



**ALLIANCE**  
**UNIVERSITY**

Private University established in Karnataka State by Act No. 54 of year 2010  
Recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi

**NAAC**  
**GRADE A+**  
ACCREDITED UNIVERSITY

## Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Policy

<b>Name of the Policy</b>	Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Policy
<b>Policy Document No</b>	AU/OOR/CFR/AIPP/2025/002
<b>Version</b>	02 (July 10, 2025)
<b>Description of the Policy</b>	The Academic Integrity and Plagiarism policy as approved by IAIP for teaching and learning; and Doctoral Studies
<b>Policy applicable to</b>	Faculty Members, Staff, Research Scholars and Students of the University from January 2024
<b>Approval Authority</b>	Board of Management
<b>Approval Date</b>	Meeting dated January 18, 2024 (Ver. 01)
<b>Responsible Office/Department</b>	Centre For Research; Dean-Research; Dean Academic Affairs; Deans of all Schools; Registrar

## **1. Preamble:**

In the interest of promoting Indian research and ensuring credibility and academic quality, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has implemented various measures to address the issue of plagiarism. One such initiative is the University Grants Commission (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018.

Aligned with the principles of academic ethics, responsible research conduct, and the prevention of academic misconduct, including plagiarism, the 2018 UGC regulations clearly state that students, researchers, and faculty must refrain from any form of academic dishonesty, particularly the unauthorized use or theft of intellectual property.

Accordingly, to avoid plagiarism, proper attribution of sources, obtaining prior permission from original authors where required, and providing acknowledgements in a manner appropriate to the discipline and in accordance with relevant rules and regulations are essential.

In compliance with the UGC Regulations 2018 on plagiarism, Alliance University adopts the following policies to detect, address, and enhance the quality and integrity of its research work.

## **2. Definitions:**

- “Plagiarism” is the unacknowledged use of another person’s work as one’s own work. Plagiarism involves copying of phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, or longer extracts from published or unpublished work including from the internet without acknowledgement of the source.
- “Self-Plagiarism” is the use of one's own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously.

## **3. Objectives**

- To foster awareness among students, faculty, researchers, and staff regarding the responsible conduct of research, thesis and dissertation writing, the importance of academic integrity, and the prevention of academic misconduct, including plagiarism.
- To establish an institutional framework that supports education and training aimed at promoting ethical research practices, academic integrity, and discouraging plagiarism.
- To develop effective systems for the detection of plagiarism and implement mechanisms for its prevention, along with appropriate disciplinary action against any student, faculty member, researcher, or staff found guilty of committing plagiarism.

## **4. Methods of Plagiarism:**

- Using another person’s language, data, illustrations, tables, or other materials verbatim without appropriately acknowledging the original source.



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- Reproducing sections from books, articles, reports, monographs, dissertations, or theses without proper citation.
- Submitting work that has been purchased, stolen, or borrowed, including assignments, experimental results, or findings.
- Rewriting or paraphrasing someone else's work without providing due credit to the original author.
- Presenting another individual's ideas as one's own without acknowledging the source.
- Copying, cutting, or pasting content from the internet or other digital platforms and submitting it as original work without adequate referencing or citation.

## **5. Plagiarism Detection Framework:**

### **5.1 Detection Tools:**

Alliance University employs a comprehensive plagiarism detection framework using URKUND and Turnitin software. This multi-tool approach provides a fully automated system for verification of academic submissions. When documents are submitted for plagiarism checking, they are analyzed against three primary source areas: internet-published content, publisher's databases, and existing student material. Upon completion of the analysis, detailed similarity reports are automatically generated and forwarded to the concerned faculty members for review and action.

### **5.2 Turnitin Access and Integration:**

Alliance University provides institution-wide access to Turnitin through its Learning Management System (LMS). This integration enables automatic plagiarism checking for all student submissions including assignments, project reports, and other academic work. The University has standardized Turnitin settings across all schools and departments to ensure uniform evaluation criteria. These universal settings maintain consistency and fairness in plagiarism detection throughout the institution. To ensure effective implementation, faculty members new to Turnitin must complete a mandatory training program. This requirement ensures competent use of the software and maintains consistent academic integrity standards across the institution.

