Information to teaching staff about the software Turnitin

The University of Trento is active in preventing the plagiarism of texts that are protected by law on copyright no. 633 of 22 April 1941.

The Code of ethics of the University of Trento expressly provides that “All research activity is based on the correct recognition and attribution of intellectual achievements. University members must therefore avoid every form of plagiarism or the improper use of the intellectual activity of others. […] With particular regard to the writing up of theses and texts, including the undertaking of examinations, it is the specific responsibility of individuals to uphold these rules, avoiding all forms of plagiarism and dishonest conduct. It is furthermore the duty of all university staff to flag every case of plagiarism or the improper use of the intellectual activity of others of which they may become aware”.

In addition to other specific forms of conduct, the Code of conduct for students of the University of Trento prohibits plagiarism of the works of others, defining it as “the improper reproduction of the intellectual activity of others in the elaboration of a written text of any kind, where such intellectual activity is not cited in the sources of the written text, or the unacknowledged appropriation of ideas, concepts, presentation, data or any other information reproduced in written work (including digital versions), or the oral expressions of others, without having expressly and correctly indicated the sources or having obtained the express consent of the author or inventor”.

In the Student Chart of Rights and Duties of University of Trento are specified the rights of the students, highlighting duties and behavior standards, recognizing the provisions of various domestic, national and international legislation. In point 12, letter V) is explicitly indicated that each student “does not plagiarize the work of others. Students are aware that plagiarism consists in improper reproduction or misappropriation of the intellectual activity. For the use of ideas, concepts, presentations, data and every other information
reported in written or oral interventions of others to write elaborations of every kind, also in
digital format, or oral presentation, the source must be correctly cited. In case of
unpublished material, the expressed consent of the author/inventor must be obtained
beforehand in compliance with copyright”.

Among Rights and Duties of PhD Students, which can be found at
https://www.unitn.it/ateneo/52918/diritti-e-doveri-dei-dottorandi-e-delle-dottorande, it can
be read that “Every member in the university community is obliged to avoid every form of
plagiarism or improper use of the intellectual activity of others, since every research
activity is based on the correct recognition and attribution of the results of the ingenuity,
and to report every case of plagiarism or improper use of other person’s intellectual
activity. With particular regard to the drafting of thesis and elaborations, as well as in the
conduct of examination test, it is specific responsibility of every individual to respect these
rules avoiding every form of plagiarism and dishonest conduct.”

The use of Turnitin software in order to control any possible form of plagiarism implies the
importance and need to provide appropriate information to students, whose work is
subjected to plagiarism detection software, about the use of the software and the
processing of personal data (Regulation (EU) 2016/679)

Turnitin LLC, provider of the antiplagiarism software, informs that the files containing the
written works uploaded on the platform merge in its databases anonymously and that they
are made available to all their costumers enabled to use the antiplagiarism software. On
one hand, the confidentiality of information is protected and on the other it the teachers of
the University are allowed to make a wider comparison with the text already inserted to
verify any analogies and therefore to prevent plagiarism.

Students must be informed not only about the use of the plagiarism detection software but
also about what constitutes plagiarism and on its consequences.
The University has therefore prepared an information notice that is available to students on Esse3. Students are required to read the information notice and to declare that they have read and understood the University’s anti-plagiarism and data protection policy:

- at the time of enrolment; and
- when applying for the award of the degree.

The information notice can be found here: [https://www.unitn.it/norme-regolamenti/188/manuali-e-procedure](https://www.unitn.it/norme-regolamenti/188/manuali-e-procedure) (in the “Prevenzione plagio” folder), in Italian and in English.

Further information may be obtained from

Ufficio Didattica Online (call 3316 or email uff.didatticaonline@unitn.it)