

# Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

ATU Library

# What is Plagiarism?

The action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own.

Oxford English Dictionary

## 'Only two pages' of Luxembourg PM's university thesis were not plagiarised

**Xavier Bettel admits dissertation 'should have been done differently' after investigation uncovers plagiarism**



📹 Xavier Bettel said his thesis was 'written with a clear conscience' but an inquiry found just two of the work's 56 pages had not been plagiarised. Photograph: Johanna Geron/EPA

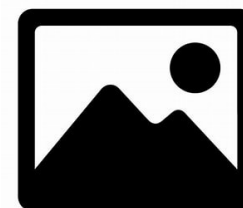
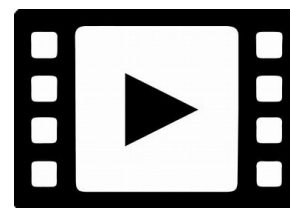
Luxembourg's prime minister, Xavier Bettel, has admitted his university thesis "should have been done differently" after a media investigation concluded that only two of the work's 56 pages had not been plagiarised.

HENLEY, J., 2021. 'Only two pages' of Luxembourg PM's university thesis were not plagiarised'. *The Guardian*. 27 October. Available from: <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2021/oct/27/luxembourg-xavier-bettel-university-thesis-was-mostly-plagiarised> [Viewed 24 January 2022].

## Is Plagiarism Just About Copying Text?

No!

Music, videos, images and the spoken word can all be plagiarised.



# Plagiarism in the news

Taylor Swift files in Shake It Off copyright lawsuit: 'The lyrics were written entirely by me'

**CULTURE**  
James Corden Accused of Stealing Ricky Gervais' Joke: 'Word for Word'  
s of 3LW's 2000 song Playas Gon'  
! the case is due to return to court



**Ed Sheeran says he will quit music industry if he loses plagiarism trial**



Was Melania Trump's speech plagiarized from Michelle Obama?

[COOPER ALLEN](#) | USA TODAY



# Plagiarism is a serious academic offence

Why? As an ATU student you are expected to maintain standards of academic integrity.

Academic integrity means:

- Doing your academic work well and **with honesty**
- Giving credit to other people's work and ideas by **correctly citing and referencing the original source.**

[ATU Student Hub / Academic Integrity](#)



[GoComics.com](http://GoComics.com)

# What happens if I plagiarise?

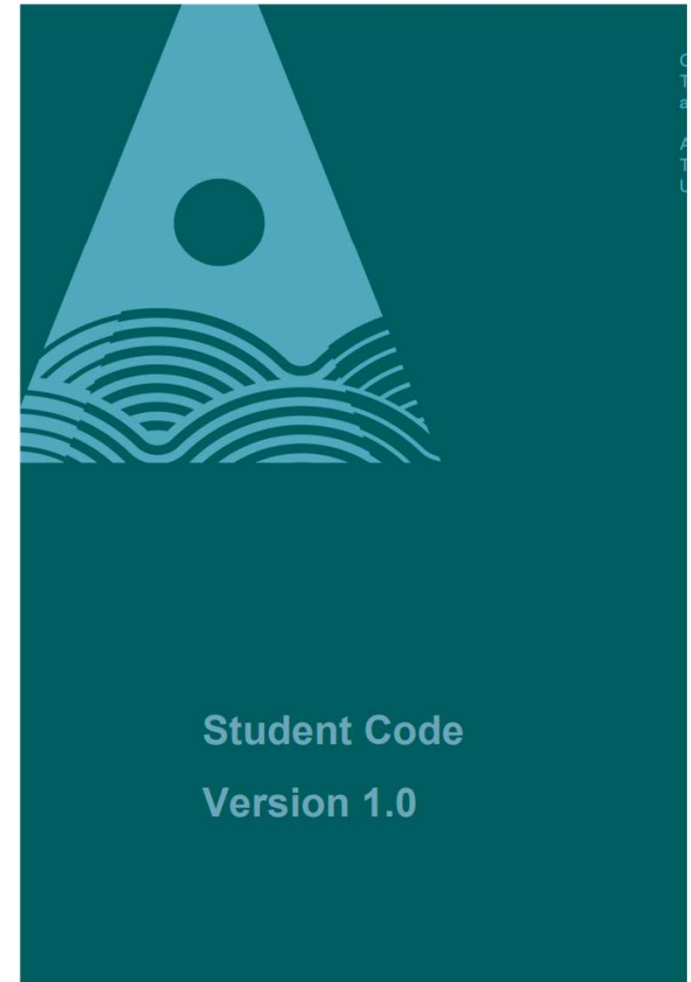
It depends on the extent of the plagiarism.

