

Plagiarism Checking Policy of CHSR (2025)

1. Introduction

Plagiarism, a growing concern across academia, research, and professional fields, fundamentally conflicts with CHSR's motto, Quest for Knowledge. It undermines research credibility, intellectual property rights, and academic integrity essential to institutions like BUP and its Centre for Higher Studies and Research (CHSR). This policy establishes clear institutional mechanisms to promote responsible research, publication, and academic integrity for all, particularly MPhil and PhD students. It provides a clear definition of plagiarism (intentional or unintentional), outlining preventive measures and procedures to deter plagiarism among MPhil and PhD researchers. It also states consequences for violations. CHSR aims to deter misconduct, uphold ethical scholarship, and ensure contributions to knowledge are original and trustworthy.

2. Aim

The aim of this policy is to cultivate a culture of academic integrity and trustworthiness within the CHSR research community by establishing robust systems to detect and prevent plagiarism, thereby safeguarding the originality of scholarly work.

3. Objectives

The core objective of this policy is to raise awareness of all those concerned about plagiarism and its bad effects. However, specific objectives are:

- a. To develop systems to detect plagiarism and to set up mechanisms to prevent researchers, faculty, or members of the University from committing the act of plagiarism.
- b. To identify:
 - (1) Originality and trustworthiness of the content/thesis.
 - (2) Unethical copying.
 - (3) Unauthorized use of parts/ or the whole of any work of the original author without proper citation.
- c. To ensure responsible conduct of research, study, project work, assignment, thesis, dissertation, and journal articles with a view to promoting academic culture and acting for the prevention of such misconduct.

4. Definition of Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the act of presenting another person's work, ideas, expressions, or intellectual property, whether written, visual, digital, or generated by artificial intelligence, as one's own, without proper acknowledgment.

The following acts are considered plagiarism under this definition:

4.1. Textual and Idea-Based Plagiarism

- A. Copying words, phrases, or sentences from a source without proper citation.
- B. Paraphrasing another's work while retaining the original structure or meaning, without credit.
- C. Using another researcher's argument, findings, or conceptual framework without attribution.
- D. Submitting someone else's work (published or unpublished) as your own.
- E. Presenting previously submitted work (self-plagiarism) without proper citation or permission.
- F. Improper or missing use of quotation marks for direct quotes.
- G. Providing inaccurate or fabricated references or citations.

4.2. Digital and Media-Based Plagiarism

- A. Copying media (images, charts, graphs, videos) from websites or publications without permission or citation.
- B. Using copyrighted music, audio, or video clips in academic presentations without proper rights.
- C. Reproducing artistic works (photos, graphics, paintings) without permission or attribution.
- D. Altering, remixing, or re-creating visual/audio works without acknowledging the source or original creator.
- E. Embedding copyrighted content in digital submissions without fair use or explicit rights.

4.3. Technology-Aided and AI-Generated Plagiarism

- A. Submitting machine-generated content (e.g., from ChatGPT or other AI tools) as original work without proper acknowledgment.
- B. Using automated text rewriters or paraphrasing tools to mask plagiarism.
- C. Incorporating AI-generated images, music, or code without clear attribution to the tool/source.

4.4 Other Unethical Academic Practices

- A. Commissioning or purchasing academic work for submission as your own ("contract cheating").
- B. Translating another's work from another language and submitting it as original without acknowledgment.
- C. Collaborating with others but submitting joint work as an individual effort without proper declaration.

5. Taxonomy of Plagiarism

5.1. Textual Appropriation

5.1.1 Verbatim (Word-for-Word) Plagiarism

- a. Copying text *directly* without quotation marks or attribution.
- b. **Example:** Pasting paragraphs from a journal into a thesis.

5.1.2 Paraphrasing Plagiarism

- a. Rephrasing source ideas *without crediting the original author*, even if words are changed, which is considered equally serious as verbatim copying.

5.1.3 Mosaic (Patchwork) Plagiarism

- a. Stitching phrases from multiple sources into new text, disguised by minor word changes. Tools like Turnitin now flag disjointed source weaving via "match correlation" algorithms.

5.1.4 Self-Plagiarism

- a. Reusing *your own* previously published/submitted work without disclosure or citation.

5.2. Technology-Enabled Plagiarism

5.2.1 Software-Based Evasion

- a. **Text Alteration:** Using AI spinners, translation tools, or character substitution (e.g., replacing "o" with Cyrillic "o") to evade detection.
- b. **AI-Assisted Plagiarism:** Submitting AI-generated content (e.g., ChatGPT) as original work. *Added based on 2025 policies.*

5.2.2 Code Plagiarism

Copying/adapting source code without attribution.

5.2.3 Data Plagiarism

Fabricating data or repurposing others' datasets without permission.

5.3. Collusion & Contract Fraud

5.3.1 Student Collusion

- a. Unauthorized collaboration on individual assignments (e.g., sharing drafts or analyses) .
- b. **Gray Area:** Discussing concepts is allowed; co-writing is not (Harvard Policy) .

5.3.2 Contract Cheating

Purchasing essays/code from third parties (e.g., EduBirdie, "tutoring" services).

