



**Office of the Registrar
FATA UNIVERSITY FR KOHAT**

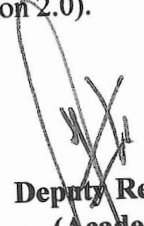
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June 04, 2026

No.Reg/FU/2026/I/ 94(e)

NOTIFICATION

Consequent upon the recommendations of 21st Academic Council under agenda item No 06 and subsequent approval by the syndicate in its 28th meeting held on 22.05.2026 under Agenda Item No 02, approved the adoption of the contextualised HEC Anti-Plagiarism Policy 2023 (Version 2.0).


**Deputy Registrar
(Academics)**

Copy to:

1. Controller of Examinations.
2. PA to Registrar.
3. All Head of Teaching Departments.
4. PA to Vice Chancellor
5. 28th Syndicate File
6. Office Copy


**Deputy Registrar
(Academics)**

FATA UNIVERSITY

ANTI-PLAGIARISM POLICY-2026

Version 1.0



Based on HEC Anti-Plagiarism Policy Version 2.0 (August 2023)

Registrar
FATA University
FR Kohat

FATA UNIVERSITY, FR KOHAT

Contents

List of Abbreviations	2
1. Preamble	2
2. Legal Basis and Mandate.....	3
3. Principles of the Policy.....	3
4. Definition of Plagiarism	3
5. Common Types of Plagiarism	4
6. Aims of the Policy.....	5
7. Applicability	5
8. Responsibilities.....	6
8.1. Responsibilities of the University	6
8.2. Responsibilities of Supervisors.....	6
8.3. Responsibilities of Scholars and Faculty.....	6
9. Lodging a Plagiarism Complaint	7
10. Investigating Plagiarism Complaints	7
11. University Anti-Plagiarism Standing Committee (UAPSC)	8
11.1. Constitution of UAPSC	8
11.2. Role of UAPSC	8
12. Submission of Findings by UAPSC	9
13. Penalties for Plagiarism.....	9
13.1. Grounds for Major Penalty	9
13.2. Grounds for Moderate Penalty.....	11
13.3. Grounds for Minor Penalty	11
13.4. Illustrative Examples	11
13.5. Co-author Responsibility	12
14. Additional Actions Required	12
15. Role of HEC National Plagiarism Standing Committee (NPSC)	13
16. Appeal Process.....	13
16.1. Internal Appeal (within FATA University)	13
16.2. External Appeal (at HEC NPSC)	13
17. Spurious or Malicious Accusations of Plagiarism	13
18. Review and Revision of this Policy	13
Annexure-I: Anti-Plagiarism Undertaking.....	14
Annexure-II: Terms of Reference (ToR) for UAPSC.....	15
Annexure-III: Guidelines for Interpreting the Similarity Index (EDS)	16


Registrar
FATA University
FR Kohat

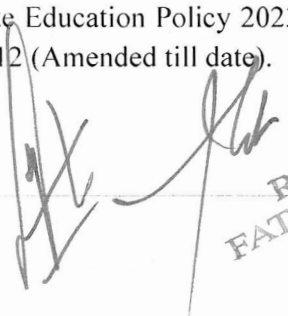
List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full Form
AGRC	Academic Grievance Redressal Committee
ASRB	Advanced Studies and Research Board
CNIC	Computerized National Identity Card
COPE	Committee on Publication Ethics
DAI	Degree Awarding Institution
DAS	Directorate of Advanced Studies
DGAC	Departmental Graduate Admission Committee
DOI	Digital Object Identifier
EDS	Electronic Detection System
GRC	Graduate Research Committee
GSA	Graduate Scholars Advisor
HEC	Higher Education Commission
HEI	Higher Education Institution
HoD	Head of Department
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
NPSC	National Plagiarism Standing Committee
QEC	Quality Enhancement Cell
UAPSC	University Anti-Plagiarism Standing Committee
VC	Vice-Chancellor

1. Preamble

The Higher Education Commission introduced the first Plagiarism Policy in 2007 to protect, respect, credit, and recognize original research and scholarly publications, and to curb the menace of plagiarism through systemic improvements. In August 2023, the HEC issued a revised Anti-Plagiarism Policy (Version 2.0) reflecting improvements in principles, definitions, complaint procedures, penalties, and appellate processes.

