



## GUIDE TO CHECKING YOUR THESIS WITH TURNITIN

Turnitin is an online plagiarism detection and referencing checking system that compares your work against other documents in the Turnitin database or that are available online. It identifies and provides reports on similarities between documents and is a tool widely used to improve academic writing skills.

### How does Turnitin work?

Turnitin analyses a submitted document and compares it against the following:

- Current and archived web resources, including billions of archived web pages
- Student papers that have been submitted to institutions using Turnitin worldwide
- Scholarly literature including library databases, text books, journal articles, news articles and many other publications

Turnitin will then provide you with an originality report that highlights sections of your text that closely match others in the database or indicate sections that have been copied and not referenced correctly.

### Why should I check my thesis drafts using Turnitin?

When you are writing a large document such as a thesis, it can be easy to make errors or omissions in your referencing. Turnitin can help you identify these areas by highlighting sections of your text that closely match other material in the database. You can then correct your referencing or rephrase your writing to improve the originality of your work.

### When should I start checking my work with Turnitin?

You are encouraged to start checking your writing early and regularly to become familiar with Turnitin and the originality reports as they will be useful throughout your candidature. It is a good idea to discuss this with your supervisor as they may be able to help you interpret the originality reports and make suggestions to improve your referencing and writing.

### How can I access Turnitin as a higher degree research candidate?

Turnitin is available to all higher degree research candidates through the Research Training vUWS site. This site features a range of resources to support you at all stages of your candidature, including links to online workshops, training modules and research tools such as Turnitin.

You will be able to submit your work as many times as required and a new originality report will be provided each time you submit.

### **I'm concerned about privacy. Will my work be saved to the Turnitin database?**

No, if you submit your work using the Turnitin link in the Research Training vUWS site it will not be saved to the Turnitin database. The submission link has been set up specifically for higher degree research candidates so that their work is protected and so that multiple submissions will be allowed.

### **Can other people, such as supervisors, view my originality reports?**

Only you will have access to the reports that are generated and access will be through the Research Training vUWS site.

If you would like to share a report with your supervisor, you may consider setting up a meeting where you log in to vUWS and review the originality report together with your supervisor. Alternatively, you can download or print your originality report.

In some cases, a supervisor will request the GRS to submit a draft of a candidate's work to Turnitin. In these circumstances, we will provide the Turnitin report to your supervisor.

### **I have questions about using Turnitin. Who can I talk to for more information?**

All enquiries about how to use Turnitin should be directed to the Library:

<http://answers.library.westernsydney.edu.au/form.php>

If you need help with accessing Turnitin through the Research Training vUWS site, you can contact the Graduate Research School at [grs.enquiries@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:grs.enquiries@westernsydney.edu.au).