



The University of the West Indies: Producing Ethically Grounded Students

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ETHICALLY GROUNDED GRADUATES

The UWI sees it as a responsibility to provide students with a foundation or framework of those behaviours and standards that are acceptable in their disciplines, their societies and the world at large.

How do we do this?

UWI AT A GLANCE

- Established in 1948 as a University College of the University of London becoming an independent university in 1962
- Supported financially by 17* countries in the Caribbean
- Four Campuses: Mona (Jamaica), St. Augustine (Trinidad & Tobago), Cave Hill (Barbados) and Open Campus
- Offers a range of Certificates, Diplomas, Undergraduate and Postgraduate degrees in six Faculties
- Over 49,000 students and ~ 6,730 (f/t & p/t) staff of which 2,640 are academic staff.
- Over 40 countries represented
- Graduates up to 9,000 per annum

The UWI STRATEGIC PLAN

Our successive 5-year strategic plans continue to demonstrate dedication and commitment to fostering qualities that will create graduates who are proficient in their disciplines, and able to think critically on ethical and moral issues which impact human life.

The UWI STRATEGIC PLAN 2012-17

The Mission of The UWI is:

to advance education and create knowledge through excellence in teaching, research, innovation, public service, intellectual leadership and outreach in order to support the inclusive (social, economic, political, cultural, environmental) development of the Caribbean region and beyond.

- Key attributes of the UWI graduate – **innovative, critical thinker, communicator**, etc. “...**guided by strong ethical values.**”
- Staff - expected that staff will demonstrate “respectful and ethical behaviour.”

RESEARCH INSTITUTION

- Research – very important to survival of any university, and Networking and Collaborative Research make up a large part of our landscape.
- UWI must help build and be a part of an “international academic culture of responsible and ethical research” with reliable research structures and high standards in training.
- The world must be able to have confidence in our results.

UWI BRAND

- A multi-campus institution with a diverse faculty with expertise in ethics.
- Our policies, regulations, practices and codes hold individuals to high ethical standards sending a message of trust, honesty and integrity, to our global partners, investors and stakeholders.

Fostering ethical attributes.

- By educating staff and students about the various policies, regulations and rules that govern their conduct and behaviour.
- By encouraging staff and students to practice ethical behaviours; being responsible and accountable for their actions.
- By implementing guidelines for conduct – clearly outlining what is considered to be misconduct, and therefore occasioning sanctions by the institution.

Fostering ethical attributes.

Education of academic community through:-

- Policies, Regulations & Codes
- Courses and Seminars
- Software and Sites
- Service Learning

Insistence on good practice

Policies, Regulations and Codes

The UWI Policy on Research Ethics

<http://www.uwi.edu/gripflip/researchethics>

- *approved in 1997, and most recently revised in February 2011, is based on the tenet that The UWI is committed to principles of*
 - *Honesty*
 - *Trust*
 - *Collegiality*
 - *Fair play*

Policies, Regulations and Codes

The UWI Policy on Research Ethics

- anyone who conducts research at UWI or at any institution affiliated with UWI, whether the work is funded or unfunded scholarly and creative work by UWI staff, students or by people who use UWI facilities for creation, dissemination, and publication of scholarly work.
- outlines responsibilities of each tier of the system – the Institution, the Deans, Principal Investigators, Students, Technical Staff.

Policies, Regulations and Codes

The UWI Policy on Research Ethics

Covers principles governing responsible conduct of academic & professional endeavours:-

- Medical research on humans and animals
- Environment
- Use of research funds
- Treatment of data
- Conduct and reporting of experiments
- Academic publishing – responsible authorship
- Collaborative research

Policies, Regulations and Codes

UWI Plagiarism Policies – Undergraduate / Postgraduate levels

- <http://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/mainlibrary/docs/regulations-for-plagiarism.aspx>
- <http://uwi.edu/gradstudies/documents.aspx>

and corresponding Regulations set out the institution's position on plagiarism, the various levels or degrees of the act, and the penalties associated with each level.

Policies, Regulations and Codes

The Code of Principles and Responsibilities for Students

Graduate Studies Guide for Students and Supervisors

The Statement of Principles/Code of Ethics for Academic and Senior Administrative Staff & Ordinance 8 for Administrative and Technical Staff

These outline the requirements for appointments and promotion, and alerts staff to what constitutes misconduct, and the corresponding implications.

Education

Ethics Courses across the institution

Though coverage is uneven among and within faculties, there are currently 57 courses which deal with Ethics across all four (4) Campuses in areas such as, Accounting, Computer Science, Counselling, Education, Government, Management, Philosophy, Psychology, Social Work, Sports, Communication, Medicine, Nursing, Cultural Studies, Theology, Law and Veterinary Studies.

- 28 courses – part of postgraduate level programmes
- 29 courses – part of undergraduate level programmes

Education

- Seminars for staff and students
- From Faculty of Humanities – “ethics is integral to most disciplines in the Humanities and is often not disaggregated into a stand-alone topic of study. We treat ethics and ethical behaviour as fundamental and critical to our assessment of the success or failure of a historical or literary character.”