FATA University, FR Kohat, in fulfilment of its mandate to uphold academic integrity and in compliance with HEC directives, adopts and contextualizes this Anti-Plagiarism Policy for its scholars, faculty members, researchers, and staff. This Policy is aligned with the FATA University Graduate Degree Programs Regulations and Procedure-2026, the HEC Graduate Education Policy 2023 (GEP-2023), and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Universities Act, 2012 (Amended till date).


Registrar
FATA University
FR Kohat

The University firmly believes that the implementation of this Policy will significantly enhance academic integrity, thereby improving the overall quality of graduate and postgraduate education and research at FATA University.

2. Legal Basis and Mandate

This Policy derives its authority from the following:

- (i) Section 25(2)(g) and Section 29(2) of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Universities Act, 2012 (Amended till date), which vest in the Syndicate of FATA University the power to frame Regulations for the conduct of academic programs.
- (ii) Section 10(a) of the HEC Ordinance 2002, which mandates the Commission to develop policies for improving and promoting quality and ethical research culture.
- (iii) HEC Anti-Plagiarism Policy Version 2.0 (August 2023), adopted mutatis mutandis by FATA University.
- (iv) FATA University Graduate Degree Programs Regulations and Procedure-2026, Sections 27.6 and 38, which explicitly require adherence to COPE guidelines and prohibit plagiarism in all thesis and dissertation work.

3. Principles of the Policy

This Policy is guided by the following principles:

- a. Awareness for Preventing Plagiarism: FATA University and its faculty members shall arrange regular capacity-building workshops and orientations within each calendar year to create awareness about avoiding plagiarism in its various forms.
- b. Following Research Ethics: All scholars, faculty members, and staff of FATA University shall follow research ethics to avoid plagiarism in their academic and research contributions.
- c. Respecting Intellectual Contribution: Researchers, scholars, and faculty members shall acknowledge other researchers' intellectual work as per the norms of their respective disciplines and as required by recognized citation styles (APA, MLA, Chicago, etc.).
- d. Devising Clear Processes: Plagiarism is considered a serious matter, and FATA University shall maintain proper, detailed, and transparent processes for investigating and addressing any complaint of plagiarism.
- e. Proportional Penalty: Penalties for plagiarism shall be commensurate with the severity and recurrence of the offence, as elaborated in Section 13 of this Policy.

4. Definition of Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined, for the purposes of this Policy, as the act of using another person's ideas, words, data, code, images, or work — directly or indirectly — without proper acknowledgement, attribution, or citation, and presenting it as one's own original work.

 
Registrar
FATA University
FR Kohat

The following acts constitute plagiarism within the scope of this Policy:

- a. Stealing and presenting the ideas or words of others as one's own.
- b. Using another person's work without citing and crediting the source.
- c. Committing literary theft.
- d. Presenting as new and original any idea or product derived from an existing scholarly source.
- e. Submitting someone else's work as one's own.
- f. Copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit.
- g. Failing to use quotation marks when copying the exact language from a source.
- h. Providing incorrect information about the source of a quotation.
- i. Changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without attribution.
- j. Copying a bulk of words or ideas from references, regardless of whether credit is given.

The following technology-mediated acts also constitute plagiarism if done without permission:

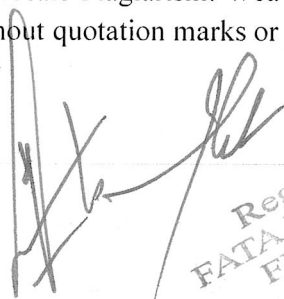
- a. Copying media (images, graphics) from other sources and incorporating them into one's work without attribution.
- b. Making a video or audio production using copyrighted material without permission.
- c. Using ChatGPT, AI language models, or other machine-generated text to produce academic or research content and representing it as one's own work. Researchers may use AI tools only for understanding and must not use them to replace key research tasks such as producing scientific insights, analyzing data, or drawing scholarly conclusions. All authors are accountable for the content they submit.
- d. Reproducing or adapting software source code without permission from, and attribution to, the original creator.

