



Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Detection Policy and Software Guidelines

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Purpose:	The purpose of this policy is to clarify the techniques employed by the EIT to discourage and detect plagiarism and thus encourage academic honesty.
Scope:	This policy is relevant for all EIT students and staff
Essential Supporting Documents:	This document has been modified from a source document of the University of Queensland. Full copyright is acknowledged by the EIT.
Related Documents:	Integrity and Security in Assessment and Testing, Policy and Procedures – Computer Based Testing

Introduction

EIT has adopted *TurnItIn* from iParadigms as a Plagiarism Detection Software tool for online submission of written assignments. Other tools may be used.

In the first instance plagiarism detection tools should be used primarily for educational purposes. Students will be allowed to use the software to educate themselves through submission of draft assignments.

The use of plagiarism detection software is only one element of the overall strategy aimed at encouraging academic integrity and sound scholarly practice. It should be kept in mind that *TurnItIn* is more accurately described as a text matching tool for use in the deterrence and



detection of plagiarism. The professional judgement of academic staff remains the most effective way to determine whether a piece of assessment has been plagiarised.

1. Guidelines for using plagiarism detection software

The initial implementation will arise through collaboration between teaching staff and students. Lecturers and students will be working together for a common cause (i.e. maintaining academic integrity and protecting the academic standing of the EIT degrees and diplomas).

Suggested actions and activities are set out below.

1.1 Understanding the importance of academic integrity

Discuss the importance of maintaining academic integrity and the benefits of avoiding plagiarism. Train students in proper citing techniques and discourage uncited work. Encourage discussion.

Refer students to the EIT's website for more information on plagiarism.

Help students learn what constitutes plagiarism, how to avoid it, and the consequences of submitting plagiarised material.

1.2 Remind students that plagiarism detection software might be used

During the enrolment process, all students are required to acknowledge their awareness that plagiarism detection software might be used in courses in which they enrol.

However, it is suggested the following paragraph be inserted on assessment coversheets.

Work submitted may be subjected to a plagiarism detection process. If this process is used, then copies of this work would be retained and used as source material for conducting future plagiarism checks.

2. Benefits of TurnItIn

2.1 Student benefits:

- Students learn how to prepare and submit original work (e.g. use of proper referencing techniques).
- Students learn to evaluate their own skills and self-educate themselves on avoiding plagiarism in the future.
- Students know that academic integrity is being maintained and the value of their UQ degree is being protected.
- Students know their intellectual property is protected - *TurnItIn* date stamps submitted work providing an indication of originality; and assists those wanting to publish their work as it provides some protection against others copying all or part of their work.



2.2 Staff benefits:

- The software provides a faster and more thorough check for plagiarism due to the breadth of the database search.
- The Peer Review tool within *TurnItIn* facilitates on-line peer review.
- The Grademark tool (on line marking) within *TurnItIn* could be used to:
 - Develop and apply rubrics (rules or comments for common errors in assignments) which reduces marking time
 - Allow more than one marker to grade at any one time – no waiting time for the first marker to complete their task.

2.3 Joint Benefits:

- The integrity and value of the University's awards is protected.
- Awareness of how to avoid plagiarism is increased.
- Promotes better research, writing and citation practices.

3. Limitations of plagiarism detection software

The use of plagiarism detection software is a tool used to identify possible plagiarism. However, the professional judgement of the teaching staff is relied upon to determine whether or not a material has been plagiarised and if so, whether or not it was done intentionally.

Be aware of the limitations of *TurnItIn*. *TurnItIn* cannot be used to check images or computer programs. In addition, resources that are not available electronically require manual checking.