

What is plagiarism?

“Plagiarism is the unauthorised appropriation of another person's thoughts or ideas in the field of arts and science. It's theft of intellectual property.”

What does this mean?

In the field of science, it is essential to use references to provide evidence of other people's thoughts, ideas, and data. If data has been collected by third parties, it may also be used for your own work (for homework/presentations etc.). However, you need declare this data as external data with reference to the source, author/publisher. There are two options for this: cf. (comparisons) = extracts, paraphrasing (indirect) and “...” as a direct quote (verbatim).

What are the consequences for you regarding any accusation of plagiarism?

If you have **deliberately or unintentionally** plagiarised ideas, the examination you submitted will be void and you will be excluded from the examination. The majority of lecturers will allow you to fail the entire module, even if this only involves plagiarism in a partial examination (e.g. a presentation) and they will also not negotiate, even if tears are involved.

One possible consequence of an attempt to deceive is the expulsion from the university and consequent exmatriculation.

When working with variety of sources, you as a student have to add your own interpretation; you support one researcher or another. You have to draw conclusions and justify them. This is also scientific work.

You should always make sure you cite your sources correctly and provide a reference to the author. Ask your lecturer for the required citation style and scope of the citation (e.g. for presentations).

Please read the guideline for scientific work. You can find this on the TH Brandenburg website at <https://wirtschaft.th-brandenburg.de/studium/abschlussarbeiten/wissenschaftliches-arbeiten/>.

In addition to this, you can always have your homework or papers checked by plagiarism checkers online if you are not sure if you have accidentally plagiarised an idea.

For example, you can use tools such as <http://www.noplaiat.de/>.

Definition of “Plagiarism” acc. to Duden

Categories of scientific misconduct

False declarations:

Inventing false facts or facts without any evidence.

Theft of text and ideas:

Adoption of texts, duplication of facts without any evidence.

Pretense of authorship:

Unauthorised identification as the author. This means you must not pretend to be the author of texts that have been created by other people.

Deception:

Conscious or negligent copying of texts, parts of texts or contents of any kind without any evidence.