For guidance on avoiding unauthorized use of copyrighted material, FATA University directs scholars and faculty to the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) guidelines available at <https://publicationethics.org/guidance/Guidelines>.

5. Common Types of Plagiarism

The following types of plagiarism are recognized under this Policy:

- a. Word-for-Word Plagiarism: Copying and pasting content without proper attribution or reference.
- b. Paraphrase Plagiarism: Rephrasing a source's ideas without proper attribution.
- c. Mosaic Plagiarism: Weaving phrases and text from several sources into one's work without quotation marks or proper attribution.



Registrar
FATA University
FR Kohat

- d. Self-Plagiarism: Reusing one's previously published or submitted work without proper attribution or disclosure.
- e. Contract Cheating: Engaging a third party (for a fee or otherwise) to complete a thesis, assignment, or publication and submitting it as one's own work.
- g. Software-based Text Modification: Running another person's content through text-spinning or translation software to evade plagiarism detection.
- h. Manual Text Modification: Manipulating text with the intention of misleading plagiarism detection software.
- i. Data Plagiarism: Falsifying, fabricating, or improperly appropriating someone else's data or results.
- j. Source-based Plagiarism: Providing inaccurate or incomplete information about sources, including citations to non-existent sources.
- k. Inadvertent Plagiarism: Unintentional failure to properly cite or quote a source.
- l. Computer Code Plagiarism: Copying or adapting source code without permission from, and attribution to, the original creator.

6. Aims of the Policy

This Policy seeks to:

- (i) Create awareness about all forms of plagiarism among scholars, supervisors, faculty members, and staff of FATA University.
- (ii) Establish clear and transparent procedures for lodging and investigating plagiarism complaints within the University.
- (iii) Define proportional penalties for acts of plagiarism, ranging from minor to major offences.
- (iv) Protect original research and intellectual contributions of all researchers affiliated with FATA University.
- (v) Ensure compliance with HEC Anti-Plagiarism Policy Version 2.0 (August 2023) and GEP-2023.
- (vi) Safeguard against spurious or malicious plagiarism complaints.

7. Applicability

This Policy applies to all persons engaged in academic, research, and scholarly activities at FATA University, including:

- (i) Registered scholars enrolled in MS/MPhil, LLM, PhD, or equivalent graduate degree or undergraduate degree programs.
- (ii) Regular, contractual, visiting, ad hoc, and adjunct faculty members.
- (iii) Researchers, post-doctoral fellows, and research associates.

- (iv) Non-teaching staff engaged in any academic or research contribution.

The Policy applies to all academic work, including but not limited to: theses, dissertations, research proposals, journal articles, conference papers, book chapters, reports, assignments, and any other scholarly output submitted or published in the name of FATA University.

All scholars, supervisors, and stakeholders who have placed their CVs or publications on the University website, or are applying for any benefit based on published or presented works later proven to be plagiarized, will be liable to punishment as per this Policy.

8. Responsibilities

8.1. Responsibilities of the University

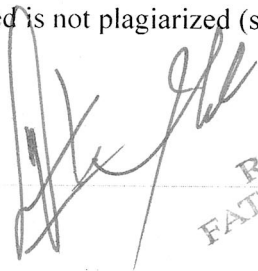
- (i) The Directorate of Advanced Studies (DAS) shall serve as the primary institutional body responsible for the implementation and monitoring of this Policy.
- (ii) The Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) shall maintain the Electronic Detection System (EDS) and ensure access to plagiarism detection software (e.g., Turnitin) for all departments.
- (iii) The DAS shall arrange at least one orientation session per academic year for incoming scholars and faculty on research ethics and plagiarism avoidance.
- (iv) The Registrar's Office shall ensure that all scholars sign an Anti-Plagiarism Undertaking (see Annexure-I) at the time of admission or thesis submission.
- (v) FATA University shall maintain a University Anti-Plagiarism Standing Committee (UAPSC) as its standing investigative body for plagiarism complaints.

