



UNIVERSITY
OF TASMANIA

Turnitin Pilot, 2nd Semester Extension Plan

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1 Introduction

This document outlines a plan for extending through second semester the piloting of the plagiarism detection software Turnitin at the University of Tasmania, including associated student and staff development activities, and evaluation of its use.

The intended outcome of the pilot project is that

- a model for use of the software across the university will be produced
- staff and students will be aware of issues related to academic integrity
- staff and students will be aware of university policy and procedures regarding academic integrity issues
- staff will be able to manage issues around academic integrity

2 Background

The software has been piloted during first semester 2004 by a small number of units. A number of legal and procedural questions have been raised about use of the software, which need to be resolved before it can be used on a significantly wider scale.

Providing effective staff development opportunities to participants in the pilot has proved difficult. There is need for awareness raising regarding academic integrity issues and the university's policies and procedures in this area across the university community.

3 Pilot overview

The pilot will continue to involve a relatively small number of units. Heads of Schools will again be approached to nominate additional pilot participants and existing participants will have the opportunity to continue. The aim will be to have representation from all faculties and campuses and year groups, as well as one off shore unit.

The configuration of the software will be limited to a small number of models of use. These being:

- auditing model: staff submit student assignments to Turnitin and students do not have access to the reports.
- educative model: students are able to submit drafts to Turnitin and view the reports, before they submit their final version to Turnitin and are able to view the final report. Staff are able to view the reports on all student submissions to Turnitin, both draft and final.

[Rationale:

For each course assignment, Turnitin can be configured to operate in 4 different modes.

The modes excluded from the extension of the pilot are:

- *students can only submit the final version of their assignment to Turnitin and receive no feedback. Somewhat like a black hole and likely to cause anxiety. The student directly gains little from the experience.*
- *students can only submit the final version of their assignment to Turnitin and can see the report. In this case students receive information, but can do nothing about it – again it may create anxiety. This model may be appropriate in the longer term.*

The modes included in the extension of the pilot are:

- *Auditing model: submission of the student's work is handled by the teaching staff who would need to have access to an electronic copy of the student's work as a normal part of the assignment submission process. The student isn't informed regarding whether their work will be submitted to Turnitin nor the results of the analysis. Auditing of student work in this undeclared way is very likely to be adopted as a long term use of Turnitin, as it is a significant deterrent.*
- *Educative model: the student uses Turnitin to alert them to possible plagiarism in their work. They are then able to correct their work and submit a final version to Turnitin. This approach is appropriate for those learning about plagiarism. However it should not be used over a long period with a group of students as it may encourage attempts to fool the system. This model will result in low Turnitin scores.]*

Prerequisites for unit inclusion in the pilot will be:

- submission of an assessable item of work during semester two
- that the assessable item will be available in electronic form, either to the student and/or the teaching staff
- that the unit outline will include the statement "Students may be required to submit their work to Turnitin and/or unit teaching staff may submit student work to Turnitin"
- that information will be made available to students regarding academic integrity issues and the university's policies and procedures in this area, as well as school requirements regarding referencing.

Participation in the pilot does not require every assessable task in the unit to be submitted to Turnitin, this is at the unit coordinators discretion.

The pilot will continue to monitor the requirements for administration, resourcing, support and use of the software. Feedback from heads of schools, staff and students in academic integrity and plagiarism issues, as well as relevant university policies and procedures will be evaluated.

3.1 What involvement in the pilot will mean

- Staff will be required to use Turnitin according to predefined models
- Staff will have access to a range of resources on academic integrity issues and information about the use of Turnitin
- Students will have access to a range of resources on academic integrity issues and information about the use of Turnitin
- The unit coordinator will be responsible for providing the head of school with a summary of Turnitin's analysis of student work for each assessable task submitted
- The head of school and involved staff will have the opportunity to provide feedback on issues that arose as a consequence of Turnitin's use
- Students will be provided with opportunities to give feedback on academic integrity issues and the use of Turnitin

Staff participants will be responsible for:

- registering themselves on the Turnitin systems
- creating their individual courses within the system
- creating the individual assignments within each course
- providing their students where necessary with the appropriate Turnitin class id and password information, so they can enroll themselves in Turnitin and submit their assignments.

All participants will have access to the Service Desk for questions about the use of Turnitin or subsequent issues regarding the interpretation of results etc.

3.1.1 Support for use of Turnitin

Participating staff will have access to a range of resources on the use of Turnitin by staff and students, legal issues associated with the use of Turnitin and academic integrity resources.

The Service Desk will provide first tier support to staff and students on Turnitin. If the enquiry is not resolved, it will be referred to the FEU support line and if it still cannot be resolved, it will be referred to the CAVAL Help Desk.

3.1.2 Reporting

The results of the trial will be reported to the Steering Committee and PVC Teaching and Learning.

3.1.3 Timeline for Turnitin trial project

Time frame	Activity
23 June-30 June	Notification to HOS of opportunity to nominate units to participate in the pilot extension. Existing pilot participants contacted regarding continuing in the pilot.
2 July	Notification of participation in pilot to HOS and unit coordinator.
2 July	Provide access to support resources to unit coordinators
5-9 July	Conduct face to face training sessions for pilot unit coordinators on university policy and procedures on academic integrity, appropriate assessment design techniques to minimise plagiarism and use of Turnitin.
12 July – 8 October	Conduct unit based sessions for students on university policy and procedures on academic integrity, plagiarism issues and use of Turnitin.
12 July – 8 October	Conduct focus groups on academic integrity issues and university policy and procedures on academic integrity with heads of school, teaching staff and students.
27 September – 22 October	Evaluate participants experiences during the pilot
1-12 November	Prepare report and recommendations and distribute as appropriate

3.2 Evaluation

Evaluation of the pilot will involve investigating difficulties experienced using Turnitin, including the support and training available. As well awareness of the pilot group in comparison with control groups will be compared on issues of academic integrity, including university policies and procedures. Any perceived difficulties will be noted.

Addendum

The possibility of conducting a staff forum on academic integrity issues, either directly before or after Teaching Matters will be investigated.