

# Addressing Integrity Challenges in Learning and Teaching through Student Engagement in Research Competitions and Journals

Canh Thien Dang and An Nguyen (KCL)

# Overview

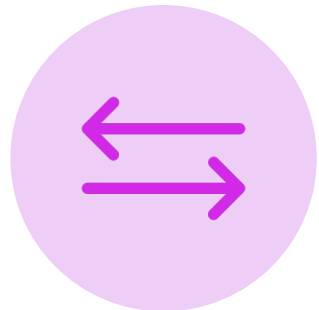
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Why did we start?  
Current Challenges



How is it going?  
Academic Essay  
Competition and  
Undergraduate Journal



Lesson Learned?  
How we measure?



Take-away and  
Discussion

# Understanding Integrity and Inclusivity Challenges

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## Plagiarism

Uncredited use of someone else's work or ideas.

## Cheating and Unethical Behavior

Act of deceit or dishonesty in an academic environment.  
Unacceptable conduct that violates academic standards.

## Engaging undergraduates in research beyond RAs

Most are industry/career-oriented

## Research-oriented student activities

Research-led teaching but little on research-led learning at undergraduate level



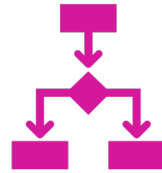
Photos credit to Pexels

# Promoting Student Engagement



## Integrity Development

Contributes to the development of ethical behavior and academic integrity.



## Enhanced Learning Outcomes

Engaging in research enhances critical thinking and analytical skills.



## Academic Growth

Stimulates academic growth and fosters a deeper understanding of subjects.

# Integrity and Ethical Learning

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## Fostering Ethical Behaviour

- Immersed in academic environment: integrity, honesty, and intellectual rigor
- experience instills a sense of ethical responsibility, emphasizing the importance of academic integrity



## Cultivating Academic Freedom and Autonomy

- Freely exploring topics of interest and expressing ideas and opinions
- *Diverse* perspectives emphasized; critical thinking encouraged
- *Inclusive* (courses, cohorts, approaches)



## Promoting Collegiality and Collaboration

- respect and appreciate peer contributions, fostering collaborative spirit essential for academic integrity
- Through peer review processes uphold rigorous academic standards while supporting each other's academic growth

# Integrity and Ethical Learning

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## Combating Misconduct and Plagiarism

- promoting transparency, accountability, and ethical conduct in research and publication
- providing clear guidelines, rigorous evaluation processes, and peer review mechanism
- Through adherence to ethical principles and scholarly integrity, students learn to recognize and avoid unethical behaviour



## Adapting to Emerging Challenges:

- remains adaptable and responsive to emerging issues
- Promote integrity via research competitions & journals, equipping students with ethical skills relevant for the professional lives

# The Essay Competition and Research Journal

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Start with a theme



Exploring institutional support



Setting up and promoting



Student submissions



Dissemination

# Step 1. Start with a Theme



- What would interest **YOUR** students?
- Which topic would be most **inclusive** and also **academically relevant** to your school?
- KCL Research Agenda, KBS 2020 Vision, and Academic Interest (for Business students)

The Inaugural King's Business School  
Essay Competition: Sustainability



The 2nd King's Business School Essay Competition  
Automation, AI, and The Economy





# Step 2. Funding and Institutional Support



- For me, it is a voluntary task, but I need support
- Internal educational funds, support from HoD and Vice Dean (Education)
  - funding for organisational cost, prize moneys, referees (markers) compensation (PhD candidates at least),
  - set-up cost for the journal, running cost for the journal (volunteer)
  - Long-term view: self-sustained via commercial sponsorship?
  - External funding?

# Step 3. Setting up and Promotion



- Posters, in lecture promotions, words of mouth, emails (constantly), newsletters, personal tutor meetings, and emails and newsletters ...

**KING'S College LONDON** **KING'S BUSINESS SCHOOL**

## 2024 KING'S BUSINESS SCHOOL ESSAY COMPETITION AUTOMATION, AI, AND THE ECONOMY

**DETAILS**

- Open to all undergraduate students from KCL
- 2,000 words maximum
- Evidenced-based, informative, persuasive essays
- Essays on current social issues such as automation, AI, sustainability, economic growth, public policies, and management practices are all welcome

**PRIZES**


- The best Overall entry – £600
- The best essay in individual category: Economics, Management, Honourable Prize for First Year, Second Year and Third Year students, £200
- Award Certificates from the Department of Economics, KBS, King's College London
- Opportunities to be published in the King's Business School undergraduate research journal

**WORKSHOP**

- A two-hour workshop on Doing Research in Economics, Business, and Management Studies for pre-doctoral students
- Free and open to all students enrolled in a course at KBS
- Time and date: February, 2024 (TBC)
- Deadline for workshop registration: Please follow the website

We are also recruiting editors for the KBS Undergraduate Research Journal (open to all KCL students) and for referee roles (open to PhD Candidates only). Applications are considered on a rolling basis.