8.2. Responsibilities of Supervisors

- (i) Supervisors shall train their scholars in proper citation, referencing, and academic writing norms at the commencement of the research program.
- (ii) Supervisors shall run a similarity check through the approved EDS on each thesis/dissertation before submitting it to the DAS for evaluation, as required under Section 27.6 of the FATA University Graduate Degree Programs Regulations and Procedures-2026.
- (iii) Supervisors shall be responsible for any act of plagiarism committed by their scholars after January 1, 2008, in accordance with HEC Anti-Plagiarism Policy guidelines.

8.3. Responsibilities of Scholars and Faculty

- (i) All scholars and faculty members shall ensure that their academic submissions are original and properly cited.
- (ii) All authors and co-authors of publications must sign a declaration that the material presented is not plagiarized (see Annexure-I).



Registrar
FATA University
FR Kohat

(iii) Scholars must obtain anti-plagiarism certificates from the DAS or QEC before submitting their thesis/dissertation for external evaluation, as required under Sections 11.1 and 27.1 of the FATA University Graduate Degree Programs Regulations and Procedures-2026

9. Lodging a Plagiarism Complaint

A complaint regarding plagiarism may be lodged with the Vice-Chancellor of FATA University or the Director of Advanced Studies for further investigation. The complainant may be a faculty member, scholar, researcher, or concerned citizen.

In cases where the accused person is the Vice-Chancellor, the complaint should be forwarded to the National Plagiarism Standing Committee (NPSC) at HEC, through the Chairperson HEC or the Quality Assurance Division of HEC, with a copy to the Appointing Authority.

To file a valid complaint, the complainant must provide:

- a. A copy of CNIC (for Pakistani nationals) or Passport (for foreign nationals), or other legally valid proof of identity.
- b. Full citation of the original work that was allegedly plagiarized, including title, author(s), publication title, month and year, and journal or repository details.
- c. Full citation of the allegedly plagiarized work, including all available details and DOI number where applicable.
- d. Original journals or certified copies of both the allegedly plagiarized document and the original document.
- e. Any other information that would help FATA University efficiently probe the allegation.
- f. Name, designation, department/organization, email address, and telephone number of the complainant.
- g. Where an examiner's or reviewer's report indicates plagiarism, that report may form the basis of an investigation.

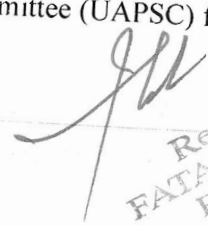
Anonymous complaints shall not be entertained. The Vice-Chancellor may become the complainant if there is overwhelming evidence of plagiarism.

If the University fails to take up a complaint within 90 days, HEC may forward the complaint to the Chancellor of FATA University for information.

10. Investigating Plagiarism Complaints

Upon receipt of a plagiarism complaint, the Vice-Chancellor/Director DAS of FATA University shall:

- a. Consider the allegation and constitute or activate the University Anti-Plagiarism Standing Committee (UAPSC) for investigation.

 
Registrar
FATA University
Page 7 of 16

- b. Provide clear Terms of Reference (ToR) to the UAPSC (see sample at Annexure-II).
- c. Provide a fair opportunity to the accused to defend the originality of their work. A similar opportunity shall be provided to the original author(s) or complainant to testify.
- d. Ensure that all UAPSC members sign confidentiality and conflict-of-interest statements. Members with a conflict of interest shall recuse themselves.
- e. The UAPSC shall submit its investigation report to the Vice-Chancellor within sixty (60) days. The report shall also be shared with the complainant.
- f. The Vice-Chancellor, Registrar, or Director QEC shall notify the outcome to the complainant, the accused, and HEC.

