

Information on Originality Checking (Turnitin) of the Candidacy Proposal and Thesis Chapters

Higher Degree by Research Students

This information provides HDR students with instructions on how to electronically submit a candidacy proposal and thesis chapters using the Turnitin software.

Turnitin is text matching software that checks for originality in a document by comparing its passages against a database of sources. Turnitin access for HDR students is located within the '*Research Integrity – HDR*' training on Blackboard.

Checking the candidacy research proposal and thesis chapters for originality will assist HDR students in minimising potential for plagiarism.

General information about Turnitin is available from Curtin's Academic Integrity website: [What is Turnitin?](#) and [Turnitin for Students](#).

Queries about this requirement for the candidacy proposal can be forwarded to GRS.training@curtin.edu.au

1. When will the originality checking become mandatory?

Candidacy - from **1 August 2015**, HDR students are required to electronically submit their 'summary of proposed research program' (the 'candidacy proposal') using the Turnitin functionality. (The Application for Candidacy form has been updated to reflect this new requirement. To download the application form go to <http://research.curtin.edu.au/postgraduate-research/current-research-students/student-forms/>).

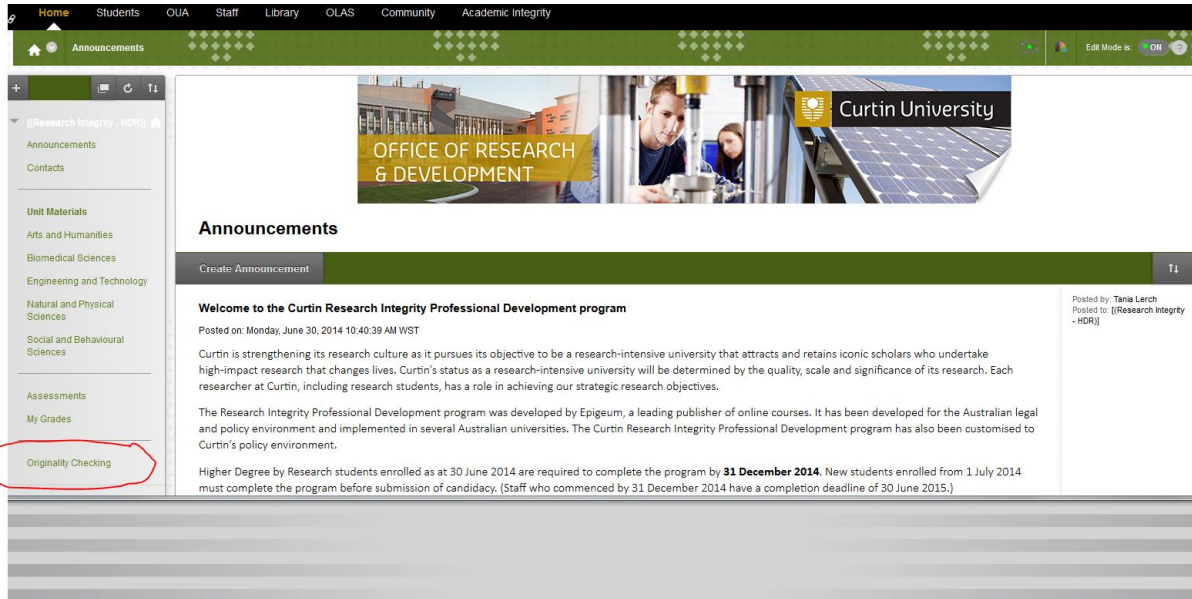
Thesis chapters - from **1 January 2016**, it will be mandatory for HDR students to electronically submit their thesis chapters via Turnitin for originality checking prior to thesis submission to the Thesis Examinations Officer. Students are able to use the functionality now and are encouraged to use it even though it is not yet mandatory.

2. Using the Originality Checking (Turnitin) functionality

To access the Turnitin functionality:

1. Login to [Student OASIS](#).
2. Click on the link to **Blackboard**, and select the '**Research Integrity – HDR**' training.
3. From the left hand menu, select the heading '**Originality Checking**'. Full instructions are located in the example screenshots below.

