

# Using Turnitin for essay drafts and final submissions

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# Why?

- DMU made it mandatory for all programmes to use Turnitin at level 1 (feedback on draft) and for final submissions.
- Faculty of Health and Life Science
  - 15 members of staff
  - >600 students

# How?

Biomedical Science/Medical Science BSc Hons.

Describe how stem cell research is advancing medicine today.

## SEMESTER 1

3 hr eLearning session

Writing

Referencing / citation

Using Turnitin

## CHRISTMAS ESSAY

“Stem cells”

Drafts to Turnitin (view report once)

Final submission (no report)

## SEMESTER 2

3 hr eLearning

Feedback

LIBRARY SKILLS  
THIS SEMESTER

# Essay results

- 93 students
- Many essays formed by a patchwork of websites
- 31 plagiarism, 1 collusion.

types. Stem cell research has potentially

**revolutionize the future of medicine with the ability to regenerate damaged and diseased organs,** studying the

1

biological processes of the development of drugs, heart disease, diabetes and Parkinson's disease. Other processes where

**stem cells play** important **role in an organism** are; **development, repair of damaged tissue, and cancer resulting from stem cell division going awry.**

1

There are different types of examples of stem cells , but I will be writing about

**embryonic stem cell.**  
**EMBRYONIC STEM CELL**

2

The

**embryonic stem cell** can **defined by its origin** which is **from** the earliest stages **of the** development **of the** embryo, known as **the**

2

blastocyst. They

1 50% match (internet)  <http://csa.lib.tsinghua.edu.cn>

2 6% match (student papers from 10/10/03)  [Submitted to Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine](#)

3 1% match (internet from 08/03/06)  <http://md2.csa.com>

# Has Turnitin helped improve drafts?

DRAFT	FINAL ESSAY
60	Some made no change Some worse on final submission (reference lists picked up)
9	Efforts to improved score

- No attempt to improve
- Blatant copying
  - “in this research **we**....”
  - DIFFERENT** fonts
- Breaking text string
  - Sibling **to** brother and sister
  - Increased **to** enhanced

# Is this improving academic practice?

- Majority made no effort to improve their essays. Perhaps they hadn't had training on the reports? Perhaps they didn't have time?
- Minority made improvements by breaking the string of words. Is this good practice?

# Changes to last year?

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
Final Submissions to T	79	93
Plagiarism cases	23	31
No citations in txt	13	53
No reference list	2	15

## Has it made a difference?

- (3 hour skills session, use of Turnitin)
- Plagiarism incidence increased.
- No attempts to improve draft essays.
- Appalling lack of understanding of referencing and citation.

## Further research

- Research into staff and students experiences of using Turnitin, thoughts on plagiarism and academic offences.
- Student / staff interviews / questionnaires.

# Helpful References

- Maureen Dawson & Joyce Overfield (2006) Plagiarism: Do students know what it is? BEEJ (8).
- Ursula McGowan (2005) Plagiarism Detection and Prevention “Are we putting the cart before the horse”? HERDSA.
- Gill Chester (2001) JISC Plagiarism Detection and Prevention.  
[http://www.jisc.ac.uk/uploaded\\_documents/plagiarism\\_final.pdf](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/uploaded_documents/plagiarism_final.pdf)