11. University Anti-Plagiarism Standing Committee (UAPSC)

11.1. Constitution of UAPSC

The Vice-Chancellor of FATA University shall constitute the University Anti-Plagiarism Standing Committee (UAPSC) with the following composition:

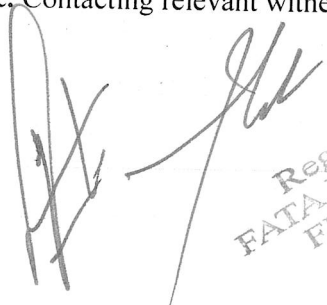
- (i) HEC Nominee: A faculty member nominated by the Quality Assurance Division of HEC, well-conversant with the HEC Anti-Plagiarism Policy — Member
- (ii) Senior Dean of FATA University — Member
- (iii) Two senior Professors from outside FATA University — Members
- (iv) Three subject experts: one from FATA University and two from other universities, to be nominated by the Academic Council and approved by the Syndicate. FATA University shall maintain a panel of experts from all major disciplines, approved by the Academic Council — Members
- (v) Director QEC, FATA University — Member/Secretary

The quorum of the UAPSC shall be four (04) members. The seniority/rank of committee members should be equal to or greater than that of the accused, keeping in view the nature and gravity of the offence. The most senior member present shall chair the UAPSC.

11.2. Role of UAPSC

The UAPSC shall conduct a thorough investigation. Depending on the complaint, the investigation may include:

- a. Automated check through the Electronic Detection System (EDS)/Turnitin for content similarity (see Annexure-III for interpretation guidelines).
- b. Scanning hard copies or manually generated content into searchable digital format.
- c. Determining the magnitude and quantum of significant material plagiarized.
- d. Soliciting comments from publishers and other relevant quarters.
- e. Contacting relevant witnesses to gather and record statements.



Registrar
FATA University
FR Kohat

- f. Interviewing present and/or past supervisors, collaborators, or any other persons of interest.
- g. Consulting with the University Law Officer on all related matters.
- h. Taking any other necessary steps deemed fit for a thorough investigation.

12. Submission of Findings by UAPSC

The UAPSC shall submit its findings and recommendations to the Vice-Chancellor of FATA University within sixty (60) days of constituting the investigation. The findings shall also be communicated to the publisher (where applicable). Decisions approved by the Syndicate shall be implemented as soon as possible.

An appeal against the decision of UAPSC may be filed before the Syndicate of FATA University within thirty (30) days of the notification of the UAPSC decision.

13. Penalties for Plagiarism

Plagiarism is an unacceptable intellectual offence. Penalties shall be commensurate with the severity, intent, and recurrence of the offence, as well as the academic standing of the offender. The UAPSC, in its recommendations — depending upon the seriousness of the proven offence — will advise the Competent Authority (Syndicate for students/faculty; Chancellor for Vice-Chancellor) to take any one or a combination of the following disciplinary actions.

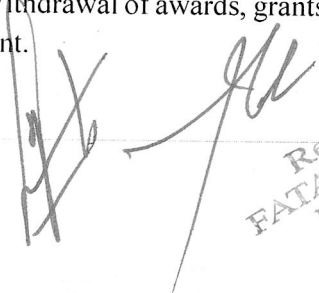
13.1. Grounds for Major Penalty

A major penalty shall apply where plagiarism is determined to be:

- a. Deliberate and intentional.
- b. Constituting much of the publication or thesis.
- c. A duplicate publication claimed for credit more than once.
- d. Between 35% and 50% in the similarity index and/or over 30% in the findings section.
- e. Simply a translation of another work without attribution.
- f. The result of collusion or falsification.
- g. Junk science: presenting untested and unproven theories as established scientific facts.
- h. Material in which no reference to the original source is given.

Major Penalties:

- (i) Removal from service or dismissal from FATA University (in the case of faculty/non-faculty employees).
- (ii) Withdrawal of awards, grants, promotions, or benefits received based on plagiarized content.


