



RIMT UNIVERSITY

Established by the Govt. of Punjab as per Act No. 31 of 2015 & under section 2(f) of the UGC ,
NAAC Accredited

Ref. No. RIMT/DRC/_261A_/2025-26

Dated: 17-6-2025

Notification

With reference to the approval from the Academic Council of the University in its 11th meeting held on 16-5-2025, the Plagiarism Policy related to Ph.D. research work, publications, patents, etc. is hereby circulated for your information and implementation.

Head, DRC

Encl: as above

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PLAGIARISM POLICY

1. Objectives

- To create awareness about responsible conduct of research, thesis, dissertation, promotion of academic integrity and prevention of misconduct including plagiarism in academic writing among student, faculty, researcher and staff.
- To prevent plagiarism and punish a student, faculty, researcher or staff of RIMT University committing the act of plagiarism.

2. Similarity checks for exclusion from Plagiarism

The similarity checks for plagiarism shall exclude the following:

- i. All quoted work reproduced with all necessary permission and/or attribution.
- ii. All references, bibliography, table of content, preface and acknowledgements.
- iii. All generic terms, laws, standard symbols and standards equations.

Note: The research work carried out by the student, faculty, researcher and staff shall be based on original ideas, which shall include the title, abstract, summary, hypothesis, observations, results, conclusions and recommendations only and shall not have any similarities. It shall exclude a common knowledge or coincidental terms, up to fourteen (14) consecutive words for PhD thesis as per UGC notification F. 1-18/2010(CPP-II) on July 23, 2018. However, according to the policies of various reputed indexed journals, only three to five (3–5) consecutive words are generally considered.

3. Levels of Plagiarism

Plagiarism would be quantified into following levels in ascending order of severity for the purpose of its definition:

- i. **Level 0:** Similarities up to 10% - Minor similarities
- ii. **Level 1:** Similarities above 10% to 40%
- iii. **Level 2:** Similarities above 40% to 60%
- iv. **Level 3:** Similarities above 60%

4. Penalties

Penalties in the cases of plagiarism shall be imposed on students pursuing studies at the level of Masters and Research programs and on researcher, faculty & staff of the RIMT University only after academic misconduct on the part of the individual has been established without doubt, when all avenues of appeal have been exhausted and individual in question has been provided enough opportunity to defend himself or herself in a fair or transparent manner.

4.1 Penalties in case of plagiarism in submission of thesis and dissertations Institutional Academic Integrity Panel shall impose penalty considering the severity of the Plagiarism.

- i. **Level 0:** Similarities up to 10% - Minor Similarities, no penalty.
- ii. **Level 1:** Similarities above 10% to 40% - Such student shall be asked to submit a revised script within a stipulated time period not exceeding 6 months.
- iii. **Level 2:** Similarities above 40% to 60% - Such student shall be debarred from submitting a revised script for a period of one year.
- iv. **Level 3:** Similarities above 60% -Such student registration for that programme shall be cancelled.

Note 1: Penalty on repeated plagiarism- Such student shall be punished for the plagiarism of one level higher than the previous level committed by him/her. In case where plagiarism of highest level is committed then the punishment for the same shall be operative.

Note 2: Penalty in case where the degree/credit has already been obtained - If plagiarism is proved on a date later than the date of award of degree or credit as the case may be then his/her degree or credit shall be put in abeyance for a period recommended by the Institutional Academic Integrity Panel and approved by the Head of the Institution.

4.2 Penalties in case of plagiarism in academic and research publications

- I. **Level 0:** Similarities up to 10% - Minor similarities, no penalty.
- II. **Level 1:** Similarities above 10% to 40%
 - i. Shall be asked to withdraw manuscript.
- III. **Level 2:** Similarities above 40% to 60%
 - i. Shall be asked to withdraw manuscript.
 - ii. Shall be denied a right to one annual increment.
 - iii. Shall not be allowed to be a supervisor to any new Master's, and Ph.D. Student/scholar for a period of two years.
- IV. **Level 3:** Similarities above 60%
 - i. Shall be asked to withdraw manuscript.
 - ii. Shall be denied a right to two successive annual increments.
 - iii. Shall not be allowed to be a supervisor to any new Master's, and Ph.D. Student/scholar for a period of three years.

Note 1: Penalty on repeated plagiarism - Shall be asked to withdraw manuscript and shall be punished for the plagiarism of one level higher than the lower level committed by him/her. In case where plagiarism of highest level is committed then the punishment for the same shall be operative. In case level 3 offence is repeated then the disciplinary action including suspension/termination as per service rules shall be taken by the RIMT university.

Note 2: Penalty in case where the benefit or credit has already been obtained - If plagiarism is proved on a date later than the date of benefit or credit obtained as the case may be then his/her benefit or credit shall be put in abeyance for a period recommended by Institutional Academic Integrity Panel and approved by the Head of the Institution.

Note 3: If there is any complaint of plagiarism against the Head of the RIMT university, a suitable action, in line with these regulations, shall be taken by the Controlling Authority of the RIMT university.

Note 4: If there is any complaint of plagiarism against the Head/Dean of School/Department at the institutional level, a suitable action, in line with these regulations, shall be recommended by the Institutional Academic Integrity Panel and approved by the Competent Authority.

Note 5: If there is any complaint of plagiarism against any member of Institutional Academic Integrity Panel, then such member shall excuse himself / herself from the meeting(s) where his/her case is being discussed/investigated.

5. Plagiarism Detection Software: As part of the 'Shodh Shuddhi' initiative by the Union Government, 'DrillBit-Extreme Plagiarism Detection Software' has been introduced from November 1, 2023, under the INFLIBNET project for detecting plagiarism in theses and thesis-related publications. However, research supervisors and the scholars are advised to check the theses and manuscripts using globally recognized plagiarism detection software such as Turnitin, iThenticate, etc., and submit the similarity report to avoid any untoward situation in future.

6. Role and Responsibilities of the Research Supervisor:

- i. Supervisors must educate research scholars about academic integrity, ethical writing practices, and the importance of avoiding plagiarism.
- ii. They should guide students to conduct self-checks of their theses, dissertations, or manuscripts using reliable plagiarism detection tools (e.g., Turnitin, iThenticate) before submission.
- iii. Supervisors must thoroughly review the similarity reports to identify any instances of unethical copying or improper citation, and guide students in revising the content accordingly.
- iv. It is the supervisor's responsibility to ensure that the final research work submitted is original, properly cited, and free from plagiarism.
- v. They should ensure that a valid plagiarism report is submitted along with the thesis or manuscript, and maintain records for institutional verification.
- vi. Supervisors must be well-versed with the guidelines prescribed by the RIMT university, UGC and other regulatory guidelines on plagiarism, and ensure compliance in all research outputs.
- vii. Beyond technical checks, supervisors play a crucial role in instilling a culture of honesty, responsibility, and respect for intellectual property among scholars.



Dean, Academic Affairs