Text-matching software programmes are web-based computer tools that support students in the development of good academic practice when preparing written work for assessment. Text-matching tools allow 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). Text-matching tools produce 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.

Oxford Brookes University currently uses Turnitin as our preferred text-matching software but may also use other services. Partner institutions that deliver programmes leading to an award of, or validated by, the University are expected to have appropriate text-matching software procedures which meet the requirements of this Policy.

At Oxford Brookes University, all students on the undergraduate modular programme will normally use text-matching software 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 programmes will be required to use text-matching software 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 postgraduate students (taking PGDip or PGCert programmes) are required to use text matching-software once during one taught module.

In addition, text-matching software may be used optionally on other modules for one or all pieces of assessment in that module as decided by the Module Leader. Text-matching software 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.

For further information about these regulations, please contact the Academic Registrar.

**Approved by:** Academic Registrar, 2 December 2011

**Last reviewed:** 14 December 2016

**Next review:** June 2017