Registrar
FATA University
FR-Khat
Page 9 of 16

- (iii) Expulsion from FATA University (in the case of scholars).
- (iv) Suspension of studies for two (02) semesters (in the case of scholars).
- (v) Barring the offender from joining any HEC-recognized institution for one (01) year (in the case of students).
- (vi) Debarring the offender from HEC or University-sponsored research funding, travel grants, scholarships, fellowships, or any funded program for two (02) years.
- (vii) Informing the publisher and requesting withdrawal of the plagiarized work (in the case of published work).
- (viii) Stopping the offender from supervising new MPhil/PhD scholars for two (02) years. Scholars already under supervision shall continue.
- (ix) Circulating a formal notice to all academic institutions and research organizations.

13.2. Grounds for Moderate Penalty

A moderate penalty shall apply where plagiarism is determined to be:

- a. Deliberate but spread over a substantial, not dominant, part of the work.
- b. Between 25% and 35% in the similarity index (exclusive of tables, figures, and references) and/or 20–30% in the findings.
- c. The result of collusion or falsification.
- d. Junk science, as defined above.

Moderate Penalties:

- (i) Failing the concerned course (in the case of a scholar).
- (ii) Stopping the offender from increments, promotions, or new appointments for two (02) years.
- (iii) Stopping the offender from supervising new MPhil/PhD scholars for one (01) year. Scholars already under supervision shall continue.
- (iv) Declaring the offender ineligible to seek or avail funding for national/international projects, grants, or joint projects for one (01) year.

13.3. Grounds for Minor Penalty

A minor penalty shall apply where plagiarism is determined to be:

- a. Unintentional, not claimed for benefit, and not mentioned in the CV.
- b. Concentrated in one limited part of the work.
- c. Not more than 20–25% similarity index overall and/or not more than 10% in the findings.
- d. Not materially affecting the results.
- e. Due to an error, omission, or lapse of judgment.

Minor Penalties:




- (i) Mandatory proposal revision (in the case of scholars).
- (ii) Mandatory completion of a Research Ethics Course before degree completion.
- (iii) Issuing a formal written warning to be placed in the scholar's/employee's file.

13.4. Illustrative Examples

Example 1: A thesis has a similarity index of over 25% overall, with 15% in the findings, because the author failed to properly rephrase a derived theoretical model. The author accepts the error, and the findings are credible. The UAPSC may award a minor penalty.

Example 2: A paper is found to have been deliberately copied in part and shows evidence of collusion among co-authors. The findings are not necessarily inaccurate, and the SI is approximately 35% overall with 15% in the findings. A moderate penalty is appropriate.

Example 3: An author has published modified versions of the same paper in multiple journals and claimed credit for each. There is clear evidence of collusion and intent to defraud academia. A major penalty is warranted.

Note: The UAPSC may impose one or more penalties in all cases. These guidelines must be applied with due caution and reason, keeping in view the particularities of the case.

13.5. Co-author Responsibility

- (i) The primary responsibility for plagiarism in a publication lies with the Principal Author (Corresponding Author/First Author).
- (ii) Any co-author(s) may be deemed partly responsible if the UAPSC investigation reveals that they were aware of the wrongdoing and chose to benefit from it with their consent for publication duly taken.
- (iii) In a supervisor-student publication, the student shall be the first author. This condition applies where a student is enrolled in a degree program and the supervisor is advising the research.
- (iv) All authors/co-authors must sign a declaration that the material presented is not plagiarized (see Annexure-I).

14. Additional Actions Required

In addition to the penalties listed in Section 13, the following actions shall be taken where plagiarism is established:

- a. If the plagiarized publication is accessible on any webpage or repository, access to it will be retracted.
- b. The publication will be retained in the database for future research or legal purposes.
- c. The offender shall be required to write a formal letter of apology to the original author(s) whose work was plagiarized.
- d. If the publication is submitted but not yet published, the draft will be rejected. A written warning shall be served to the author(s) and co-author(s).

