Plagiarism and auto-plagiarism: instructions

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined in Zingarelli's Dictionary as the *partial or total misappropriation of the original works, ideas, thoughts or data of another person* (Zanichelli 1999).

Plagiarism consists on adopting not only the words said by someone but also their ideas or other information: as summarizing or reporting with your own words the content of the work of another person without crediting the source with a proper reference. Translating phrases written in a foreign language and reporting them without its reference is also considered plagiarism.

During the preparation of the PhD thesis you must avoid plagiarism associated to:

- Inclusion of text produced by someone else.

You are allowed to summarize someone else's work in your own words but this has to be clearly specified as a summary and the source has to be reported.

In the case of reporting the exact words of a phrase or text (or its translation), it must be cited by using quotation marks, better with a different font type and adding the proper reference. In any case, quoting must be limited to only a few phrases or passages.

- Inclusion of illustrations, plots, pictures, etc that can be found in other publications, without previous consent of the editor.

Auto-plagiarism

While writing the PhD thesis, special attention must be paid to auto-plagiarism, which regard the re-use of articles already published by the same author.

Our model of thesis, according to the Italian tradition, is a research monograph rather than a compilation of the articles published by the PhD candidate (like in a recent trend spread over Northern Europe).

The thesis, even while having considerable similarities with the articles published by the PhD candidate, must have a higher level of detail and develop the topic in a deeper way than that presented in an article. In fact, a publication is necessarily brief (sometimes for a limited number of pages or to avoid deepening in the details), but a thesis shall include these omitted details (i.e. analythical development, description of the methodologies, additional evidences, etc.). Nothing bans the inclusion of those details in the body of the text or as appendices.

It is important that chapters containing material already published are preceded by an explanation such as: "*Part of the work described in this chapter has been previously published in…* (insert the quotation/s of the relevant articles)".

Useful tips

- ➢ A summary of considerations and advice on writing up the Doctoral Thesis and avoid plagiarism issues is available at:
  https://www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/administration-and-support-services/registry/academic-governance/public/academic-policy/research-degree-examinations/Plagiarism-issues-in-theses.pdf.
  Two paragraphs of this document deal with auto-plagiarism.

- ➢ An excellent guide prepared by the University of Oxford on good practices about drafting of publications free of plagiarism is available at:
  https://www.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxford/field/field_document/Academic%20good%20practice%20a%20practical%20guide.pdf

- ➢ Practical examples of plagiarism and how to avoid them:
  http://www-3.unipv.it/wwwscpol/files/plagio.htm

- ➢ Chicago style: documentary-note system - Università della Svizzera Italiana:
  https://en.bul.sbu.usi.ch/learning/chicago_note