The next screenshot shows the home page for the **Research Integrity - HDR** training on Blackboard, with the menu items on the left hand side. Click on the heading '**Originality Checking**'.



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Welcome to the Curtin Research Integrity Professional Development program

Posted on: Monday, June 30, 2014 10:40:39 AM WST

Curtin is strengthening its research culture as it pursues its objective to be a research-intensive university that attracts and retains iconic scholars who undertake high-impact research that changes lives. Curtin's status as a research-intensive university will be determined by the quality, scale and significance of its research. Each researcher at Curtin, including research students, has a role in achieving our strategic research objectives.

The Research Integrity Professional Development program was developed by Epigeum, a leading publisher of online courses. It has been developed for the Australian legal and policy environment and implemented in several Australian universities. The Curtin Research Integrity Professional Development program has also been customised to Curtin's policy environment.

Higher Degree by Research students enrolled as at 30 June 2014 are required to complete the program by **31 December 2014**. New students enrolled from 1 July 2014 must complete the program before submission of candidacy. (Staff who commenced by 31 December 2014 have a completion deadline of 30 June 2015.)

Posted by: Tania Lerch
Posted to: [[Research Integrity - HDR]]

In the '**Originality Checking**' screen, information is provided on the reasons for introducing Turnitin checking as a compulsory measure for HDR students, along with the entry point to Turnitin for you to upload your documents.

Originality Checking



Originality Checking with Turnitin

Plagiarism is a growing issue in postgraduate research. An early understanding of how to avoid plagiarism will assist you as you move forward in your studies.

Turnitin is text matching software that checks for originality by identifying passages that already exist in the Turnitin database. Turnitin is used widely throughout the higher education sector and therefore is a powerful and informative tool. It is usually used by staff to check the written work of students. Up until now, only staff at Curtin have had direct access to Turnitin and have had to set up usernames and passwords for students to grant them access on a case by case basis.

The Turnitin facility has now been added to this Research Integrity training on Blackboard to give all HDR students automatic access to check their written work for originality. Checking your candidacy proposal for originality via Turnitin will assist you in minimising potential plagiarism in your thesis.

Who is required to use this Turnitin feature?

This Turnitin access has been created for Higher Degree by Research (HDR) students.

This functionality has been set-up to allow HDR students to check their written work at two separate stages of their enrolment:

- 1. Application for Candidacy**

The Candidacy 'summary of proposed research program' (the '**candidacy proposal**') – for checking in Turnitin **before** it is submitted with the Application for Candidacy.

- 2. Final Thesis Chapters**

Thesis Chapters are individually submitted to Turnitin **before** the thesis is submitted for examination.

Candidacy Proposal - What is uploaded to Turnitin?

The written candidacy proposal is uploaded to Turnitin using the **Candidacy** section below. You do not upload the Application for Candidacy form. Only the proposal is uploaded.

Is it Compulsory?

These processes will become **compulsory** on the following dates:

Application for Candidacy

Using this Turnitin feature will be compulsory from **1 August 2015** for HDR students submitting their Application for Candidacy for approval to their enrolling area. (If your Application for Candidacy has been submitted to the enrolling area prior to 1 August, you do not have to submit your candidacy proposal through Turnitin.)

