

# ual:

## Using Turnitin to support your writing

### What is academic integrity?

**Academic Integrity** comprises the core values and basic principles of honesty and responsibility that govern our practices in the work that we produce as scholars, researchers, and creative artists in the University.

### What is plagiarism<sup>(\*)</sup>?

You cannot take **someone else's** words, ideas or data and use them in your assignments so that they appear as though they are your own words, ideas or data as this is **plagiarism**.

One way to understand how **plagiarism** can happen is to consider your learning and your writing in terms of using '**your voice**' and using '**other people's voices**'. We use the term academic voice to talk about distinguishing between **your** thoughts and words, and those of **other** authors.

<sup>(\*)</sup>At UAL, **plagiarism** forms part of **Academic Misconduct**.

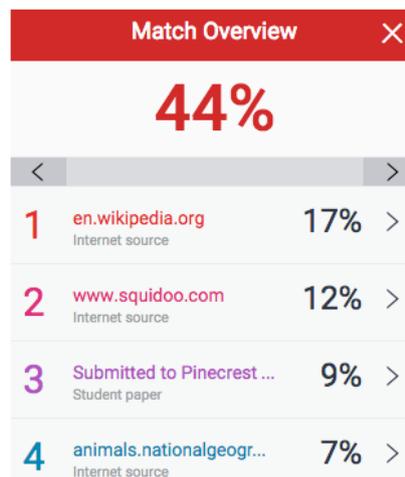
### What is Turnitin?

Turnitin is an online text-matching software programme or '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.

Turnitin is **not** a plagiarism detector although it can be used to inform detection of plagiarism. It is a piece of software that reports back the extent of **unoriginal** material.

It provides a **similarity report** that can be used by staff or students to assess work.

Below is an example of what you might see [The Similarity Report](#)



Match Overview		
<b>44%</b>		
<	>	
1	en.wikipedia.org Internet source	17% >
2	www.squidoo.com Internet source	12% >
3	Submitted to Pinecrest ... Student paper	9% >
4	animals.nationalgeogr... Internet source	7% >

- 3 Having clicked the Match Overview icon, this will also highlight any matches within the paper itself. Each match can be color-coded to help you identify them easily.

The blue whale's common name derives from bluish-hue that covers the upper side of its body, while its Latin designation is *Balaenoptera musculus*. The blue whale belongs to the Mysticeti suborder of cetaceans, also known as baleen whales, which means they have fringed plates of fingernail-like material, called baleen, attached to their upper jaws. Blue whales feed almost exclusively on krill, though they also take small numbers of copepods. An adult blue whale can eat up to 40 million krill in a day.

If your assignment has a high score on your similarity report, it does not mean that it has been plagiarised if the unoriginal text has been properly cited. However, it does mean that your work has relied heavily on other people's work, rather than your own. Even a 1% match could mean you have plagiarised if the unoriginal material has not been cited. You can use the similarity report to improve your academic writing by looking at the similarity index and checking what has been highlighted as matching.

### **Types of acceptable matched words:**

1. Quotations that are correctly referenced
2. References and bibliography
3. Matching formats: the same title
4. Tables and charts: shared data or statistics
5. Appendices
6. Small matches: common words
7. Paraphrasing: this has to be properly cited. Your tutor will decide if it has been properly paraphrased

### **Improving your writing**

1. **Paraphrasing** involves taking opinions and information and rewording them. When paraphrasing, it is important to keep the original meaning and present it in a new form, ensuring you include an attribution to the original source. Basically, you are simply writing something in your own words that expresses the original idea. Paraphrased material is usually shorter than the original passage
2. **Summary** involves putting the main idea(s) into your own words, including only the main point(s). Once again, it is necessary to attribute summarized ideas to the original source. Summaries are significant
3. **Quotations** must be identical to the original. They must match the source document word for word and must be attributed to the original author.
4. **Language of your discipline** Part of learning to write well in a discipline is using the vocabulary that practitioners use. If Turnitin has identified short phrases and terms that occur in most of the other writing in a discipline, this may be a sign that you are becoming a more confident academic writer.

### **Referencing**

At UAL, Harvard Referencing Style on the **Cite Them Right** Online website is used for all taught courses. On campus go to [Cite Them Right](#) and you will be automatically logged on. To login off campus go to [Cite Them Right \(off Campus\)](#) you will be asked to go via your home institution and then to log in with your University login and password.

### **What is Academic Misconduct?**

Academic Misconduct refers to any form of academic cheating. Please note that if you choose to use any proof reading services this may be subject to Academic Misconduct. You are therefore advised to make use of services such as Academic Support and Language Support offered by UAL only. Please note that '*Deliberately submitting the same piece of work for assessment for more than one assignment*' is classed as Academic Misconduct at UAL. Guidance on Academic Misconduct can be found on the [UAL Website](#).

**Further resources** regarding submitting work through Turnitin and viewing your similarity report can be found on the [eLearning Website](#).