

TurnitinUK - Information and Access for Staff

The university has a subscription to TurnitinUK. This is a web based text matching service which searches a variety of electronic sources to identify any duplication with work submitted by your students. As well as web sites and databases, the Turnitin software searches for matches against other student submissions making it an effective and efficient text matching tool. However, it does not search all digital records in existence, nor does can it detect matches with non-digital content such as text books. It is important to be aware of this when looking for text matches and to recognise that there are other forms of academic misconduct such as cheating and collusion which Turnitin cannot identify.

The Turnitin software will generate a report highlighting sections of text that have been found to match those in the student’s work. It will identify the percentage of each match and provide the source (although not necessarily the original source). It will also provide an overall percentage of text which has been copied. Turnitin will not make a decision as to whether a student has plagiarised, but the information it provides can you help you make an informed decision as to whether academic misconduct has occurred. Your decision will take account of a number of influencing factors including the student level (e.g. are they still developing their academic writing skills?) and the assignment requirements (e.g. has the assignment brief required all the students to write similar pieces of work or to use the same sources?).

**Staff accounts**

Staff will need to set up a user account prior to using Turnitin for the first time; there is a facility to do this in StudyNet via the Assignment set-up page on each module site. Once created, staff can use their account to upload student assignments from any module site.

**Student accounts**

Student access is set at module level by the module leader via the Assignment set-up page on the module site.

Student consent to submit coursework to TurnitinUK is covered by UPR AS14 para C2.9.2. (2013-14): ‘*In registering as students of the University of Hertfordshire, individuals give consent to copies of their work being submitted to any plagiarism detection service employed by the University or processed by any electronic plagiarism detection facility used by the institution’*

This means that it is not necessary to get consent from students before using this system. However it is good practice to advise students in advance of any coursework submission that you may be submitting their work to a text matching service.

**Useful links**

There are further resources for staff on the Learning and Teaching Institute's (LTI) website along with the University's policy on the use of Turnitin in the section called [Academic Integrity](http://www.studynet1.herts.ac.uk/intranet/lti.nsf/Teaching+Documents?OpenView&count=9999&restricttocategory=Guidance,+Resources+and+Toolkits/Academic+Integrity)

The online plagiarism tutorial and self-test tool [Plagiarism Tool](http://logos.herts.ac.uk/libqdp/plagiarism/start.html). A very useful tool for students and staff (can be linked to module pages so that students can access it).

The TurnitinUK site for training resources [Turnitin Training for Staff and Students](http://turnitin.com/en_us/training/getting-started)

The Plagiarism.org site which has useful resources about plagiarism (although note it is sponsored by a different technology to Turnitin) [Plagiarism.org](http://www.plagiarism.org/)