



PLAGIARISM – BASIC INFORMATION

(Lat. *plagium* – theft)

Plagiarism in the diploma thesis is an “appropriation of authorship” involving the use of another person’s work, idea, research findings or other intellectual property without acknowledging the source or providing information about the author.

Plagiarism can have an **explicit** form, as a deliberate appropriation of the authorship of the whole or part of a work protected by copyright and/or **implicit** - as presentation of someone’s intellectual property in a modified form, e.g. by changing the word order, use of synonyms, or text modification. A separate category is the so-called **translation plagiarism**, which can occur in both explicit and implicit form, and which consists in appropriating the authorship of another person’s translated work. Particularly drastic forms of plagiarism include also presenting a thesis bought from a third party as your own.

Plagiarism does not include the use of normative acts or their official projects, official documents, published patent or protective descriptions and simple press releases (excluding longer comments) without acknowledging the author. However, such a situation does not exempt the graduate from the obligation to specify in the footnote the type, date of issue, title of the normative act or the source of information.

In the case of the MA thesis, students should beware of **autoplagerism**, i.e. repeating large passages from the BA thesis or using the whole BA thesis in a new work.

Students who steal intellectual property, i.e. commit plagiarism, must take into account the following **consequences**:

- **refusal to approve a diploma thesis for defense** and an obligation to repeat the diploma seminar associated with a complete change of the diploma thesis subject; it may also involve changing the supervisor;
- **relegation from the university** on the decision of the University’s Disciplinary Commission (an order to conduct an investigation before such a committee falls into the scope of the Rector’s statutory duties);
- **civil liability** (proprietary) as a result of a claim lodged by the author of a plagiarized work whose copyright property rights were violated;
- **withdrawal** by the University on an administrative decision, of the **professional title** obtained on the basis of the diploma thesis whose author committed plagiarism (proceedings regarding the



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withdrawal of the awarded professional title can be initiated at any time - plagiarism is not subject to the statute of limitations);

- **criminal liability** in the form of a fine, restriction of liberty or imprisonment for up to 3 years, for stealing (appropriation of the authorship or deception as regards the authorship of the whole or a part of someone's work), obtaining the attestation of untruth in a document under false pretences and for the crime of using a document certifying untruth. The penalty depends on, among others, the scale of misappropriation.



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