

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined by the New Oxford Shorter English Dictionary as "the taking and using as one's own ... the thoughts, writings and inventions of another". This can happen through copying, summarising or paraphrasing someone else's work or ideas, then not acknowledging the original author and passing the material off as your own independent work. Often this can be accidental (e.g. you've forgotten to reference something), but it can also be done deliberately.

The University takes plagiarism seriously, and it is classed as an academic irregularity. There are a number of different penalties which may be applied to plagiarism offences. The Student Handbook has a section on Academic Irregularities, which outlines the penalties and states that plagiarism includes:

'The incorporation of material derived from the work (published or unpublished) of another, by unacknowledged quotation, paraphrased imitation or other device in any work submitted for progression towards or for the completion of an award, which in any way suggests that it is the student's own original work. Such work may include printed material in textbooks, journals and material accessible electronically for example from web pages.'

Examples of plagiarism include:

The inclusion in a candidate's work of material from another person's work without the use of quotation marks and full acknowledgement of the source;

The summarising of another person's work by simply changing words or altering the order of presentation, without full acknowledgement;

Self-plagiarism: students are not permitted to reuse work they have previously submitted, without proper reference and acknowledgement in the current assessment being submitted.

Penalties for plagiarism range from capped marks and zero marks to dismissal from the course and termination of studies.