15. Role of HEC National Plagiarism Standing Committee (NPSC)

The HEC National Plagiarism Standing Committee (NPSC) serves as the final appellate body for plagiarism cases at the national level.

FATA University scholars, faculty, or other stakeholders may approach the HEC NPSC in the following circumstances:

- (i) Where a plagiarism complaint has not been addressed by the University despite at least three (03) documented attempts by the complainant.
- (ii) Where the accused is the Vice-Chancellor of FATA University, in which case the complaint shall be forwarded directly to the NPSC through the Chairperson HEC or the Head of the Quality Assurance Division.

Once a complaint is forwarded to HEC, the University shall submit a report to HEC within sixty (60) days. Non-compliance will result in a formal Note of Displeasure to the Vice-Chancellor.

16. Appeal Process

16.1. Internal Appeal (within FATA University)

- (i) The first appeal against a UAPSC decision shall be filed before the Syndicate of FATA University within thirty (30) days of the notification of the UAPSC decision.
- (ii) The Syndicate shall constitute an appeal committee, which shall give the complainant and the accused a fair opportunity to present evidence in their defense.
- (iii) UAPSC may also seek a legal opinion through the University Law Officer.
- (iv) The final decision of the Syndicate shall be conveyed to all parties and a copy forwarded to the Head of Quality Assurance Division, HEC.

16.2. External Appeal (at HEC NPSC)

- (i) If dissatisfied with the Syndicate's decision, the complainant/accused may file a second appeal to the NPSC through the Chairperson HEC or the Head of the Quality Assurance Division within six (06) months of the first complaint.
- (ii) The NPSC shall review the appeal, co-opt subject experts, and provide both parties an opportunity to present evidence.
- (iii) The final decision of the NPSC, after approval by the HEC Chairperson, shall be conveyed to the appellant, the University, and the Appointing Authority.

17. Spurious or Malicious Accusations of Plagiarism

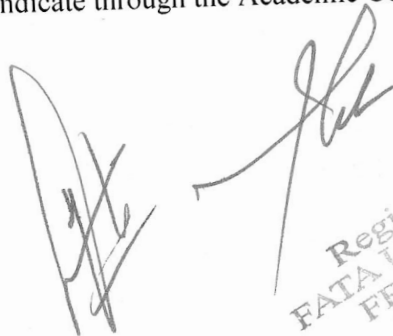
If a plagiarism case is not proven and there is evidence that the allegation was spurious or malicious, the Vice-Chancellor of FATA University may initiate disciplinary proceedings against the accuser under the University Statutes and applicable E&D/Student Disciplinary Rules. Defamation laws may also be applicable in case of loss of reputation.

If the accuser is from another institution, the Head of that institution will be informed and requested to initiate disciplinary action.

False accusers may be subject to blacklisting as specified on the HEC website for a fixed period and will not be eligible for any grant or benefit from HEC.

18. Review and Revision of this Policy

This Policy shall be reviewed at least once every three to five years, or earlier if significant changes occur in HEC policy, national law, or the academic environment. Recommendations for revision shall be submitted by the Directorate of Advanced Studies to the Syndicate through the Academic Council for consideration and approval.



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ANNEXURES

Annexure-I: Anti-Plagiarism Undertaking

FATA UNIVERSITY, FR KOHAT
DIRECTORATE OF ADVANCED STUDIES
Anti-Plagiarism Undertaking for Thesis/Dissertation Submission

Name of Scholar: _____

Registration No.: _____

Department: _____

Program (MS/MPhil/LLM/PhD): _____

Title of Thesis/Dissertation: _____

I/We, the undersigned, declare and affirm that:

1. The thesis/dissertation/paper/work submitted by me/us is my/our own original work.
2. It does not violate the copyright or intellectual property rights of any person or entity.
3. It does not contain previously published material in whole or in part without proper permission and attribution.
4. I/We have not used AI-generated content (ChatGPT or similar) to produce the research findings, analysis, or conclusions presented in this work.
5. I/We understand that if any material submitted to FATA University is found to be plagiarized, the University and HEC may take disciplinary action as per the FATA University Anti-Plagiarism Policy, including cancellation of degree, suspension, expulsion, or barring from HEC programs.
6. The similarity index of this thesis/dissertation has been checked and is within the permissible limit as prescribed by HEC ($\leq 19\%$ overall; $\leq 9\%$ in findings/conclusions section; $< 5\%$ from any single source).

