



Astron University

**POLICY ON USE OF PLAGIARISM DETECTION  
SOFTWARE AT ASTON UNIVERSITY**

## REG/14/625

### 1. Guiding principles

- 1.1 Aston University recognises that confidence in the academic output of their students is vital to ensure the credibility of the students' academic achievements. To this end Aston University will use the plagiarism detection services such as Turnitin™. It is intended that this service will mainly be used as a supportive and constructive tool.
- 1.2 Plagiarism detection services will be used by staff at Aston University primarily as a supportive teaching tool to enable students to understand the principles of good academic practice in relation to referencing and the use of academic texts in their own original work.
- 1.3 Plagiarism detection services will be used in the detection of poor academic practice and plagiarism.
- 1.4 The use of plagiarism detection services does not imply that plagiarism is suspected in every assignment that is electronically submitted through this process.
- 1.5 The use of plagiarism detection services will not be restricted solely for the purpose of originality checking.

### 2. Policy

- 2.1 Specific consent is given for the University to submit student work to plagiarism detection services through the enrolment process. This consent is listed in the Terms and Conditions of enrolment.
- 2.2 In giving this consent the student is not waiving their right to ownership of their original academic work.
- 2.3 Programme Handbooks will state the use of plagiarism detection services for each specific programme.
- 2.4 Should the University suspect that plagiarism has taken place they reserve the right to submit any assignment into the plagiarism detection services process.
- 2.5 The University may receive requests via plagiarism detection services from staff at another Higher Education Institution to allow them to access a piece of work submitted by an Aston University student in relation to a suspected case of plagiarism. This request must be received in writing (letter or email) from a named individual at the requesting institution. Such requests will normally be agreed to but will be decided on a case by case basis. It is the Executive Dean (or their nominee's) decision as to whether the assignment will be submitted for this purpose. In replying to such a request the Aston member of staff will ensure that the assignment when sent to the other institution does not breach any data protection guidelines or contain sensitive information. Guidance where needed should be requested from the Director of Registry and Student Planning.