



Avoiding Plagiarism

PLAGIARISM

The University has a very strict policy against plagiarism and particular care must be taken to acknowledge the work and opinion of others.

Plagiarism takes several forms, the commonest being unacknowledged quotation or close paraphrasing of other people's writing, amounting to the presentation of other persons' thoughts or writings as one's own.

To acknowledge text from another source, place it in quotation marks, state that you are quoting from another source and name the source in the surrounding text or as a footnote. Keep such quotations below 200 words.

Acknowledge clearly the use of AI tools, and note (like any tool) the responsibility for the final output (thesis, paper, report) rests with the author.

Plagiarism will be penalised; an extreme case may be classified as a dishonest practice and can lead to expulsion.

When you start your studies, you will be required to sign a declaration that you abide by the University's general regulations about plagiarism which can be found in the University Calendar <https://www.dur.ac.uk/university.calendar/>), Volume 1, General Regulations, Examinations, section VIII, section (4)

Be particularly careful when preparing your thesis of the regulations governing plagiarism (appendix 3) and copyright. Remember your thesis is a published document that will be in the public domain and as such must conform to publication standards. This means that, for example, you should create your own artwork, chemical formulae and diagrams whenever possible.

If you have to reproduce published material then it should be properly attributed and permission obtained (in advance) for its reproduction from the relevant copyright holder. Unattributed reproduction of previously published material constitutes plagiarism and could result in severe penalties.

Students should also be aware of the issues surrounding self-plagiarism. In particular, no piece of work may be submitted for examination twice (for example work arising from final year undergraduate projects and that carried out during the period of postgraduate study).

Furthermore, it is unacceptable to submit the same piece of work for publication in more than one place (*e.g.* two different journals).