

PLAGIARISM

The growing electronic availability of scientific texts, data, and graphs greatly assists scientists in the production of new work and facilitates worldwide academic exchange. Since the invention of copy and paste, however, committing plagiarism has also become easier.

What is plagiarism?

Plagiarism is the utilization of another's published or unpublished scientific work without giving credit to the original author. This lack of citation suggests that the work is the plagiarist's own idea.

The connection between the following two aspects is central to the definition of plagiarism:

- the use of another's work or an excerpt from a text written by another,
- a lack of indication that someone else's work is being used (no citation).

It is irrelevant if text excerpts have been copied, paraphrased or only used as inspiration; the adoption of another author's words or ideas must be indicated as such. This rule applies to every type of resource. Books, essays, journal articles, dissertations, bachelor and master's theses, papers and official reports must all be cited, as must graphs, computer programs, pictures or photographs, videos, and audio documents.

The problem

Plagiarism as described above contradicts the central aim of science: academic progress that takes place through the extension and extrapolation of results obtained in previous scientific work. For this reason, correct citation does not represent a form of plagiarism. Citations serve instead to strengthen the author's arguments and indicate extensive knowledge of the current state of research.

Plagiarism is a serious offence

Plagiarism is the gravest offence in the scientific world: it involves the theft of intellectual property by representing the ideas of another as your own.

Plagiarism is also inexcusable – anyone who deliberately represents another person's work as his or her own is committing fraud. A ban on plagiarism is enshrined in multiple laws governing secondary education. Several areas where no such legal ban exists are planning to add one.

Please note that plagiarism is becoming increasingly easy to prove, as the technological monitoring capabilities have decidedly improved. Evidence of plagiarism can have serious consequences. Anyone who plagiarizes on his or her application will not be admitted to the Graduate School of Global Politics. If a student plagiarizes while taking part in the program, he or she will not only automatically fail the class – the student in question also may have to deal with further disciplinary measures, including expulsion from the Graduate School and/or from the secondary institution. In the case of an expulsion, he or she will not receive the certificate for the Graduate School and/or his or her degree.