Interpreting a Turnitin Similarity report for Educational Supervisors:

What is your role?

Turnitin checks for similarity with other published works and submitted assessments. Plagiarism is taken very seriously by the University of Glasgow. For each Block there will be approximately 560 reports submitted. The role of the Assessment Team in the Undergraduate Medical School is to make sure that all students have submitted their Portfolio Cases to Turnitin for each block, and the Educational Supervisor's role is to review the Turnitin report, confirm that you have done this via the End of Block Assessment Form and to advise us if you are concerned about a student's similarity score by emailing: med-sch-assessment@glasgow.ac.uk

What is plagiarism?

The University of Glasgow's definition of plagiarism is:

The incorporation of material without formal and proper acknowledgement (even with no deliberate intent to cheat) can constitute plagiarism. Work may be considered to be plagiarised if it consists of: a direct quotation; a close paraphrase; an unacknowledged summary of a source; direct copying or transcription.

Main examples of plagiarism:

- Directly quoting other sources without proper referencing. This may be intentional or unintentional (forgetting quotation marks).
- Copying other students' work.
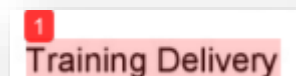- Copying own work for a differrent assessment (self-plagiarism).

What is NOT plagiarism:

- Sometimes, the similarity report will highlight the references list. This is not plagiarism, it means that these references were also used by other authors.
- Quoted material, which includes the quotation marks and clearly states where the information comes from. However, if the report contains a high proportion of quotes, the report can be penalised for poor writing style, since it will contain less reflection and synthesis of information.
- Small matches- certain phrases are difficult to write in different ways.

More information on what plagiarism is according to the University of Glasgow can be found here: https://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/leads/students/plagiarism/
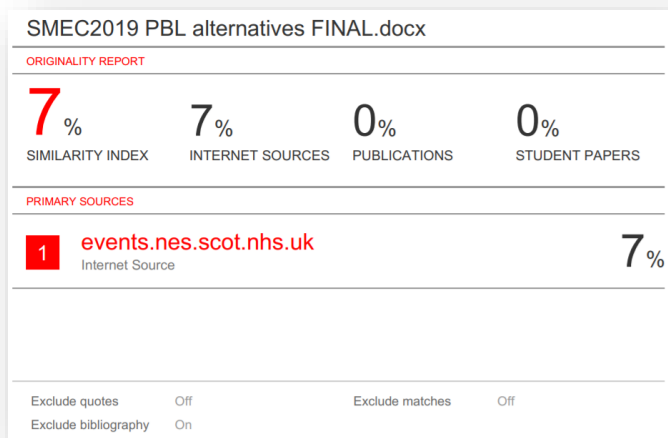
What will the report look like?

A similarity report will be a copy of the report, with text deemed similar to other sources highlighted. The number next to the highlighted text indicates which source (listed at the end of the report) the text is similar to.

A warning sign for plagiarism is when you see large parts of the text highlighted, with no obvious referencing.
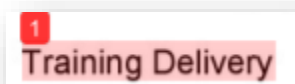
At the bottom of the report, you will see a summary table, similar to this example:

The similarity index tells you how much of the student work is similar to other sources. This is then broken down into types of sources.

- It is important to note that there is **no exact good or bad similarity index (%)**. The index generated must be understood in the context of the assignment, therefore the acceptability of the score should be determined at the discretion of the Educational Supervisor reviewing the case.

Under primary sources, you will get the list of sources which have text similar to the student assignment. The number matches the number next to highlighted text in the report. In this example, the text "training delivery" is similar to text in resource 1.

If you have any concerns about plagiarism or are unsure whether a report shows plagiarism, email us at the addresses provided above. All reports can be viewed online by us, so we can check them out quickly.

Thank you
The Assessment Team