

## Plagiarism, copying and cheating

“Plagiarism, (that is, the act of including or copying, without adequate acknowledgement, the work of another in one’s work as if it were one’s own) is academically fraudulent and an offence against University discipline. Plagiarism, whether discovered before or after graduation, will be investigated and dealt with appropriately by the University.”<sup>1</sup>

Before you submit your thesis, therefore, you must consider whether you have acknowledged the work and ideas of other people if you have used these in your thesis.

Make sure that you have:-

- Acknowledged all the sources you have used whether they be books, journal articles, any other printed material, or the internet (note that the references to sources on the internet should be as detailed as those for journal citations, including author, title, full url/web address, and the date you accessed that url)
- Used normal academic conventions such as quotations or indentations to identify direct quotations from others’ work
- Acknowledged the sources if you have summarised or paraphrased someone’s work
- Acknowledged any help you have received in writing your thesis, or gathering data for it, whether this be in an acknowledgement list or at the appropriate points in the thesis. This might include assistance with techniques, external collaborations, provision of substantial materials etc.
- Acknowledge your colleagues where information used in your thesis has been gathered in conjunction with other workers (such as team-working in laboratories).
- In all events, be sure to consult with your supervisor on any issues relating to acknowledging the ideas or work of other people, and ask your supervisor to be mindful of your plagiarism concerns when they are reading your drafts.

Further information about plagiarism/copying/cheating is available from the University webpages: <http://www.aaps.ed.ac.uk/regulations/plagiarism/intro.htm>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.aaps.ed.ac.uk/Committees/APC/Meetings/2002-03/030618/PaperC5-Plagiarism.htm>  
(accessed 09/05/2005)