



## **PLAGIARISM AND AI DETECTION POLICY**

### **BHIKSU UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA**

Approval authority	The Council of the Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka, on the Recommendation of the Senate.
Policy Number	03/2025
Date of Approval	09.01.2026
Date of Revision	
Description in Brief	This policy document aims to establish a framework for detecting and addressing plagiarism issues related to academic works submitted to the Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka.

### **SECTION 1**

#### **Rationale**

Plagiarism reflects a fundamental deficiency in ethics, integrity, and character, qualities that are essential within the academic environment. Plagiarism is regarded as a serious academic violation. Consequently, members of the academic community, including both students and faculty, are expected to maintain integrity by avoiding any form of plagiarism. The establishment of a well-defined and clearly articulated plagiarism policy is of utmost importance and serves to guide all students and staff in properly acknowledging and respecting the work of others from the outset of their academic endeavors. The increasing accessibility of information and advancements in technology underscore the necessity of implementing a robust policy to prevent plagiarism, thereby upholding principles of ethics and academic integrity.

## **SECTION 2**

### **Scope**

This policy is applicable to undergraduate and postgraduate students affiliated with Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka.

The faculty members who plan to publish their research as intellectual contributions (IC) must follow the plagiarism policies set by their institutions, organizations, and journals.

## **SECTION 3**

### **Definitions**

**Academic integrity** means commitment to the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility in all academic activities and work.

**Accreditation** means review of the quality of higher education institutions and programmes.

**AI Detection** means the process of using software tools to estimate whether content (such as text, images, or video) was created by a human or generated by an artificial intelligence system.

**Attribution** means full and proper credit to material in your writing that is borrowed from another source, such as ideas, data, images, and language.

**Ghost Authorship** means not hiding or omitting individuals who made significant contributions to a research paper from the author list or acknowledgements, ensuring proper credit and transparency.

**Infringement** means the action of breaking the terms of a law, agreement, etc.

**Intellectual Property** means intangible assets owned by individuals or companies that are legally safeguarded against unauthorised use.

**Paraphrasing** means repeating a text section using different words that retain the original meaning.

**Plagiarising means the** use of sentences, passages, ideas, models, or data from another person, group of persons, or source as one's own, without due acknowledgement of the source being given at the correct place.

**“University”** means the Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka (BUSL).

## **SECTION 4**

### **Purpose and Objectives**

#### **Purpose**

The Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka rigorously adheres to the laws concerning intellectual property, copyright, and plagiarism, as established by the Intellectual Property Act No. 36 of 2003. Consequently, all undergraduates and postgraduates at the Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka are required to comply with this legislation.

#### **Objectives**

The objectives of this policy are to provide a framework for identifying and avoiding plagiarism and managing instances of alleged cases of plagiarism.

## **SECTION 5**

### **Principles of Plagiarism**

#### **1. Education**

It is essential to recognise that instructors design writing assignments with the intention of facilitating student learning; plagiarism fundamentally undermines this objective. Academic assignments represent a series of intellectual challenges that, when successfully completed, enhance comprehension of the course material. Therefore, submitting work that includes all or part of the intellectual effort intended for the student but completed by another individual not only negates the purpose of the assignment but also compromises the quality of one's education.

#### **2. Attribution of Credit**

A fundamental principle of academic and professional discourse is the recognition of individuals for their ideas and intellectual contributions. Whether as students or scholars, much of our work is encapsulated within our written outputs. When these contributions are appropriated by others without proper acknowledgement, it diminishes our efforts and achievements, effectively erasing our intellectual labour.

#### **3. Maintaining Scholarly Discourse**

The overarching objective of scholarly writing and scholarship, in general, is to facilitate individual learning and the enhancement of existing knowledge through the contributions of others. This noble goal necessitates that scholars maintain a precise account of how ideas have emerged, evolved, and interacted over time. From this perspective, plagiarism serves to obstruct the progress of human knowledge within the realm of scholarship.

#### 4. Academic Integrity

The concept of “academic integrity” pertains to the commitment to represent oneself and one’s academic endeavours honestly throughout the educational process. The grades and course credits awarded are meaningful solely if they accurately reflect the student’s efforts and learning. Consequently, all students are expected to uphold academic integrity by refraining from seeking grades or credits that they have not legitimately earned through their coursework. Plagiarism constitutes a violation of academic integrity, as it involves presenting another individual’s work as one’s own, thereby falsely claiming to have engaged in learning and effort that one has not undertaken. Academic institutions regard academic integrity with utmost seriousness, as it underpins nearly all aspects of educational assessment. Instructors are unable to effectively support students if they cannot accurately gauge what students have learned and what they have not mastered. Moreover, fairness in grading is compromised if one student is able to achieve a higher grade than another without equivalent effort. Additionally, institutions jeopardise their reputation, student recruitment capabilities, funding prospects, and even their accreditation for degree conferral if they permit students to obtain credits without having earned them.