Scholar Signature: _____ Date: _____

Supervisor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Co-Supervisor Signature (if any): _____ Date: _____

Verified by HoD/Chairperson: _____ Date: _____

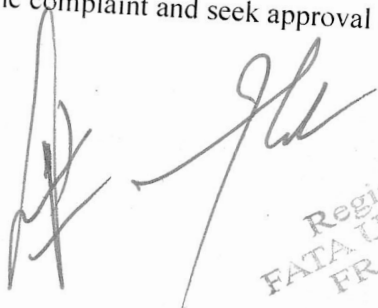


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Annexure-II: Terms of Reference (ToR) for UAPSC

The University Anti-Plagiarism Standing Committee (UAPSC) shall operate under the following Terms of Reference:

1. The Director QEC/Registrar shall verify that the complaint is not anonymous and confirm the identity of the complainant.
 2. An initial plagiarism check shall be run through the EDS/Turnitin to verify the genuineness of the complaint.
 3. Subject experts may be engaged (if required) to provide individual opinions on the case.
 4. Questions shall be prepared for a formal hearing with both the complainant and the accused.
 5. The convener shall compile the final investigation report.
 6. The investigation process must be completed within sixty (60) days.
 7. The UAPSC recommendations shall be notified by the Director QEC/Registrar/Vice-Chancellor.
 8. All UAPSC members shall sign confidentiality and conflict-of-interest declarations.
 9. Members with any conflict of interest shall recuse themselves from the proceedings.
- Note: Each department/committee should customize these ToRs based on the specific nature of the complaint and seek approval from the relevant statutory body.



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Annexure-III: Guidelines for Interpreting the Similarity Index (EDS)

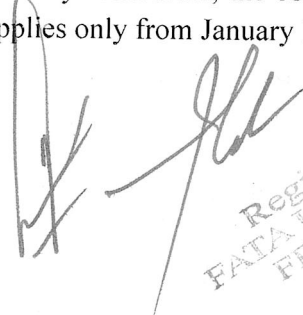
The following guidelines shall govern the interpretation of the Electronic Detection System (EDS/Turnitin) similarity reports at FATA University:

1. The similarity score is a percentage of text that matches sources in the EDS database. It is a guideline and alert, not conclusive evidence of plagiarism.
2. Properly quoted and cited material may appear as matched text. The full Similarity Report must be reviewed to assess context.
3. Common phrases, proper nouns, universal truths, mathematical formulae, and small matches of fewer than five to ten words may be disregarded by the supervising faculty or subject expert.
4. Bibliography, quoted/cited material, and table headings may be excluded from the final EDS report after verification.
5. Similarity with the author's own previous work (thesis, paper, report) may be ignored if properly cited and not excessive, and if it does not result in a duplicate publication.
6. EDS is a text-matching tool and cannot discern similarity across graphs, formulae, models, images, or other non-text materials.
7. The similarity score must be interpreted by the relevant subject expert or supervisor who knows the context of the work.

Permissible Similarity Thresholds at FATA University (as per HEC guidelines):

- Overall similarity index: $\leq 19\%$
- Similarity from any single source: $< 5\%$
- Similarity in the findings/conclusions/results section: $\leq 9\%$
- If the overall SI exceeds 19% or any single source exceeds 5%, the matter shall be referred to the GRC for review.

Note: Before the availability of Turnitin services in Pakistan, supervisors had limited ability to check similarity. Therefore, the collective responsibility of supervisor and student for plagiarism applies only from January 1, 2008 onwards.


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