

Credibility and authenticity – through invigilation

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With a focus on both domestic and international higher education students in the Australian context – notions around credibility and authenticity have never been more important to the Sector given our recent emergence from the shadows of the pandemic. The Australian reputation for high quality education and delivery must be guarded at all costs – and any concerns relating to integrity and authenticity must be met head on – and our credibility must be ensured.

The new reality has 'coughed up' some significant changes – one of those being the issue of eCheating – for the want of a better term.

Heightened media attention

This concern has been augmented from well-intended, though misplaced, media attention around the notion of students cheating online and using products such as ChatGPT for the very wrong reasons. The shift away from exams to assignments has also had an unsettling impact – in some cases again unfounded – but in some cases unnerving to say the least.

Shift from exams to assignments

Many business schools have publicized the fact that they have replaced examinations with assignments completely – opening the gate wider for fraud and deception. One can only assume that the decision is less to do with student welfare and reputation, and more to do with marketing and growing numbers. The notion is disappointing at many levels.

See - [A Shift From Exams to Assignments \(ubss.edu.au\)](https://ubss.edu.au)

Return to the examination halls

A number of universities have suggested the solution is to return to the examination hall with pen and paper in tow, accompanied by long queues of identifying students and well-trained invigilators. This too – though perhaps an alternative option – is most impractical and simply out of sorts with the new reality that we now live in post pandemic.

Online proctored examinations/tests

Online, proctored (invigilated) examinations/tests are in my mind the best option. My own experience – using a product called *Invigilator Plus* – has been very positive and the product impressive. There are a number of products on the market. The take-up was very positive by both staff and students and the credibility of the teaching and learning was reinforced. Shared data suggested high levels of completion rates of exams and high levels of student satisfaction with the process.

See - [Online Exam Proctoring Software | invigilatorPlus](#)

A mixed assessment mode

My own school – at the time, and as part of the COVID-19 strategy- converted from a 100% examination regime to a 60% examination in early 2020. This maintained good levels of authenticity and academic integrity – though not perfect.

I am proposing that a mixed mode of assessment be maintained using a proctoring package and feel this would enhance the credibility of offerings - particularly those by external bodies.

When it comes to authenticity and academic integrity – the cost must come second to the assurances that our students are being maintained – and our credibility is intact.

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