#### 5. Intellectual Property

In addition to the specific rules and expectations associated with academic work, it is essential to recognise that published content is typically owned by an individual or organisation, usually the author or the publisher. Utilising this content without securing permission or providing proper attribution constitutes an infringement, representing both a moral and legal violation. Although the legal implications of misappropriating intellectual property may appear less significant within the confines of academic work. Consequently, there are circumstances under which acts of plagiarism could expose students and the University itself to legal liabilities for the misappropriation of intellectual property. Moreover, all students will eventually transition from the university environment to the broader public realm. Without a comprehensive understanding of plagiarism and the strategies to avoid it, individuals risk encountering severe professional and legal repercussions.

## SECTION 6

### **Types of Plagiarism**

The most common types of plagiarism are,

1. **Complete Plagiarism** – To submit someone else’s article/assessment in his/her name, equivalent to intellectual theft and stealing.
2. **Source-based Plagiarism** – The reference source is incorrect or does not exist, or cite the only primary citation of information while referring to the secondary source of information/data.

3. **Direct Plagiarism** - Copy word to word without acknowledging the primary source.
4. **Self or Auto Plagiarism** – Author/s, himself/herself / themselves, reuse previously published work without acknowledgement.
5. **Paraphrasing plagiarism** – Use others' information with some minor changes in the sentences as one's own work.
6. **Inaccurate Authorship** – Inaccurate authorship or misleading attribution refers to inaccuracies in citing authorship.
7. **Mosaic Plagiarism** – Insert someone else's phrases or text within one's own research that is intentional and dishonest.
8. **Accidental Plagiarism** – Plagiarism may be due to neglect, mistake, or unintentional paraphrasing.

## **SECTION 7**

### **Avoidance of Plagiarism**

1. Every faculty and study program shall implement a plagiarism policy within each induction course or event.
2. Faculties, centres, units, and the staff development centre shall provide education and training to the university community, emphasising the importance of ethics and integrity through relevant courses.
3. The University Library will conduct mandatory training sessions for all undergraduate and postgraduate students before the commencement of their academic courses.
4. Additionally, the University Library will offer regular training sessions for all academic staff.
5. The University will provide necessary software tools and guide manuals to support adherence to plagiarism policies.
6. In the execution of research and assessment work, the university must ensure the adoption of proper practices, which include:
  - a) Citing sources correctly.
  - b) Inserting quotations appropriately.
  - c) Paraphrasing content accurately.
  - d) Utilising plagiarism checking tools via student accounts or with the assistance of lecturers or librarians.
  - e) Presenting original arguments.
  - f) Maintaining comprehensive records of all sources referenced.
  - g) Avoiding ghost authorship.
  - h) Refraining from copy-pasting.
  - i) Obtaining written permission from the owner prior to using images, photographs, or any other visual and audio materials.
  - j) Securing written consent when copying from audio or visual sources deemed open.

- k) access journals or the public domain.
- l) In group or collaborative research or assessments, ensure that all the co-authors or
- m) group participants know how to avoid plagiarism.

## **SECTION 8**

### **Responsibilities**

1. All staff members are tasked with the responsibility of being thoroughly familiar with the Policy and ensuring that their students are adequately informed about its content. It is essential to address the following questions: What does the Policy entail? How can it be effectively implemented? Do all students comprehend the principles and required practices associated with it?
2. The primary responsibility for identifying instances of plagiarism rests with the designated faculty member or supervisor, who shall assess the similarity index for each submitted assessment and accordingly evaluate the work. It is incumbent upon the faculty member or evaluator of the assignment or research project report to pinpoint the relevant sources within the portal and to thoroughly examine these sources prior to providing feedback.
3. It is imperative that all students are thoroughly informed by the staff regarding the essential practices of citing reference materials, adhering to various reference styles, compiling the reference list, avoiding plagiarism, utilising reference management tools, and understanding the learning sources utilised in their work.
4. Training for students on the utilisation of the similarity checking tool, which has been approved by both the Senate, will constitute a fundamental element of the students' induction program.
5. In the execution of this Policy, incidents of copying and plagiarism committed by students shall be addressed by the Faculty Board, and subsequent approval from the University Senate.
6. The Librarian shall be responsible for generating the final plagiarism report and AI-generated content reports.

## **SECTION 9**

### **Actions of Plagiarism**

Students must not engage in certain actions while writing assignments, project reports, research papers, policy reports, and dissertations.

1. Copying phrases or sentences that have been copied or translated from another source.
2. Copying word-to-word directly from a text or other source.
3. Paraphrasing or translating the words from a text or other source very closely.
4. Using text downloaded from the internet, including that exchanged on social networks
5. Borrowing statistics or assembled facts from another person or source.
6. Copying or downloading figures, photographs, pictures, or diagrams.
7. Copying from the notes or essays of fellow students.
8. Copying from own notes, on a text, tutorial, video, or lecture that contains direct quotations of the lecturer.
9. Using text obtained from assignment writing sites, organisations, or private individuals.
10. Paying for work from other sources (outsourced) and submitting it as the student's own work.