5.4 Academic Integrity Breaches

a. Source Falsification

- Citing non-existent sources, misattributing content, or manipulating references .
- **Example:** Inventing citations to bolster arguments.

b. Examination Cheating

- Using unauthorized materials (e.g., hidden notes, AI tools) during exams .

C. Unauthorized File Sharing

- Distributing exam questions, lab reports, or assignments via platforms like Discord/Google Docs.

d. Inadvertent Plagiarism

- Unintentional failures: missing citations, poor paraphrasing, or stylistic errors. *Still penalized but often remediable*

6. **Application Areas.** Two major areas have been identified. These are:

- Core Areas:** This shall include abstract, summary, hypothesis, observations, experiment, concept, theory, perspectives, results, conclusions, policies, and recommendations. Similarity margin less than 2% must be maintained here.
- Non-core areas:** This shall include all other areas less the core areas. Writings like common knowledge, common sentence, prepositions, and articles may come under plagiarism detected by software. 15% plagiarism may be accepted.

7. **Allowable Limit for Similarity.**

- The maximum allowable limit for similarity will be 15% for all thesis papers, journal articles, and project proposals that are conducted under CHSR.
- Exclusion: The similarity checks for plagiarism shall exclude the following:
 - (1) All quoted work either falling under public domain or reproduced with all necessary permission and or attribution.
 - (2) All references, bibliography, table of content, preface, and acknowledgements.
 - (3) All small similarities of minor nature.
 - (4) All generic terms, laws, standard symbols, and standard equations.
 - (5) Common knowledge or coincidental terms, up to fourteen (14) consecutive words.
 - (6) Scientific/ Mathematical Formularies.
 - (7) Name of Institutions, departments etc.

8. **Other Parameters.**

- a. The researchers/author needs to follow the citation policy as under:
 - (1) When 10 words are taken together from some established core work, citation becomes essential.
 - (2) When the copied content reaches 40 words in accumulation, the fragment needs to be kept under inverted comma (“_”) in italic.
- b. Proper attribution, seeking permission of the author wherever necessary, acknowledgement of source compatible with the needs and specificities of disciplines and in accordance with rules and regulations governing the source is essentially required.
- c. References. Authors are required to cite reference in case of any content adopted from anywhere other than internet open sites.
- d. Internet Open Sites. In case of open site internet source, the copied contents if found more than **15%** in aggregate during plagiarism detection at any stage of PhD and MPhil program, the researcher shall not be considered for further proceedings.
- e. Self-Plagiarism. For Self-Plagiarism or cases where published work of the researcher is shown as Plagiarism in the check, a certificate (Plagiarism Self Exclusion Certificate, attached Annex-A) must be provided by the Supervisor.
- f. The Plagiarism check reports submitted by the researcher should be generated by the researcher/ author, through Turnitin or other software accredited by BUP at the time of PhD/MPhil thesis / Projects/Journal submission.
- g. Every researcher/author submitting a thesis/paper shall submit an undertaking mentioning that the produced document has been prepared by him/her and that the document is his/her original work and complies with the plagiarism policy by BUP.
- h. The supervisor will issue the Plagiarism Verification Certificate, certifying and authenticating the check performed by the student/Department. This certificate has to be submitted to CHSR at the time of submission of the thesis
- i. CHSR will check plagiarism for Projects and Journal articles in addition to PhD and MPhil thesis papers.

9. **CHSR Anti-plagiarism Committee:** The Composition of the committee is as under:

- a. Chair: Dean, CHSR, BUP.
- b. Members:
 - (1) Director, CHSR, BUP.
 - (2) Subject expert from related field with PhD degree.
- c. Member Secretary: Deputy Director, CHSR.

The committee will have the power to assess the level of plagiarism and recommend penalties accordingly.

10. **Categories and Penalty:** Individual found with plagiarized thesis/content out of the acceptable limit shall be categorized in the following groups and be considered for the following penalty:

- a. **Level A:** Similarities up to **15%** -minor similarities, no penalty.
- b. **Level B:** Similarities above **16% to 40%** shall be asked to withdraw the manuscript submitted and shall be asked to submit a revised script within a stipulated time not exceeding 6months.
- c. **Level C:** Similarities above **41%- 60%-such student shall be asked to withdraw the** manuscript submitted and shall be debarred from submitting a revised script for a period of one year.
- d. **Level D:** Similarities above **61%** - shall be asked to withdraw the manuscript submitted for publication, and such student's registration for the program shall be cancelled.

11. **Conclusion.** The CHSR Plagiarism Checking Policy tries to establish acceptable similarity thresholds, with a clear responsibilities for researcher, supervisors. This policy reinforces CHSR's commitment in maintaining excellence in research. The inclusion of specific procedures for detection, exclusion criteria, citation requirements, and structured penalties provides a transparent mechanism to deter academic misconduct. Strict adherence to this policy is mandatory for all MPhil, PhD, and research-related works under CHSR. CHSR hopes these standards will not only protect the credibility of individual researchers but also enhance the academic reputation as a center of trustworthy and high-quality knowledge production.