Software & Sites

- **Turnitin – a similarity index** www.turnitin.com
 - *Licence from Turnitin allows staff and students to check assignments, research papers and/or theses for similarity with items in the Turnitin database. Students use this to check their work before submission for grading.*
- **Portal for Graduate Students (UWI GRIP).** UWI GRIP provides a one-stop information facility for graduate students. It comes equipped with
 - *FAQs on “Turnitin” and how to obtain access to information as a registered student*
 - *a GRAD blog for video information on related topics or other student-related matters*
 - *Other features that provide links to the research ethics policies and student and staff responsibilities*

Service Learning

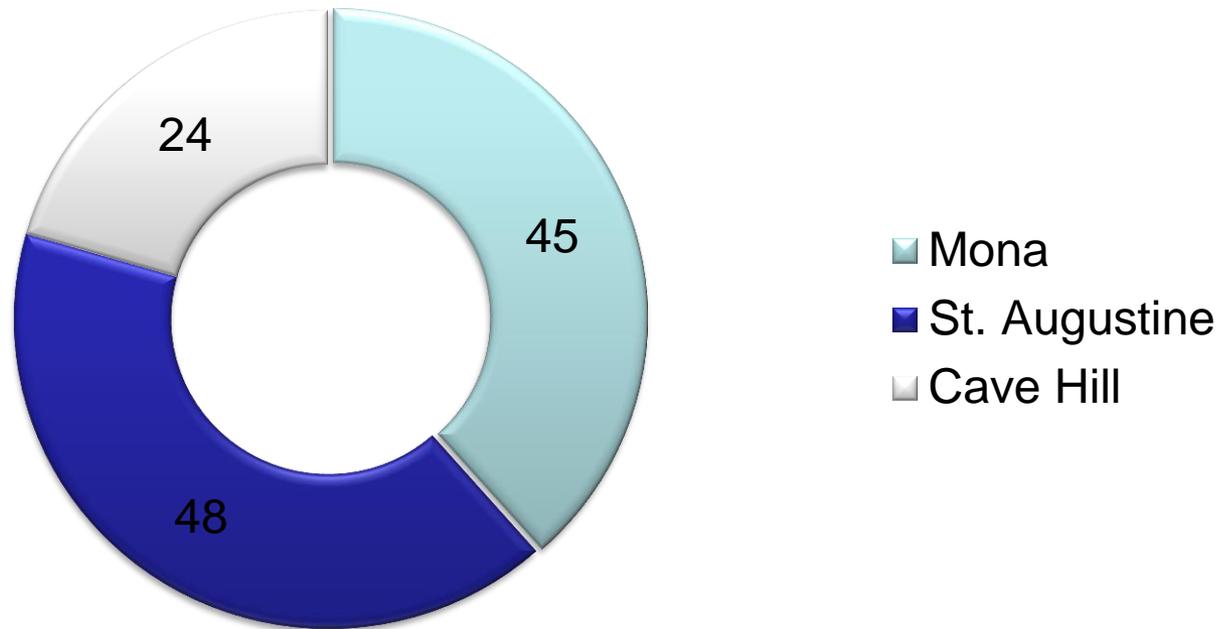
Through our Offices of Student Services, various programmes are run which serve to:-

- help prepare students to make difficult ethical choices
- promote a culture which encourages ethical conduct and a commitment to integrity.

e.g. Vision & Fortitude, Peer Helpers Programme

Service Learning

UWI Clubs & Societies (117)



Campus	# of Clubs and Societies
Mona	45
St. Augustine	48
Cave Hill	24
Total	117

Insistence on Good Practice

- **UWI Accountability Statement**

To be submitted with any coursework from students.

- **Certificate of Completion – Graduate Students**

To be submitted on the completion of student's Thesis/Research Paper/Project/Report/Casebook.

The student confirms that the work is his/hers and that the submission has been assessed by plagiarism detection software.

- **Research (Staff / Students)**

Research project proposals submitted to Ethics Committee (Institutional Review Board) for approval before beginning research.

Insistence on Good Practice

For resolution of disputes & investigations into allegations of misconduct

- Staff: Disciplinary Committee
- Research (for Staff and Students & other individuals affiliated to The UWI): The Ethics Committee on each Campus
- Graduate Students: Sub-committee for Board for Graduate Studies & Research
- Undergraduate Students: Disciplinary Committee, Academic Board

Appeals accommodated.

CHALLENGES

- **FUNDING THE ENTERPRISE:**

- *Establishment of **The UWI Ethics Centre** has been approved but due to lack of funding, has not yet been operationalized.*

- **MONITORING**

- *As student numbers increase, ensuring all that is required in this area becomes more challenging.*

SUCCESSSES

- **AWARENESS**

- *The implementation of policies and regulations at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, and the continuing education provided is making a difference at The UWI. Staff and students have become much more aware of ethical issues, including plagiarism.*

- **ETHICS COURSE FOR DELIVERY**

- *In our ongoing drive to ensure that our students are equipped with the necessary tools in this area, the online Research Ethics Course which is offered in collaboration with the Bioethics Program of the University of Miami and the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) Program, is available to all graduate students across The UWI. (Modules)*

“Ethics should be reinforced by institutional processes and daily decisions of all members of the academic community. Development of these values within the academy must be an ongoing process.”

Council for Graduate Schools – Global Perspectives on Research Ethics & Scholarly Integrity. 2008

