

Plagiarism and Collusion Guidelines

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Plagiarism and Collusion Guidelines

may be accessed online at:

<http://www.um.edu.mt/registrar/student-conduct>

Definitions as per the University Assessment Regulations, 2009

- **Plagiarism:**

“the unacknowledged use, as one’s own, of work of another person, whether or not such work has been published”

- **Major and Minor Plagiarism**

(referred to in Reg.41 of the University Assessment Regulations, 2009):

Major – significant amount of unacknowledged borrowing

Minor – unacknowledged borrowing of little significance within the piece of writing . This plagiarism could result from Academic Incompetence

- **Academic Incompetence** (not applicable to postgraduate students) – 1st year students might require some time to get accustomed with how to paraphrase and reference correctly. Thus, such cases of minor plagiarism may be treated as academic incompetence.

Students are encouraged to follow targeted study-units during Sem1 of their 1st year of undergraduate studies (e.g. LIN1063) to master such skills.

- **Collusion** (as per Plagiarism and Collusion Guidelines) “occurs when two or more students collaborate to produce work, where such collaboration is not permitted”.

In group work (e.g. Assignments), “the students take individual responsibility for the individually submitted contribution, but collective responsibility for the aspects of the submitted work that required a joint effort.”

Self-plagiarism (as per University Assessment Regulations, 2009)

Students shall not be allowed to “submit work or part thereof that has been submitted by the student himself or by any other student, for the Assessment of another Study-Unit, unless, when submitting part of one's own work that had previously been submitted, prior permission is obtained from the examiner and the insertion is clearly indicated;”

How to avoid Plagiarism

- Refer to the document “How to avoid Plagiarism” available online at:

<http://www.um.edu.mt/registrar/student-conduct>

- Use referencing styles recommended by Faculty/Institute/Centre/School

Avoiding Collusion

- If not instructed by lecturer or indicated in the examination rubric, work submitted by students has to be the student's original work
- Discussions with fellow students and/or lecturers are encouraged but correct referencing is to be used

Common Knowledge (as per Plagiarism and Collusion Guidelines)

- “if you are able to find at least 10 peer-reviewed publications that write about the knowledge without citing a source, then you can too”. However, the text is to be written in your own words
- When in doubt, it is best to cite just the same or seek the lecturer’s advice

Turnitin

- Plagiarism detection software available for students submitting work through VLE
- Set up by lecturers concerned
- Student work is scanned before final submission and originality report is produced highlighting possible areas of plagiarism (based on work in the Turnitin database)
- Originality report is not the only source used when student is summoned before the disciplinary board
- Other free online plagiarism detection software may also be used to scan work before submission

Thank you for your attention
and
all the best of luck in your studies