



## Information on the Consequences of Plagiarism

(As of July 2020)

In the last years, an increased number of academic works were handed in at universities, which were, in part or fully, copied from other theses.

As a result, the Chair of Public Economics implemented the following guidelines on dealing with submitted academic works: All academic theses (**seminar papers as well as bachelor and master theses**) have to be handed in **digitally** (sent to the supervisor **via email**), in addition to **the print out**. The digital version has to fully match the print out in terms of content and wording. The submission deadlines for the print out also apply to the digital copy.

Moreover, a "[Declaration of Originality](#)" and a "[Declaration on the Use of Generative AI](#)" has to be submitted together with the thesis. The declaration needs to be added to seminar papers and has to be included in the binding of bachelor and master theses. For further formalities, see the document "Guidelines for scientific papers" on the webpage of the chair and the regularities of the examination office.

The digital version of every academic thesis is routinely checked with an **anti-plagiarism software**. By this time, the software has a very high hit rate, since it is based on a combination of internet search and a routine to detect stylistic inconsistencies.

If a submitted thesis is identified as plagiarism, **serious consequences** impend. Depending on the severity of the attempt to deceive, the consequences range from **downgrading**, over **grading a work „insufficient“**, to further sanctions involving the examination committee.

Plagiarism (according to the "Resolution des Deutschen Hochschulverbandes zur Sicherung guter wissenschaftlicher Praxis") denotes the case, in which the writings of a third party were completely or partially adopted for an academic thesis, word for word or nearly word for word, and submitted as **own** scientific work. Therefore, translating text into another language without indicating sources is also plagiarism. Analogous citations and literal citations put in quotation marks, which are marked as a quote and cited correctly, naturally **do not** apply to this definition.

Submitting a plagiarism is **not a minor offense** but represents a serious violation of basic scientific rules (cf. [Proposals for Safeguarding Good Scientific Practice of the German Research Foundation](#)). It is a violation of the copyright law (§ 23, 24 UrhG) and meets the criteria of a statutory offense of deception (§ 263 para. 1 StGB). It is equally deceptive to submit a paper a second time, which was submitted in full or in parts in other courses of business administration, economics or any other subject.