

## INTERESTED IN ACADEMIC QUALITY AND INTEGRITY?

**Did you know there are approximately 1000 English language sites selling work to university students across the world? One can only imagine the impact this may have on educational reputation, public health and safety and costs on the sector in dealing with this. But, do we know the actual global extent of the problem?**

**What is GEMS?** Global Essay Mills Survey (GEMS) is a unique international research project which seeks to explore student engagement with essay mills and similar sites, their beliefs around when cheating is acceptable, what outcomes should apply for students who use these sites, and whether or not they believe it should be illegal.

**Who, where, why?** The project will be released in twenty languages across higher education student networks in Europe, Australasia and the Americas, between October and December, 2017. It aims to be the largest (in terms of participant numbers), and widest (in relation to country distribution) study yet undertaken in this area.

**How can you help?** We are looking for support from those in higher education in any country across Europe, Australasia and the Americas to post the survey link on their student networks, portals and forums. The larger and wider the responses, the more accurate and useful the outcomes will be for the sector.

**What will you get?** The outcomes of the research will inform the global higher education sector on the reasons why students choose to attend university, why they may use contract cheating providers and essay mills, the prevalence of this problem and student opinion on the legality of these companies and acts. The research will provide the first international comparison of its kind, helping to inform around the extent and legality of this type of academic dishonesty.

**What will students get out of this?** The chance to anonymously present their experience with essay mills and contribute to the global research in this area.

**What do you need to do now?** If you wish to offer your support, please let people know about the project ([Global Essay Mills Survey](#)). We will contact you again nearer the release date with the survey links. If you are happy to distribute this across your student networks, please let us know if you have any questions, including any relating to technical and procedural issues.

**Support and contacts** The project is supported by the [European Network for Academic Integrity](#), the [International Centre for Academic Integrity](#), and [Epigeum](#) and has ethical approval from the University of Canberra (project number 16:71).