## **6. Implementation Framework**

### **6.1 Department Academic Integrity Panel (DAIP)**

The Department Academic Integrity Panel (DAIP) plays a critical role in upholding academic integrity within Alliance University by fulfilling three key responsibilities.



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Firstly, the panel ensures that both faculty members and students within the department are well-informed about the University's plagiarism policy. Secondly, it actively disseminates these guidelines to all students in the respective schools, ensuring clarity on the rules, expectations, and consequences related to academic misconduct. Thirdly, the DAIP is responsible for reviewing and validating all plagiarism checks conducted within the department. Through its efforts in awareness-building, policy communication, and oversight, the DAIP upholds consistent standards of academic integrity across the University.

### **Composition of Departmental Academic Integrity Panel Committee**

Dean of the School	Chairperson
Program Director, Doctoral Program	Member Secretary
HoD/ Area Chair	Member

### **6.2 The Institutional Academic Integrity Panel (IAIP)**

The Institutional Academic Integrity Panel serves as the organization's supreme authority for handling academic integrity issues. Under the leadership of the Vice Chancellor as Chairperson, the panel brings together multiple experts consisting of high-ranking academic leaders from within the institution. IAIP holds core responsibilities focused on managing and supervising the institution's plagiarism policies. Their duties extend to conducting investigations into reported plagiarism incidents and carefully examining the recommendations put forward by Departmental Academic Integrity Panels. The panel also plays a crucial role in deciding suitable penalties when violations are confirmed. Through their work, they maintain uniform standards of academic integrity across every department within the institution. The IAIP operates within a well-defined governance framework that ensures smooth communication channels between itself and the departmental panels. Operating on strict timelines, the IAIP must review all cases submitted by Departmental Academic Integrity Panels (DAIPs) within a 45-day window and subsequently provide comprehensive recommendations to the Head of Institution.

### **Composition of Institutional Academic Integrity Panel Committee**

Vice-chancellor	Chairperson
Librarian	Member Secretary
Director, RAISE	Member
Director, Research	Member
Program Directors, Doctoral Program (all schools)	Member
LMS Coordinator	Member



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Alliance University has implemented several essential measures to uphold high academic standards and integrity. One such measure is that the Policy Document of the Institutional Academic Integrity Panel must receive approval from the Research Council prior to its implementation. This process ensures that all policies are aligned with the University's research objectives and academic standards.

## **7. Levels of Plagiarism and Thresholds**

### **7.1 Level of Severity:**

Plagiarism would be quantified into the following levels in ascending order of severity for the purpose of its definition:

- i. Level 0: Similarities up to 10% (Minor similarities)
- ii. Level 1: Similarities above 10% to 40%
- iii. Level 2: Similarities above 40% to 60%
- iv. Level 3: Similarities above 60%

### **7.2 Academic Level Thresholds:**

Alliance University has implemented specific similarity thresholds for academic work based on the Institution Academic Integrity Panel's latest guidelines. The University uses Turnitin software to enforce these standards across all academic submissions, including assignments, project reports, dissertations, and theses.

- For undergraduate projects, students must keep similarity scores at or below 20%.
- More rigorous standards apply to higher levels of study, with both postgraduate projects and PhD dissertations requiring similarity scores of 10% or less.

These carefully chosen thresholds help ensure students produce original work at every academic level. If any submission exceeds these limits, students must revise and resubmit their work to comply with the University's plagiarism policy.

### **7.3 Quoted References Guidelines:**

The Institution Academic Integrity Panel at Alliance University has set clear limits on the use of quoted references in academic works. Direct quotations must not exceed 25% of the total content in any thesis or dissertation. This rule ensures students demonstrate their own original thinking and analysis while properly incorporating existing research. Any submission containing more than 25% quoted material will be considered plagiarism and must be revised.



