

ANNOUNCEMENT ACTIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF PLAGIARISM



Image: <https://www.unil.ch/plagiat/home.html>

Context

Preparing students for having good writing practices is a responsibility the UNIL takes very seriously. As a Doctoral School, we believe that scientific integrity & the prevention of plagiarism should be at the heart of the PhD training.

We therefore encourage all the PhD students:

- To discuss about the good writing practices with the thesis director,
- To use the tools available at UNIL to ensure that all the written productions are free of any form of plagiarism.

Since 2020, the Doctoral school is carrying out occasional checks of theses manuscripts (when submitted for the private defense) & possibly all kind of written documents. Analyses are performed randomly or at the request of a member of the thesis committee or a teacher (*Directive de la Direction 3.15. Traitement des cas de plagiat dans le cadre de l'enseignement, article 1*).

How to develop good writing practices?

Each PhD student has to develop good writing practices during the doctorate training. The following resources are part of the learning process:

- Regular discussions and feed-back with the thesis director and the committee;
- The use of the UNIL on-line tutorial Epigeum (the activation key to this tutorial is sent to all newly registered PhD students with the welcome email);
- The courses about scientific writing (*organized by the Doctoral School FBM, the School of Languages UNIL & the CUSO transversal program*) and a new course about plagiarism organized by the CSE;
- The regular use of a reference management software (e.g. Zotero);
- The regular use of the plagiarism detection tool called COMPILATIO. Professors, members of the « corps intermédiaire » of UNIL & PhD students should have automatically access to the tool;
- Consultations (with an educational advisor of CSE-UNIL) & accesses to COMPILATIO (if needed) can be provided under request to: plagiat@unil.ch.

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What happens when a case of plagiarism is detected?

In case a control reveals a breach in a thesis submitted for the private exam, the Director of the Doctoral School will immediately inform the Thesis Director and the President of the Thesis Committee. The PhD Student will be summoned to a preliminary meeting with the Thesis Director & the President of the Thesis Committee, in presence of the Director of the Doctoral School. After the meeting, they will categorize the detection as 1. a light negligence, or 2. plagiarism. The President informs then the Thesis Committee.

1. In case of light negligence:

- The defense will take place as planned.
- The case will be addressed again during the private defense with the PhD student.
- The thesis committee will decide about the consequences at the end of the private defense & indicate them in the report for the Doctoral School FBM (e.g. correction of the manuscript, a reflection about the writing practice or another appropriate action as a function of each case and situation).

2. In case of plagiarism:

- The private defense is adjourned.
- A report of the President of the Thesis Committee & the Director of the Doctoral School will be forwarded to the FBM Deanship.
- The Deanship will analyze the case. If plagiarism is re-confirmed, the PhD student is summoned to the Deanship for an interview. Consequences will vary as a function of the severity of the plagiarism revealed. A detailed description of the procedure can be found in the Directives 3.15 (in attachment).

More information can be found on the website: <https://www.unil.ch/plagiat/home.html>

In summary

Mastering good writing practices is a skill that will positively enrich your scientific practice & facilitate relationships with peers. The objective of occasional checks of thesis manuscripts is to increase awareness & to encourage learning by using the tools developed by UNIL.

We wish you a great writing experience with your thesis. In case of any query, do not hesitate to contact us at any time of the process! Teachers, thesis directors, educational advisors and the administrative team are there to accompany you towards the PhD degree.

More information & useful documents can be found here:
<https://www.unil.ch/ecoledoctoralefbm/qwp>

