

Plagiarism

Policy Evolution and the Elusive
Grail of Consistency



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Plagiarism – Policies old & new

- 13. PLAGIARISM (taken from Undergraduate Regulations 1998-99, page 11)
- Plagiarism is used as a general term to describe taking and using another's thoughts and writings as one's own. Plagiarism can occur not only in essays and dissertations, but also in scientific experimentation, diagrams, maps, fieldwork, computer programmes, and all other forms of study where students are expected to work independently and produce original material.
- Where plagiarism is identified, departments are authorised to apply through the relevant board of examiners the following penalties:
- where the assessed work does not contribute to the final assessment, the downgrading to zero of the mark for the whole of the module concerned, and the withdrawal of the right of resit.
- where the assessed work does contribute to the final assessment, the downgrading of the mark for the whole of the module concerned, the withdrawal of the right of resit, and, where the piece of work makes a significant contribution to the degree result, the downgrading of the degree class by one division (for undergraduate students), or the downgrading of the award to Postgraduate Diploma (for Master's course students).

Drivers for Change

- A changing undergraduate population with different approaches to study
- Advances in technology
- The need for pragmatism – carrot & stick
- The search for consistency

Early Days...

- Panel Hearings
- Evolution of policy through case history
- ‘Misunderstanding’ vs deliberate intent
- Development of 1st year teaching

Impacts of Turnitin

- Increase in case load
- Introduction of 'On the Spot' penalties
- Enhancing training

Current Issues

- Subjectivity of initial reporting
- Penalty tariff
- Institutional consistency...