**DEADLINE: 17 APRIL 2024**

For more information, please visit the website or scan the QR 

<https://kbsessaycompetition.wordpress.com/>

**KING'S College LONDON** **KING'S BUSINESS SCHOOL**

## The Inaugural King's Business School Essay Competition Sustainability

**DETAILS**

- Open to all undergraduates enrolled in a KBS course
- 1,500 words maximum
- Evidenced-based, informative, persuasive essays
- Essays on sustainability, in any sense of the word, based on topics in economics, finance, management, technology, and human resources, ... are all welcome

**PRIZES**

- The best Overall entry – £600
- The best essay in individual category: Economics, Management, Honourable Prize for First Year, Second Year and Third Year students - £200
- Award Certificates from the Department of Economics, KBS, King's College London
- Opportunities to be published in the 1st King's Business School undergraduate research journal

**WORKSHOP**

- A two-hour workshop on Sustainability Research in Economics, Business, and Management Studies for pre-doctoral students
- Free and open to all KCL students
- Time and date: Wednesday 1 February 2023, from 14:00 to 16:00.
- Deadline for workshop registration: Monday 30 January 2023, 23:59.

We are also recruiting founding members for the first KBS undergraduate research journal (open to all KCL students) and for referee roles (open to PhD Candidates only). Applications are considered on a rolling basis.

**Deadline: 06 April 2023**

For more information, please visit the website or scan the QR code 

<https://kbsessaycompetition.wordpress.com/>

# Step 4. Student Submission and Integrity



## Submissions via Keats (KCL's Moodle/Canvas/Blackboard version)

- Feedback and grading similar to a coursework
- PhD students first marking, proposing the best submissions for second marking
- Academics (me, for now) make the final decision

## Academic integrity is taken seriously

- Turnitin Reports are used.
- GenAI? Only best essays are awarded, and essays without evidence or analysis are barely well received.
- A workshop on writing and academic integrity

# Step 5. Dissemination

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- **Quantitative Measures:** Submission Rates, Acceptance Rates, Readership Statistics
- **Qualitative Measures:** Participant Feedback
- **2023:** 2 workshops, 100+ participants, 3 invited speakers (3 PhD candidates); 45 submissions, 6 prize winners, an editorial team of 10 members and a new journal
- **2024:** 3 workshops, 150+ participants, 3 academic speakers, and 1 PhD candidates, waiting for submissions ...

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/business/undergraduate/student-experience/student-publications>

# Step 5. Showcasing Student Research



**The King's Business School Essay Competition First Prize** awarded to the best overall entry – **£600**, together with an Award Certificate.

**The King's Business School Essay Competition Economics Prize\*** awarded to the best economics essay – **£200**, together with an Award Certificate.

**The King's Business School Essay Competition Management Prize\*** awarded to the best management essay – **£200**, together with an Award Certificate.

**The King's Business School Essay Competition Honourable Prize for First Year Students\*** awarded to the best entry from First Year students – **£200**, together with an Award Certificate.

**The King's Business School Essay Competition Honourable Prize for Second Year Students\*** awarded to the best entry from Second Year students – **£200**, together with an Award Certificate.

**The King's Business School Essay Competition Honourable Prize for Third Year Students\*** awarded to the best entry from Third Year students – **£200**, together with an Award Certificate.



The Prize Winners, the HoD, the Education Lead, and me

# The Journal



## LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

### EDITORS IN CHIEF

Aleksandra Jaremko ..... Co-Editor in Chief  
Chakri (Jack) Swartz ..... Co-Editor in Chief

### SECTION EDITORS

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Jasmine Binti Surif ..... Co-Creative Editor  
Nicole Lim Re Gin ..... Co-Creative Editor  
Dr. Canh Thien Dang ..... Academic Advisor

# The Feedback

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"I am really grateful to the KBS Department and Dr Canh Dang for organizing the KBS essay competition and the ESCOE conference. It was a great opportunity to apply what I learnt in my modules to real research issues. I got to develop my research and communication skills and made great connections with different professionals at the conference. It is a rare experience for an undergraduate student. Hope the competition runs again next year!"

"The Sustainability Essay Competition added a lot to my experience at King's in my final year, allowing me to apply knowledge and techniques learned in a variety of my courses to tackle a very real problem faced in today's world. The poster session was a great way of connecting with students and professors and learn from their experiences and insights that we shared. I benefited from very insightful comments and suggestions which will help me in my future research. Overall, this experience has motivated me to continue working on research in the field of sustainability and energy and look forward to reconnecting with the organizers in the future."

# Effective Strategies for Successful Editions

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## Curriculum Integration

Incorporating research competitions into the curriculum.

## Mentorship Programs

Establishing mentorship/workshop for student team, editors, and fostering a sense of research conduct.

(New workshops series)

## Institutional Support

Ensuring institutional support for student involvement in journals and competitions.

## Sustained Impact and Inclusivity

Fostering collaboration for sustained impact and long-term benefits. Inclusivity and Diversity of topics and participants remain key



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Any questions?

Thank you!