## **SECTION 10**

### **Sources that are Considered in Detecting Plagiarism**

1. Textbooks, journal articles, thesis, dissertations, assignments, and all other printed documents, either in hard copy or softcopy versions.
2. Other sources such as media, computer code/s, illustrations, lecture notes, downloaded documents, and graphs in the electronic or digital versions.

## **SECTION 11**

### **Detecting Plagiarism**

All assignments, project reports, research papers, policy reports, and dissertations etc. have to be subjected to the checking of the similarity index and AI detection using plagiarism-detecting software. The system will automatically scan the sources and determine the similarity index (SI), which confirms the level of plagiarism for that particular document.

The thresholds for the accepted similarity index for all academic documents submitted by the students are given in Annex 1. Research project reports, theses, and dissertations will be returned to students for revisions if the similarity index exceeds 20% and AI similarity content also 20%. Students will not be permitted to participate in the viva voce examination until they have made the necessary improvements and the similarity index has been confirmed to be below 20%. The attached Annexe 02 will be used to communicate the similarity index and the resulting decision.

Exclusions:

The following sections must be excluded from the similarity check:

- Bibliography / Reference List
- Table of Contents
- Acknowledgements
- Quoted material (if properly formatted with quotation marks)

## **SECTION 12**

### **Penalties**

Instances of severe plagiarism (typically exceeding 40% similarity), high AI detection rates (51% or more), or repeated offences will be considered academic misconduct. Such cases will be addressed according to the university's examination offences and punishment policy. This may lead to disciplinary actions, including suspension or expulsion from the university.

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### **References**

Policy on Plagiarism and AI Detection, University of Kelaniya

<https://library.kln.ac.lk/media/attachments/2025/07/31/policy-on-plagiarism-and-ai-detection.pdf>

Plagiarism Policy, University of Colombo

<https://cmb.ac.lk/wp-content/uploads/plagiarism-policy.pdf>

Plagiarism Policy, Postgraduate Institute of Management

<https://cqaa.pim.sjp.ac.lk/admin/files/109.pdf>

Plagiarism Prevention Policy and Interpretative Guidelines, Ruhuna University

<https://www.lib.ruh.ac.lk/lqac/wp-content/docs/Plagiarism%20Prevention%20Policy%20and%20Interpretative%20Guidelines.pdf>

Plagiarism Policy, University of Johannesburg

<https://www.uj.ac.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/plagiarism.pdf>

**Annex 1**

**Threshold and Action for the Similarity Index (SI)**

<b>Assessment Type</b>	<b>Up to 30%</b>	<b>Action for Plagiarism between 31%-40%</b>	<b>Action for Plagiarism between 41%-50%</b>	<b>Action for Plagiarism Over 51%</b>
Individual Written Assignments, Written Group Assignments, Take-Home Examinations or any other assessment BUSL specifically states.	Accepted	A penalty of 10% deduction from the marks allocated to that assessment as per the course outline.	A penalty of 20% deduction from the marks allocated to that assessment as per the course outline.	Assessment will be rejected.
Final Project Reports (Undergraduate and Postgraduate) (Thesis/Dissertation)	Accepted	The student must revise and resubmit the final report after consulting with their supervisor. The revised work must meet the acceptable threshold.	A penalty of 10% deduction from the marks allocated to the report, and the student is given a chance to revise and resubmit the final report after consulting with their supervisor. The revised work must meet the acceptable threshold.	The final report will be rejected, and Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.

**Thresholds and Actions for the AI Content Detection**

<b>Assessment Type</b>	<b>Up to 30%</b>	<b>Action for AI Detection Rate 31% - 50%</b>	<b>Action for AI Detection Rate 51% - 100%</b>
Individual Written Assignments, Written Group Assignments, Take-Home Examinations or any other assessment BUSL specifically states.	Accepted	The student must revise and resubmit the work. The revised work must meet the acceptable threshold.	Assessment will be rejected.
Final Project Reports (Undergraduate and Postgraduate) (Thesis/Dissertation)	Accepted	The student must revise and resubmit the final report. The revised work must meet the acceptable threshold.	The final report will be rejected, and Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.

**Annex 2**

**Notification of Plagiarism and AI Detection**

Name:

Student Registration No:

Dear student,

Based on the BUSL's plagiarism and AI detection policy, your similarity index for the ..... is ....., which is more than the accepted level.

Hence, your document has been

a) Rejected

b) Forwarded back for re-submission

Please contact your supervisor or the relevant faculty member for further details or for the sources of plagiarism.

However, you can make a formal appeal based on this document within a week if you are not satisfied with this outcome.

Librarian

Date: