

## Plagiarism

Plagiarism is one of the biggest issues that educational institutions and academia are facing, not only due to the fact that it is basically stealing someone else's work, but also because this practice is so widespread in higher education, be it Ph.D. scholars or the average undergraduate. Plagiarism is a stain upon the legitimacy of education in India, thus the UGC has recently drafted certain regulations to control and punish plagiarism.

### *Self-Plagiarism*

The inclusion of self-plagiarism is an interesting addition as it means that using your own previous work without adequately citing it has also been brought within the ambit of the definition. This idea may appear counterintuitive to the very soul of plagiarism which is stealing someone else's work but it is important to understand that representing old work as new work is stealing from yourself. It also defeats the purpose of research papers which is to present original work and the integrity of the work is marred. Most publishers will not allow for self-plagiarism as there is no differentiation made between your published work and other people's published work. One of the most important facets to consider is that the copyright for published works are usually held by the journal rather than the author and plagiarizing from your own work would mean the violation of such copyright.

### Scope of the Guidelines

The guidelines have been restricted to Higher Education Institutions which are as follows:

1. Universities, which are the institutions that have been incorporated by a Central, Provincial or State Act or any institution that has been deemed as such.
2. Any institute that has been declared by the parliament to be of national importance.

  
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3. Or any constituent unit within such institutions that provide education after 12 years of schooling and which provides degrees or diplomas after completion of said education.

Further the guidelines are applicable only on “scripts”, the definition of which has been provided in Section 2 (n) as any “...research paper, thesis, study, project report, assignment, dissertation and any other such work submitted for assessment/opinion leading to the award of degree or publication in print or electronic media by students or faculty or staff of an Institution of Higher Education;” the guidelines have also provided that exam scripts are exempt.

#### Exemptions


Certain content will be exempted from the charge of plagiarism even though they are reproductions of other works. The said exemptions are as follow:

1. Quoted work which is either in the public domain or has been attributed adequately or permission has been granted for its use.
2. All references, table of content, preface, acknowledgement, and bibliography are exempted.
3. Similar content which is minor.
4. Standard equations and symbols, laws and generic terms.

#### Tolerance of Plagiarism

Tolerance of plagiarism has been divided as:

1. **Zero-tolerance areas:** This means that plagiarism of any degree will not be tolerated. Zero tolerance is restricted to core areas. Core areas are the hypothesis, the recommendations, the abstract, the summary, the conclusion, the results and the observations.

  
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2. **Tolerance areas:** Plagiarism in all areas but the core areas is tolerable to a certain extent. The various levels of plagiarism have been quantified and given below;


- Up to 10%- Excluded
- Between 10% and 40%- Level 1
- Between 40% and 60%- Level 2
- Above 60%- Level 3

### **Reporting of Plagiarism and Procedure to be Followed**

In case plagiarism is suspected and there is proof of such, any member of the academic community may approach the relevant institution after which the institution will refer it to the Academic Misconduct Panel (AMP). The AMP is to be set up by all HEIs in order to investigate and submit a report. After the AMP has thoroughly investigated the situation, they will make a report to the Plagiarism Disciplinary Authority (PDA), preferably within a period of 45 days. The PDA is to be formed by the HEI and their job is to take appropriate decision after consideration of both the recommendations of the AMP as well as the hearing of the accused. Their decision will be final and binding.

### **Penalties for the Act of Plagiarism**

The various penalties for plagiarism have been provided in Section 13 of the guidelines. Different penalties have been given for different tiers of plagiarism severity. Section 13 provides that penalties shall be awarded only when there is no doubt that the accused has committed the act and after all other avenues of appeal have been exhausted. The accused must also be given adequate opportunity to defend himself/herself. Further, the proceedings are to be held in camera, meaning that proceedings are to be closed to the public. The penalties given should be in proportion to the severity of plagiarism.

  
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## **Penalties for Students**


Penalties will be given to students according to the decision of the Plagiarism Disciplinary Authority (PDA). The punishments given to students for plagiarism for different levels of severity are given below:

1. **Level 1 (10%-40%)**– the student will not be given any mark or credit and revised script must be resubmitted within a stipulated time period which does not exceed 6 months.
2. **Level 2 (40%-60%)**– the student will not be given any mark or credit and the revised script is to be resubmitted between 1 year and 18 months.
3. **Level 3 (above 60%)**– the student will not be given any mark or credit and their registration for that course will be canceled.

If a student repeats such act of plagiarism then the punishment will be for the next level to the one previously committed. In cases where the highest level of plagiarism occurs then the punishment remains the same and the registration will be canceled.

## **Rules of getting plagiarism check**

1. According to order by Rajasthan University No. F7 Research/RUHS/2020/23063 dated 13/02/21, it is mandatory for all students get plagiarism check for their research work and attach that certificate in their research work. 10% similarity is allowed.
2. Students have to submit their research as soft copy to ethical committee office for plagiarism check
3. The fees of Rs 500 for SDCRI students and staff and Rs 1000 for non SDCRI have to be given for maximum of two attempts. For further attempts, Rs 200 will be charged.

  
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## Certificate of Originality

The research work embodied in this thesis entitled "....."

.....

submitted for the award of Ph.D. degree has been carried out by me at the centre  
..... is original in nature.

The manuscript has been subjected to plagiarism check by  
..... (Turnitin/iThenticate/Urkund) software.

It is certified that as per the check ..... % of the content is stated to be plagiarized  
and is covered under the section of exclusion as per the UGC regulations - 2018 on checking  
plagiarism.

Place:

Date:

Signature of the scholar

Name: .....

Reg. No. ....

Specialization: .....

Faculty: .....

Verified by supervisor

Signature: .....

Name: .....

Designation: .....

Seal: .....

*[Handwritten mark]*

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Undertaking to be submitted by the Research Scholar along with thesis for evaluation and to be enclosed with a valid Plagiarism Checking Report by Software mentioned by the University

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2. Registration No. : \_\_\_\_\_
3. Faculty : \_\_\_\_\_
4. Name of Supervisor : \_\_\_\_\_
5. Title of the Thesis : \_\_\_\_\_
6. Plagiarism Report enclosed (duly verified by Supervisor) :  Yes  No
7. Name of Software (Turnitin/IThenticate/Urkund) : \_\_\_\_\_
8. Similarity Index as Found (should be less than 10%) : \_\_\_\_\_


## UNDERTAKING

I, ..... undertake to state that the thesis submitted by me for the PhD Degree contains genuine research data and analysis done by me under the supervision of Dr. .... at ..... from the year ..... to ..... and thesis and its contents are not submitted by anyone to any other university for the award of any certificate, diploma, degree or any award. I solely take the responsibility if any mistake identified regarding the genuineness of this research.

Place:

Date:

Signature of the scholar

  
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## Anti Plagiarism Certificate from Supervisor

Title of Thesis : .....

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Total Number of Pages : .....

Scholar Name : .....

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This is to certify that the above thesis was scanned for similarity detection by using (Turnitin/iThenticate/Urkund) software and Similarity Index found was ..... % and total word count found was .....

The complete report of the above thesis has been reviewed by the undersigned and the similarity index is below accepted norms (Less than 10%). The thesis may be considered for the award of degree. (Relevant documents attached).

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Date:

Signature of the Supervisor  
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