Department of Mathematics
Departmental Turnitin Statement and Student Agreement July 2024

The following statement sets out how Turnitin is to be used within the Department of Mathematics and the terms by which students agree to use Turnitin.

Students agree to ensuring they have read and understood both:

- the School's Regulations on Assessment Offences and
- the Department's local guidance relating to academic writing, including referencing, citation and paraphrasing which is available on Moodle for the small number of courses for which this is relevant (e.g. MA318, dissertation/project courses).
- The Department of Mathematics, as a department where the majority or courses and assessments are quantitative in nature, rarely has need to use Turnitin as a student academic writing development tool and therefore does not recommend its use by students for quantitative work.

Where a course will make provision or use Turnitin, this will be on a course-specific basis. Guidelines will be provided by the course convenor to students registered on that course, should it be used.

Students agree to use Turnitin on the basis prescribed by the Department in this statement.

Students should be aware that if Turnitin is used within the Department, it is applied universally (i.e. to all submissions within a specific assessment or not at all - blanket use). However, where Turnitin is not used, it is acceptable for a marker to request that an individual student's paper is uploaded to Turnitin if they have serious concerns and suspicions of academic misconduct. Equally, a marker can request that all students' submissions within a cohort are uploaded to Turnitin if they suspect unacceptable collaboration (collusion) within the cohort.

Students need to be aware that academic judgement is the first indicator of academic misconduct and that either a high or low percentage score (%) can be equally investigated. Therefore, there is no similarity score (%) threshold (whether low or high) within the Department that excludes them from an initial investigation.

As stated in the Conditions of Registration:

> *"Copies of all papers submitted to the software will be retained as source documents in the iParadigms reference database (held in the US) solely for the purpose of text matching against future submissions. Use of the Turnitin UK service shall be subject to such Terms and Conditions of Use as may be agreed between iParadigms and LSE from time to time and posted on the Turnitin UK website."*

Students can test Turnitin using LSE LIFE's service, which is available at this link: LSE LIFE Turnitin Service. Please note that for testing purposes, this system should be utilized, as it does not retain a copy of the paper in the database. This ensures that students' work will not appear 99% identical to their tests during Turnitin checks.

Queries about use of Turnitin, academic misconduct or plagiarism should be addressed in the first instance to your Department via maths.info@lse.ac.uk, or to the relevant course convenor.

Written November 2022, amended July 2024 [End]