

IFT - MALTA PLAGIARISM POLICY

Institute of Family Therapy – Malta
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INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE

Plagiarism violates expectations of honesty and trust which are necessary for academic work to exist within an ethical community. It undercuts basic requirements of higher education by reducing space for curiosity, reflection, inquiry and communication that contribute towards learning. Due to these reasons, plagiarism is considered to be a serious offence.

This policy is aimed at supporting students throughout their academic journey with IFT-Malta, to ensure they are aware of the appropriate procedures involved when making reference to other people's work. IFT-Malta also believes in supporting students to write with confidence within the framework of the APA7 guidelines.

Definition

Plagiarism is understood as submitting as one's own work, irrespective of intent to deceive, that which derives in part or in its entirety from the work of others without due acknowledgement.

Plagiarism can take numerous forms, including but not limited to:

1. Submitting someone else's work in one's own name;
2. Paying someone to write an assignment on one's behalf then submitting it with one's name;
3. Copying phrases verbatim without appropriately referencing the source;
4. Not citing sources correctly;
5. Failing to put quotes around cited material;
6. Paraphrasing or summarising ideas of another writer without acknowledging their source.

Policy

1. Every submitted written project or assignment has to be accompanied by the Institute's 'Assignment Submission Cover Sheet'. By filling in this sheet the student declares that the work he/she is submitting is original and is their own.
2. Tutors are aware that plagiarism may at times be committed unintentionally, and that in some cases students are not aware of appropriate citation guidelines. The extent of plagiarism will also impact the decision and actions taken by tutors with regards to tackling plagiarism. IFT-Malta takes a person-centred and case by case approach, and tutors may deal with plagiarism in different ways:

- Students may be required to re-write their assignment after receiving guidance from their tutors;
 - Students may receive a lower grade;
 - Students may fail their assignment;
3. Plagiarism will be taken very seriously and might result in a student being withdrawn from his/her course of studies.
 4. Students are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the APA 7 guidelines and seek support from tutors should they face challenges in their writing or have queries related to plagiarism.