Presentation.pdf