For example, how much of the work is plagiarised? Are you first year or final year?

Penalties in ATU can include:

- Formal warning
- Assignment downgraded or awarded zero %
- Case referred to Disciplinary Committee

[ATU Student Hub / Academic Integrity / Plagiarism Policy](#)



How is it  
detected?



[CCBY-SA-NC](#)

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Your lecturer notices changes in your writing style

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Your lecturer can 'Google' suspect phrases

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ATU's plagiarism detection software (Turnitin)

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Disciplinary procedures

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Resubmission of work



# Why do people plagiarise?

## Intentional Plagiarism

- Time pressure
- Laziness
- Open to cheating



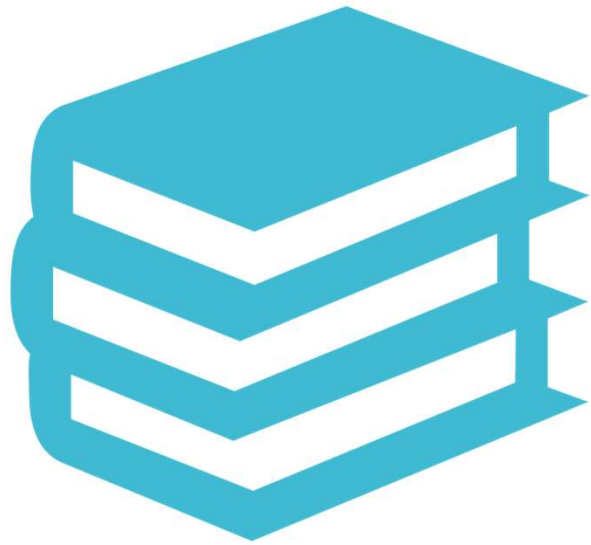
[CC BY-NC-ND](#)

## Unintentional Plagiarism

- Misunderstanding what plagiarism is
- Failing to reference correctly
- Carelessness / Time pressure



Not understanding what plagiarism is or failing to reference is no excuse... it's still plagiarism!



# What Counts As Plagiarism?

## Submitting work that isn't your own

- Getting someone else to write your assignment
- Using generative AI, for example, ChatGPT
- Paying someone to write your assignment



Copying text from a source and pasting it into your essay... without referencing

Not putting an author's exact words in quotation marks

Failing to reference all the sources you used

Using an image, graph, chart, video or anything else you find online in your work without providing a reference

Failing to  
reference  
correctly

# Common knowledge

The only source you can use in an essay without referencing it, is information that is considered **common knowledge**

## **Common knowledge examples**

- There are twelve months in a year
- Julius Caesar was a Roman
- Galway is in Ireland

Not sure if it's common knowledge? If in doubt, reference!

# What You Can Do



# ATU's Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism is the act of copying, including or directly quoting from the work of another **without adequate acknowledgement**, in order to obtain benefit, credit or gain.

[ATU Student Hub / Academic Integrity / Plagiarism](#)

***...without adequate acknowledgement*** means **without referencing your sources.**

You must always show where you found the information you are using in your work by referencing it correctly.

