



Understanding Your Turnitin Report

What is a Turnitin report?

A Turnitin similarity report shows matches between the work you submit and the work of others. In the report passages are highlighted in different colours to show where matched material occurs. The number of matches within your work and the amount of text within these matches is used to generate a 'similarity score'. The more matched material that appears, the higher this score will be.

Is there a 'safe' similarity score?

No. Whilst a higher volume of matched material results in a higher score, there is no 'safe' figure when it comes to a similarity score. It is about how this material is presented on the page. The University of London General Regulations state that all work submitted must be the student's own, and a contravention of this is considered an assessment offence. An assessment with a similarity score of any size can contain passages that fulfil the University of London's definition of an assessment offence.

Is the Turnitin score the reason I have received an allegation of an assessment offence?

No. The Turnitin score may form part of the referral for investigation, but the main part will always be whether your assessment contains material that is not properly referenced. The Turnitin report is helpful in showing where this material may be within your submission, but further investigations will always take place to see whether there is proper referencing.

What does my assessment match to?

Matches can be to anything that is published and available within Turnitin's database, including material available online, in publications (e.g. journals) or previously submitted student papers.

The source listed is not the one I used when I wrote my assessment.

Please be aware that because written material can be reproduced in numerous places, online and offline, sources listed in either the letter or the Turnitin report may not precisely match those that you consulted when preparing your assessment. However, the source you used is not the main part of an assessment-offence allegation: this will always be whether you've referenced the material properly within your assessment.

My work matches to a student paper: does that mean you think I've copied from them?

Not necessarily. We understand that your work might match to another student's for a number of reasons. Often this means that you've copied material word-for-word from the same place, or that you've both used the course materials, for example. In our investigation, we will check this. If the only match we can find is to another student's work, we will tell you this in your letter.

I have used quotation marks and in-text citations and provided a reference list.

Please note that in order for your work to be properly referenced you must use quotations marks and in-text citations **every** time you use material word-for-word from somebody else's work. Every time you use somebody else's ideas and put these into your own words (paraphrase), you must provide an in-text citation. A complete referencing system will also include a reference list containing the details of each in-text citation. Missing even one set of quotation marks or one in-text citation can mean that that section of your assessment is not clearly marked as somebody else's work, and this contravenes the University of London's General Regulations.