E23. Policy on the Use of Turnitin

Turnitin is a web-based tool that supports students in the development of good academic practice when preparing written work for assessment. This text-matching tool allows academic staff to check students' work for improper use of sources or potential plagiarism by comparing it against continuously up-dated databases (including web-pages and student work). Turnitin produces an 'Originality Report' for each submitted piece of work which indicates all the matches in the student assignment to the web-based sources on its database, and thus can provide academic staff with the opportunity to help students develop proper citation methods as well as to safeguard students' academic integrity.

At Oxford Brookes University, all students on the undergraduate modular programme will normally use Turnitin on a minimum of three compulsory occasions: once during a compulsory module in Stage I, once again in a compulsory module in Stage II and finally during the dissertation or project module.

All students on taught Masters programme are be required to use Turnitin on a minimum of two modules: once during a taught module (this could be the Research Methods module) and once during the dissertation or project module. All other taught postgraduates students (taking PGDip or PGCert programmes) are required to use Turnitin once during one taught module.

In addition, Turnitin may be used optionally on other modules for one or all pieces of assessment in that module as decided by the Module Leader. Turnitin may be used as part of an investigation into an alleged case of plagiarism but its primary use is to support students' academic development and enhance good academic practice.

All students enrolled on a research degree programme must submit a piece of work, as appropriate for the discipline, through Turnitin no more than three times in any one academic year. It will be expected that all students will submit a chapter or piece of academic writing through Turnitin during the annual monitoring process each year. Full details of the work submitted at this point will noted on the Research Degree Sub-Committee’s, Annual Progress Report form and should include a summary or statement about the analysis of the Turnitin report. Other submissions may take place at the Registration and Transfer stages as indicated by the Department or Faculty Postgraduate Research Tutor.

Matthew Andrews
Academic Registrar
2 December 2011

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