

Information for students

Use of the Plagiarism Software PlagAware at the University of Bremen

- *Which departments use the software?*

PlagAware is available to all teachers. The use of the software is not compulsory for lecturers, but they are free to make use of the offer.

- *Which documents can be checked?*

All written student work and dissertations can be checked with the software. Personal information of the authors (name, address, registration number, etc.) will be removed before checking.

- *What happens to the data?*

By agreeing to have their work stored on PlagAware's servers, students can contribute to the creation of a database that will make it easier to detect future plagiarism. Therefore, all students are asked to agree to this storage, which is solely for the purpose of plagiarism detection.

With the students' consent, the checked papers are stored in the database and are available there for future comparisons. The database can only be accessed for comparison with other papers submitted to the University of Bremen.

Consent to storage on the server can be revoked at any time by notifying the lecturer.

All aspects relevant to data protection law were clarified with the data protection officer of the University of Bremen and laid down in the usage and data protection concept.

PlagAware is a German company based in Neu-Ulm.



- *What sources are used for the check?*

In addition to the institution's own database, PlagAware takes into account all documents freely available on the internet.

- *How are the results of the plagiarism search used and what consequences can there be?*

The lecturers are obliged to check the electronically generated test report for plausibility, to classify the results in the context of the subject and to agree on possible consequences with the responsible committees (Prüfungsausschuss). The examination report points out suspected cases, categorises them with a traffic light system and calculates the proportion of suspected cases of plagiarism in a document. The report is always only a cause for close examination by the lecturer.

It is the auditor's task to assess whether the suspected cases are actually plagiarism and whether there has been an attempt to deceive. It may also be relevant here whether the deception was intentional and how significant it is for the scientific quality of the examined work. If the deception is intentional and significant, the examination will be graded as "insufficient" after a corresponding decision by the responsible review committee (Prüfungsausschuss; §18, Para. 1 AT BPO/MPO). In the case of inaccuracies, incorrect citations, etc., this can be punished by a reduction in grade or even failure. The final assessment of the examination performance is the responsibility of the auditor in each individual case.

The procedure for checking for plagiarism is confidential. The lecturers are bound to confidentiality within the scope of their official duties and as set out in the Ordnung zur Sicherung guter wissenschaftlicher Praxis in §7.