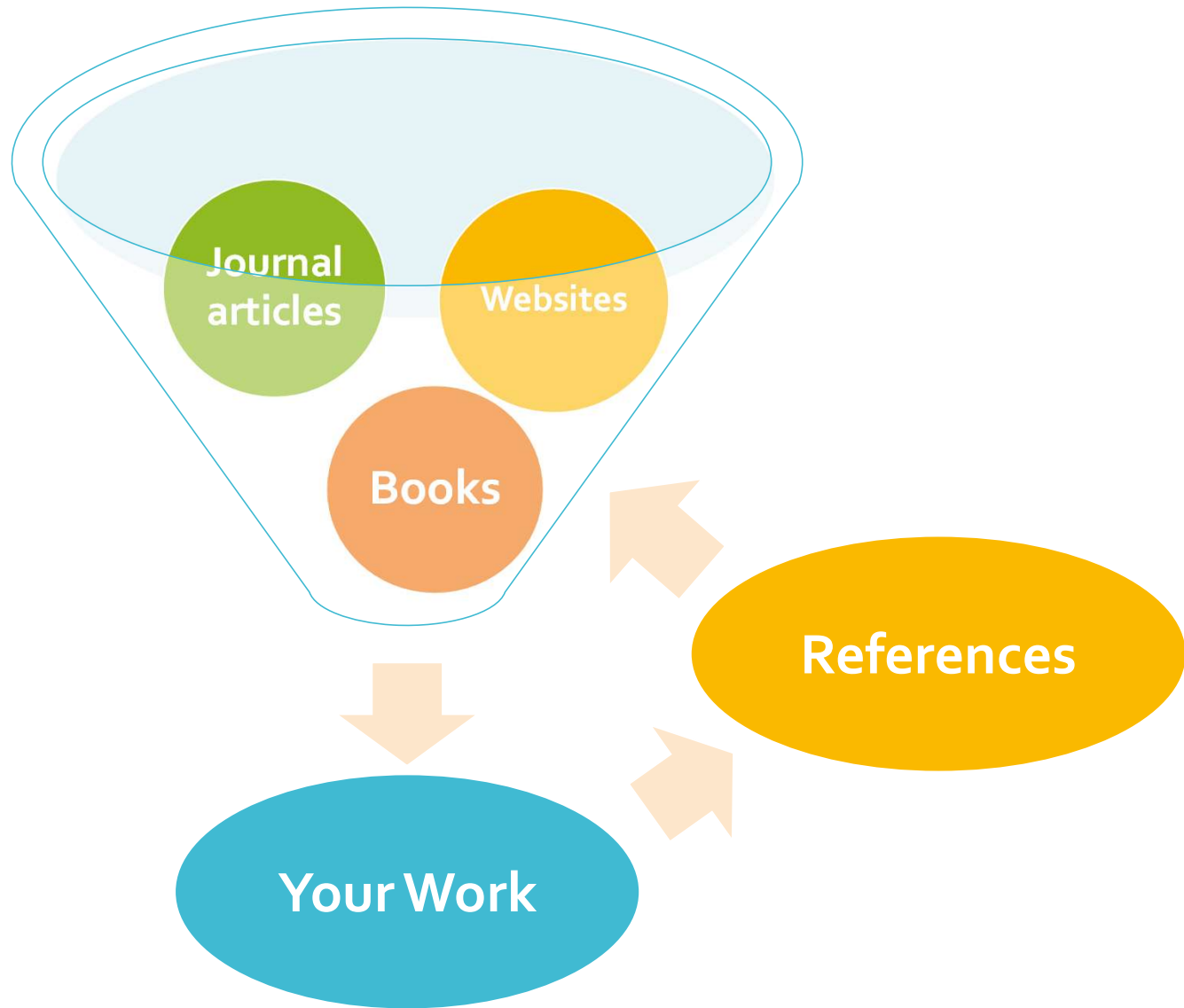
# How to Avoid Plagiarism?

