

PLAGIARISM POLICY

Last reviewed:	August 2019
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Definition

Plagiarism is the act of passing off someone else's work, intentionally or unintentionally, as your own.

This might be by copying or paraphrasing someone else's published or unpublished work without proper acknowledgment, or by representing someone else's artistic or technical work or creation as your own.

It is important to remember that plagiarism can be committed accidentally, by failing to acknowledge your sources or by relying too heavily on the words or other work of others.

The school's policy on plagiarism

We oppose plagiarism primarily because our business is education, and plagiarism is contrary to the educational process. This is most obvious in the case of subjects like mathematics, or translation of a language: if you merely copy your answers out of an answer key to a Maths, or Latin, textbook, then you won't have done the work that tests and improves your understanding of Maths, or Latin, as the case may be. The act of processing knowledge and understanding in a transformational manner is known to be an essential part of learning, and of demonstrating your academic progress. Merely copying others' words and ideas, as opposed to presenting ideas in your own words, undermines and evades the process of acquiring a proper understanding of your subjects, and of acquiring the skills of presentation that we aim to help you develop.

In universities, furthermore, plagiarism is standardly regarded as an act of academic misconduct, because it is an action which may give a student an unpermitted academic advantage. It is regarded as similar in gravity to cheating in exams, collusion, and fabricating results or data. As such, it is regarded as unacceptable in a scholarly community. Penalties for plagiarism at university are severe, including the award of a mark of zero for assessed work and even, in the case of repeated offences, termination of the student's course.

Partly because plagiarism undermines learning, and partly in order to prepare students for the kind of regimes that exist in academia, we aim to discourage it.