

## Anti-Plagiarism Charter – University of Namur 2022

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In order to guarantee the excellence of teaching, training and research carried out at the University of Namur, the University is fully committed to the fight against fraud of any kind. In particular, through this charter, the University wishes to remind all its members, whether they are visitors, students or staff members, of its profound fight for scientific integrity. In order to guarantee their scientific and intellectual integrity, works created within the University must be original, authentic and personal to their author. This charter defines the rules in force within the University regarding the notion of plagiarism.

### **The definition of plagiarism**

Plagiarism is the reuse of another's intellectual production for one's own benefit, without giving credit to the original author of the copied work. In concrete terms, plagiarism can result from the use of terms, concepts or ideas developed by an author, without quoting him or her, in order to pass off the work of a third party as one's own. It is in this last aspect that the main characteristic of plagiarism lies. While the production of literary works naturally involves drawing on the creations and ideas conceived by others, it cannot be conceived without the proper citation of the sources used.

Thus, this obligation is not respected when a text, some of its passages, or original elements of it are copied identically without mentioning that they are the work of others. The same applies, of course, when the content is translated in another language or only slightly modified in order to disguise its origin and make the plagiarism more difficult to detect; a simple lexical change does not suddenly make the fraud disappear.

Finally, it is important to remember that copied "content" is understood in a broad sense. Written works are only part of the intellectual production that can be subject to plagiarism. The same applies to images, photos, videos, music, software source code, artistic creations, etc., for which it is also important to correctly cite the references of the content and the original author.

The Institute for Research and Action on Academic Fraud and Plagiarism (<https://irafpa.org/>) gives some examples of the forms plagiarism can take. It also specifies benchmarks and scientific integrity and suggests guidelines to follow in order to avoid plagiarism.

### **Sanctions for plagiarism at the University of Namur**

- As a student, the sanctions for plagiarism are determined by the "UNamur Study and Examination Regulations" in its article 78.

These rules apply to all work, examinations, dissertations, theses, reports, personal or other projects, written or oral, carried out by students, whatever their level of study (1st, 2nd or 3rd cycle).

- As a researcher at UNamur, there are several regulations and legal documents that delineate the rules of scientific integrity for researchers. In particular:
  - Namur's Intellectual Property Regulations: these regulations set out the intellectual property rules for research results at UNamur.

- UNamur Doctoral Regulations: these regulations determine the general framework within which the doctoral programmes of students wishing to obtain a PhD degree are carried out.
- Guidelines for scientific integrity at UNamur are available on TerraNostra (internal document).

These coordinated documents remind to everyone that it is the researcher's responsibility to ensure that scientific integrity is respected in his or her productions. Plagiarism, as a form of fraud, may constitute a fault attributable to its author. The researcher concerned is thus exposed to sanctions by the institution, both disciplinary and contractual.

### **Appeals in case of plagiarism**

If someone is confronted with plagiarism in the context of his/her studies and/or research, several solutions are available to him/her:

- 1) Mediation by a supervisor and/or colleague (who has no conflict of interest between the victim and the plagiarist) ;
- 2) Mediation by his/her Dean (who will appoint "ad hoc advisors" depending on the case in question) ;
- 3) Mediation by the Research Administration (ADRE) if it concerns research and/or mediation by the Teaching Administration (ADEN) if it concerns teaching activities;
- 4) Appeal to the Council for Scientific Integrity set up within the university and which is responsible for ensuring compliance with the guidelines on integrity in scientific research (<https://www.unamur.be/en/research/ethics/research-integrity-council>) ;
- 5) Appeal for the Rector's sanction, which is the last instance for all serious cases of scientific integrity breach (plagiarism, fraud, etc.).

### **Where to find this information?**

The above provisions, and more generally, any additional information on the regulatory texts applicable in the event of plagiarism, the various sanctions incurred, their appeal and the documents relating to scientific integrity are available on the UNamur website (<https://www.unamur.be/plagiat>), or on TerraNostra.

Finally, the various administrative services of the University are at the disposal of students and researchers to answer any question on these matters.