

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a violation of another person's intellectual property and is considered a serious offense. Therefore, if plagiarism is detected, strict action is taken. But what is plagiarism? How can be determined whether you have plagiarised? Which sanctions can be imposed? And how can you prevent plagiarism?

What does the Leiden Law School consider to be plagiarism?

The Rules and Regulations of the Board of Examiners consider plagiarism to be:

- a. Using or copying someone else's texts, data or ideas without complete and accurate source referencing;
- b. Not indicating clearly in the text, for example with quotation marks or a specific text format, that the text was literally taken from another author's work, even when a correct source is included;
- c. paraphrasing the content of another person's texts without adequate source referencing;
- d. submitting a previously submitted or similar text for assignments in other exam components;
- e. copying the work of fellow students in an attempt to pass this for one's own work;
- f. submitting assignments that have been written (whether or not for payment) by someone else.

Plagiarism does not require intent.

Detection of plagiarism

One of the methods used by the Law School to detect plagiarism is Turnitin's plagiarism detection programme. Your bachelor's thesis and master's thesis for instance, but also other written assignments, such as research proposals, are checked by this programme. Turnitin detects similarities between your work and other sources and identifies any source(s) text was copied from. This is how Turnitin helps the examiner answer the question whether you are guilty of plagiarism.

What are the sanctions?

If the examiner encounters plagiarism in your work, she or he will report this to the Board of Examiners. The Board will then investigate what happened and will give you the opportunity to provide an explanation. The Board will also look at the type of plagiarism and how much has been plagiarised, and at other circumstances related to the case. It then decides on the sanction(s) to be imposed.

The Board of Examiners can impose the following sanctions:

- a. an official warning;
- b. declaring the result of the written assignment invalid;
- c. exclusion from participation in the examination for the course for which plagiarism was established;
- d. exclusion from participation in one or more other examinations.

The exclusion from participation in one of more examinations can be for a whole year. In the event of severe plagiarism, the Board of Examiners may request the university's Executive Board to permanently terminate your enrolment in the programme.

If you have plagiarised, this is always noted in your electronic student file. And you can no longer complete your programme with a designation of '*cum laude*' or '*summa cum laude*'. If in addition to your regular programme you follow a programme at the Honours Academy, the Board of Examiners of the Honours Academy will be informed that you committed plagiarism. You must therefore take due account of the fact that you may not receive a diploma from the Honours Academy.

How can I prevent plagiarism?

This is very simple. You do not have to do anything other than ensure that you know what the rules and instructions are that you must adhere to as a student. From the start of the programme, various courses pay attention to what plagiarism is and what is and is not allowed. If you are not sure what is and what is not allowed, you should ask the examiner. The fact that you did not know the rules is never accepted by the Board of Examiners as an excuse.

More information about plagiarism, citing (online) sources and preventing and counteracting plagiarism can be found [here](#)

More information about fraud in general can be found [here](#)