

Definition of minor and major plagiarism/collusion

Poor Academic Practice

Poor academic practice may be characterised by:

- Poor citation where there is evidence that the student does not understand the rules of academic writing (e.g. year 1 student in the first semester);
- The extent of the copied material/text is so small that it does not justify a penalty;
- Short blocks of material or copied text which is referenced in the bibliography but is not properly cited.

Minor offences of plagiarism

A minor offence will be committed when the copied material/text does not represent a significant proportion of the work and/or is not central to the piece of work.

Minor offences of plagiarism may be characterised by:

- Short blocks of material or copied text expressing ideas or concepts taken from the work of others without appropriate acknowledgment of the source;
- Short blocks of material or copied text that is cited but is not in quotation marks;
- Short blocks of material or copied text where there are minor linguistic changes and presented as the student's own words, with or without citation;
- Short blocks of copied code or other experimental material without appropriate citation;
- Extensive or numerous blocks of material or copied text which is referenced in the bibliography but is not properly cited.

A short block of text may be as small as two continuing lines.

Major offences of plagiarism

A major offence will be committed when the copied material/text represents a significant proportion of the work and/or is central to the piece of work.

Major offences of plagiarism may be characterised by:

- Extensive or numerous blocks of material or copied text expressing ideas or concepts taken from the work of others without appropriate acknowledgment of the source;
- Extensive or numerous blocks of material or copied text that is cited but is not in quotation marks;

- Extensive or numerous blocks of material or copied text where there are minor linguistic changes and presented as the student's own words, with or without citation;
- Extensive or numerous blocks of copied code or other experimental material without appropriate citation;
- Substantial use of ideas and arguments of a source or sources which may or may not appear in the references or bibliography, where the context is such that it is presented as the student's own ideas;
- Submission of the same piece of work for assessment in whole or in large part, for more than one assessment without acknowledgement of the source;
- A second instance of giving another student a copy of all or part of one's own work which results in poor academic practice or academic misconduct.

Extensive blocks of text may be as small as several continuing lines.

Minor offences of collusion

Minor offences of collusion in work submitted for an assessment that has been made known to be individual work may be characterised by:

- Short blocks of shared text or material without acknowledgement;
- Multiple shared text fragments;
- Shared frameworks or outlines;
- Short blocks of copied code or other experimental material.

Major offences of collusion

Major offences of collusion in work submitted for an assessment that has been made known to be individual work may be characterised by:

- Extensive or numerous blocks of shared text (including copied text subjected to minor linguistic changes);
- Extensive or numerous blocks of copied code or other experimental material;
- Similar bibliographies.