- The key to avoiding plagiarism in your academic work is to **cite and reference your work correctly**.
- By doing this you acknowledge that you are basing your work on the ideas of others.
- As a student your lecturers expect you to research your work by consulting the work of others (in books, journal articles, websites, etc.).
- By doing this, you gather evidence to support your work.
- By referencing correctly, you clearly indicate where you have found this evidence.



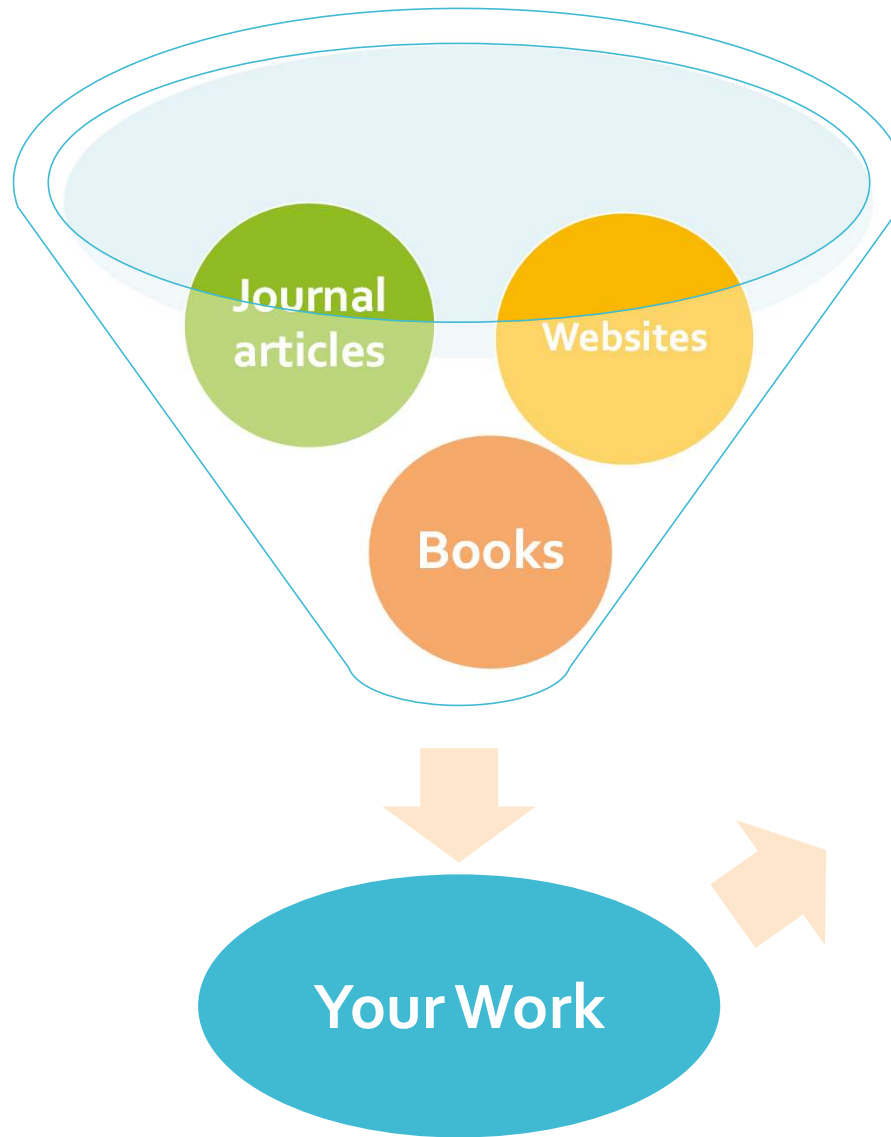
# Avoid Plagiarism

Acknowledge Your  
Sources



# Avoid Plagiarism

Acknowledge Your  
Sources



**No references?  
That's plagiarism!**



# Quotations

Use quotation marks when using another person's exact words... and remember to reference!

of about 45 percent carbohydrates, 20 percent fat, and 35 percent protein. Hunter-gatherers ate a wide variety of foods throughout the year. Their diet commonly included wild meat, vegetables, insects, shellfish, fruit, nuts, bird eggs, and any other tasty item they might encounter as they traversed their territory. Overall, they consumed about four to six pounds of natural foods each day, depending on their body size and level of activity.