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The purpose is to encourage researchers to develop their own ideas and make meaningful contributions to their field, while still appropriately citing other scholars' work. To meet this requirement, students and researchers should track their use of direct quotations throughout the writing process.

#### 7.4 Citation Policy:

Keeping in view the policy of plagiarism, and avoiding piracy of intellectual property, the author needs to follow the citation policy:

- 14-word rule:

When 14 words are taken together from some established core work, the citation becomes essential.

- 40-word rule:

Also, when the copied content reaches 40 words in accumulation, the fragment needs to be kept under an inverted comma (“ ”) in italic.

- Reference Requirements:

Authors must properly cite references whenever they use content from any source, except for open internet sites. However, even when using content from open internet sites, there are limits: if the plagiarism detection system finds that more than 30% of the total content is copied from these sources, the work will be rejected and not considered for further review or proceedings.

**7.5 Similarity checks for exclusion from Plagiarism:** The similarity checks for plagiarism shall exclude the following –

- All quoted work reproduced with all necessary permission and/or attribution.
- All references, bibliography, table of content, preface, and acknowledgements.
- All generic terms, laws, standard symbols, and standards equations.

The research work carried out by the student, faculty, researcher, and staff shall be based on original ideas, which shall include abstract, summary, hypothesis, observations, results, conclusions, and recommendations only, and shall not have many similarities. It shall exclude common knowledge or coincidental terms, up to fourteen (14) consecutive words.



## 8. Penalties

In case of found guilty of plagiarizing, they shall be considered under the following class of severity:

### 8.1 Penalty for each level for thesis and dissertation submissions:

- **Level 0:** Similarities up to 10 % - No penalty.
- **Level 1:** (10-40% similarity): Students/ Research Scholars must submit a revised script within a stipulated time not exceeding 6 months.
- **Level 2:** (40-60% similarity): Students/ Research Scholars shall be debarred from submitting a revised script for a period of one year.
- **Level 3:** (above 60% similarity): Student/ Research Scholars registration for that programme shall be cancelled.

### 8.2 Penalty for each level for academic & research paper submissions:

- **Level 0:** Similarities up to 10 % - No penalty for minor similarities.
- **Level 1:** Similarities above 10% to 40% - The author/ researcher shall be asked to withdraw manuscript submitted for publication and shall not be allowed to publish any work for a minimum period of one year.
- **Level 2:** Similarities above 40% to 60% - The author/researcher will be required to withdraw the manuscript submitted for publication and will be prohibited from publishing any work for a minimum period of one year. In the case of faculty members, one annual increment shall be withheld. Additionally, they will be barred from serving as a supervisor for any M.Phil. or Ph.D. student/scholar for a duration of two years.
- **Level 3:** Similarities above 60% - The author/researcher will be required to withdraw the manuscript submitted for publication and will be prohibited from publishing any work for a minimum period of three years. In the case of faculty members, two consecutive annual increments shall be withheld, and they will be barred from supervising any undergraduate, postgraduate, master's, M.Phil., or Ph.D. student/scholar for a duration of three years.



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### **8.3 Repeated Plagiarism:**

If plagiarism is detected after academic benefits, credits, awards, or degrees have already been conferred, such recognitions shall be temporarily suspended. The Institutional Academic Integrity Panel (IAIP) will recommend the duration of the suspension, which must be approved by the Vice Chancellor. In determining the length of the suspension, the IAIP will consider the severity of the plagiarism and its impact on academic integrity. This policy applies to all forms of academic recognition previously granted by the institution.

### **9. Declaration:**

Through this policy statement, Alliance University affirms that all forms of academic dishonesty are strictly unacceptable. The University remains committed to continuously fostering awareness and upholding a culture of academic integrity across all levels.



*Handwritten signature and date: 14/7/25*