

Information Sheet on Plagiarism and Fraud¹

We inform our students about this topic in the introductory courses of the bachelor's and master's studies as well as in the seminars "Academic Writing I: Fundamentals" (Grundstudium of the bachelor's program) and "Academic Writing II: Writing and Presenting a Seminar Paper" (Aufbaustudium of the bachelor's program). With this information sheet, we provide further clarification about what exactly plagiarism is and what the consequences of submitting plagiarism are.

What is plagiarism?

Plagiarism is the reproduction or paraphrase of another author's text or thought without citing the underlying source(s), which gives the impression that the thought came to the author of the work herself / himself.

To avoid plagiarism, the following rules should be respected:

- Always present adopted ideas as a quotation with quotation marks ("...") and the corresponding source, including the page number. This also applies to own translations.
- Arguments or information that are not adopted word by word must be declared by citing the source as precisely as possible.

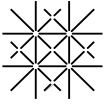
This is true for all texts that are written, i.e., seminar papers, bachelor's theses, master's theses or graded written work within the framework of lectures or a colloquium.

For plagiarism, it is sufficient that a coherent passage or even only one (important) sentence has been copied without citing the source. By doing so, the author misleadingly creates the impression, that the text was composed by him- or herself.

What are the consequences of plagiarism?

Submitting plagiarism is considered as dishonest examination practice and leads to an **exclusion from the studies of the Faculty of Business and Economics** at the University of Basel. This drastic measure emphasizes the importance we attach to the correct use of adopted ideas as an elementary and central element of academic work. To ensure that the students are informed about the consequences of plagiarism, it is compulsory to submit and sign a declaration in all seminar papers, bachelor's and master's theses attesting that the student has read the relevant paragraph of the study regulations. If the "plagiarism declaration" is missing, the student cannot plead that he or she was not aware of the consequences of submitting plagiarism.

¹ Revised version of the "Information Sheet on Plagiarism and Fraud" from 22.02.2011 (available in German)



How do I avoid plagiarism?

Document the source of every sentence, every text and every third party thought you use in your paper or thesis. Pay attention to consistency and completeness. If you produce extracts from secondary literature, make a clear distinction between your own reflections and the content you have adopted. If you don't do this consistently when creating these text extracts, you run the risk of believing in retrospective that the text originates from you, although you have taken it word by word from somewhere else. If you are insecure about citations, please ask your supervisor about the current standards.

Also, create an acknowledgement list at the beginning of the paper and describe the type of support you have received. Mention every supporter by name. Also indicate here, if you are using materials you have already consulted in previous papers. If you cite your own (earlier) work, do so explicitly. In case of uncertainty about the indication of support and supporters, always choose the more detailed version.

What does that mean specifically?

The following example shall illustrate what has been said:

Original: "The slow-growing sharks may thus be harvested to extinction without that the involved agents and societies may take collective resource-management actions." (Erhardt and Weder 2020, p. 12)

Taken from reference: Erhardt Tobias and Rolf Weder (2020), Shark hunting: On the vulnerability of resources with heterogeneous species, *Resource and Energy Economics*, 61, p. 1-18.

Below, you find different versions of this statement, and for each, there is a comment if it would be considered as plagiarism or not.

Version 1:

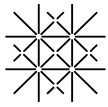
My analysis has shown that especially the slow-growing sharks may get harvested to extinctions if the societies do nothing to manage those collective resources accordingly.

Comment: A clear case of plagiarism. The author uses the same wording as in the original text and acts as if it was his or her analysis. Quotations marks are missing.

Version 2:

My analysis has shown that especially the slow-growing sharks may get harvested to extinctions if the societies do nothing to manage those collective resources accordingly (see Erhardt and Weder 2020, p. 12).

Comment: Still plagiarism. Clearly the wording is still the same as the original text. Quotation marks are needed and a correct direct citation. For an indirect citation, the sentence has to be substantially rephrased based on the author's own words.



Version 3:

Erhardt and Weder (2020) come to the conclusion: "The slow-growing sharks may thus be harvested to extinction without that the involved agents and societies may take collective resource-management actions." (p. 12)

Comment: Correct. The quotation marks show the original text and the source is precisely declared.

Version 4:

As an extension to the traditional models of optimal harvesting of renewable resources, Erhardt and Weder (2020) introduce heterogeneous growth rates within the resource. According to their analysis with shark hunting, this differentiation leads to the conclusion that especially the slow-growing sharks are endangered of extinction.

Comment: Correct. The source is mentioned and the author uses his or her own wording to embed one of the main conclusions from the paper by Erhardt and Weder (2020).

Version 5:

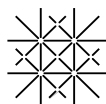
In my following argumentation, I assume that the demand curve has a negative slope. Thus, if the price falls, the demand rises and vice versa.

Comment: Correct. The concept of a negatively sloped demand curve can be seen as common knowledge in economics. Therefore, it is not necessary to name a specific source. However, if you are unsure, you can still name a source to back up yourself against potential critics.

In addition, take note that a direct one-to-one translation from another language still counts as plagiarism. Please take these remarks seriously. There is no disadvantage in adopting the ideas of others and quoting them correctly in a paper. On the contrary, it creates the basis for the author's own achievements to become transparent. If you have any questions, please contact the supervising lecturer.

Basel, 03 March 2022

Prof. Dr. Pascal Gantenbein
Dean of Studies and Chairman of the Examination Committee



Relevant Paragraphs and Sections in the Study Regulation and Study Guide:

Expiring Regulation:

- §24 der Ordnung für das Bachelorstudium Wirtschaftswissenschaften an der Wirtschaftswissenschaftlichen Fakultät der Universität Basel vom 18. Dezember 2008 | only available in German
- Abschnitt 3.7 der Wegleitung zum Bachelorstudium Wirtschaftswissenschaften an der Universität Basel vom 14. Mai 2009 | only available in German
- §15 der Ordnung für das Masterstudium Wirtschaftswissenschaften an der Wirtschaftswissenschaftlichen Fakultät der Universität Basel vom 19. Dezember 2007 | only available in German
- Abschnitt 3.7 der Wegleitung zum Bachelorstudium Wirtschaftswissenschaften an der Universität Basel vom 4. April 2008 | only available in German

New Regulation:

- §23 der Ordnung der Wirtschaftswissenschaftlichen Fakultät der Universität Basel für das Bachelorstudium 16. November 2020 | only available in German
- Abschnitt 7.3 der Wegleitung Bachelorstudium Wirtschaftswissenschaften an der Universität Basel – gültig ab 1. August 2021 | only available in German
- §23 of the Regulations of the Faculty of Business and Economics at the University of Basel for the Master's Program of 16 November 2020
- Section 8.3 of the Study Guide for the Master's Degree Programs Business and Economics, Business and Technology, Economics and Public Policy, Finance (starting in fall 2022) – valid as of 1 August 2021
- Section 8.3 of the Study Guide for the Master's Degree Programs Business and Economics, Business and Technology, Economics and Public Policy, Finance and Money – valid as of 1 August 2022