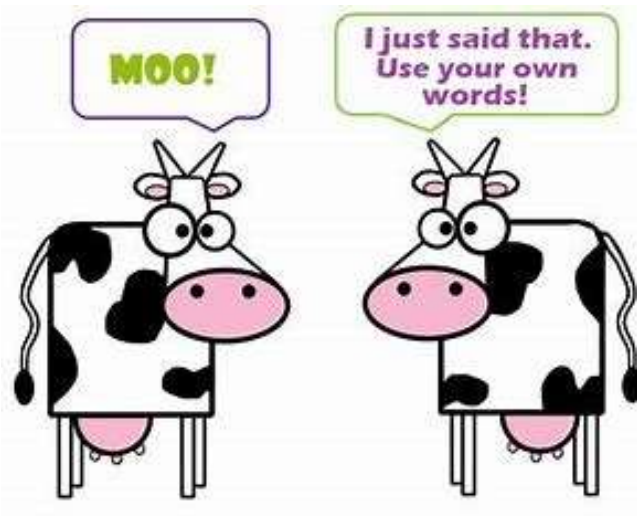
Adult humans ate this approximate weight of food each day for tens of thousands of years. This brings up a question some might consider simplistic; why four to six pounds of food? Why not two pounds or, at the other extreme, why not ten or twelve pounds? It all comes back to the energy density of natural foods and the energy requirements of our bodies.

We need energy from food to keep our systems functioning and to fuel our muscles so we can move about and do work. The energy required to keep the body running even if we are not active — for example, when we

## Quotation Example

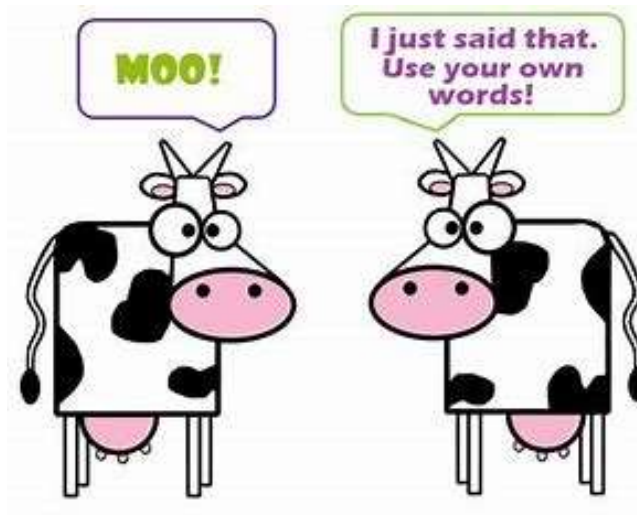
“We need energy from food to keep our systems functioning and to fuel our muscles so we can move about and do work. The energy required to keep the body running even if we are not active ... is referred to as basal metabolism” (Hudson 2021, p.130).





# Paraphrase or Summarize

Paraphrase or summarize the author's work **in your own words...** and remember to reference!



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## In My Own Words

Our bodies require energy all the time, not just when we are moving or exerting ourselves, this is called basal metabolism (Hudson 2021, p.130).

## Tips for avoiding plagiarism

- Always reference sources of words, ideas, images or tables
- Don't copy and paste directly into your assignment
- Use quotation marks if you are using an author's exact words and include a reference
- Read text and paraphrase in your own words and include a reference
- Keep track of the sources you consult in your research
- Give yourself enough time to complete assignments



# Can You Recognise Plagiarism?

[Take the Test!](#)

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Find out more

Plagiarism LibGuide

[LibGuides at ATU Library](#)

Student Hub – Academic Integrity

[Galway & Mayo - StudentHUB \(sharepoint.com\)](#)