Thesis Submission for examination

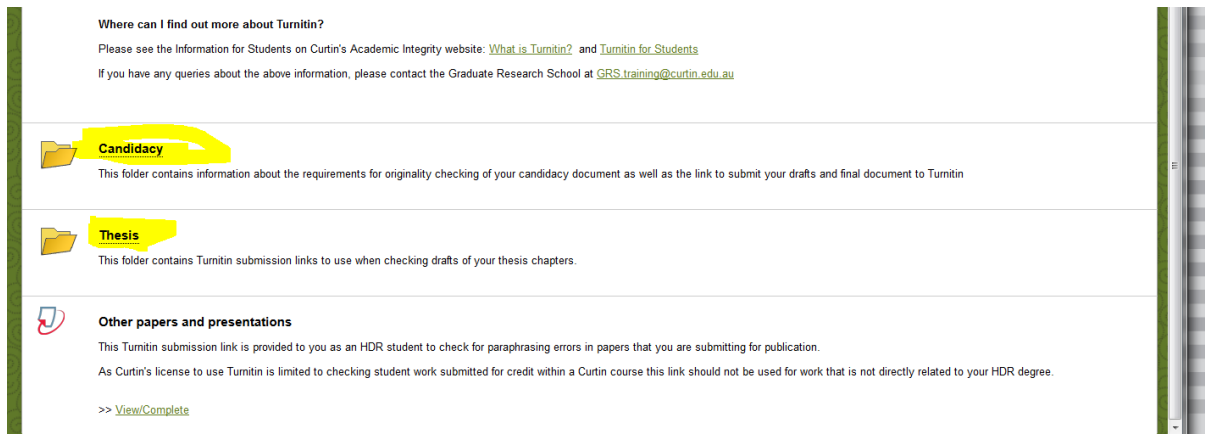
It is proposed that using this feature from **1 January 2016**, students will be required to first upload their thesis chapters to Turnitin before submitting their thesis for examination to the Graduate Research School.

What happens after I have uploaded the candidacy proposal?

- Once you have submitted your proposal via Turnitin, you will receive an originality/similarity report detailing text matching results.
- Print the report and provide a copy to your Supervisor and discuss the results with them.
- Following discussion with your supervisor, make any necessary amendments to your written proposal.
- Complete the relevant sections of the Application for Candidacy confirming that you have completed the above actions (an updated version of the Candidacy form containing the new statements will be released prior to 1 August).

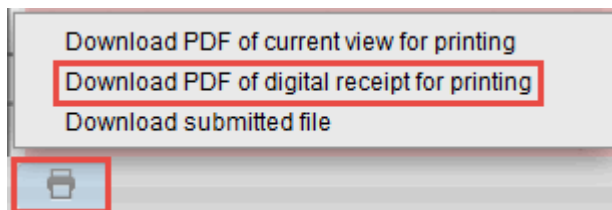
Where can I find out more about Turnitin?

The next screen shot is a continuation of the above screen. The highlighted headings show the access point for uploading your **Candidacy** proposal and the **thesis chapters**.



Click on the relevant heading shown above. For example, if you are applying for Candidacy, you will select **Candidacy**. This will take you to the screen where you can electronically submit/upload your Candidacy proposal (summary of proposed research program).

When the Originality/Similarity report has been generated, you can print a pdf file of both the digital receipt and the report using the buttons shown below.



When you have printed/saved a copy of the Originality report, you then show it to your supervisor and discuss the findings in the Originality report, and whether any changes need to be made to your written work.

Below is an extract of the instructions found in the 'Advice to Applicants' of the *Application for Candidacy* (pages 1-2)

4.3 Submission of 'proposed summary of research program' to Turnitin

- 4.3.1 Access to the Turnitin feature is via the 'Research Integrity Training – HDR students' on Blackboard, accessible via Student OASIS. From the 1 August 2015, all students preparing their Application for Candidacy will be required to first submit an electronic copy of their proposed summary of research program through Turnitin. An originality/similarity report is generated. You are required to provide a copy to your supervisor and discuss the results and make any agreed changes to your proposed summary. The originality/similarity report plus the student response stating the changes made in relation to the results must be submitted with this Candidacy application.

Student Checklist

Please ensure you have done the following:

- Attached the summary of proposed research program (Part 1 Question 6);
- Completed the Ethics and Research Practice Clearance section, indicating where necessary the Committee(s) to which a separate application has been made (p.4-5);
- Signed the Copyright and Ownership of Intellectual Property: Student Agreement (p.6-7);
- Submitted an electronic copy of your 'summary of proposed research program' (candidacy proposal) into Turnitin and discussed the results with your Supervisor;
- Submitted the Turnitin originality/similarity report plus a response in relation to the results
- Attached Student Budget (Appendix A) completed in conjunction with Supervisor;

AND (if required)

- Attached a copy of a separate agreement detailing the Ownership of Intellectual Property.
This will be when a contract dealing with ownership of intellectual property has been entered into with an external agency by the University and the student.