

To: 5.1.2e 5.1.2e [mailto:5.1.2e@law.leidenuniv.nl]
From: LAW - Examencommissie
Sent: Wed 5.1.2e 12:47:55 PM
Subject: RE: Thesis grade still pending 5.1.2e
Received: Wed 5.1.2e 12:46:00 PM

Dear 5.1.2e

Thank you for this. Good to know.

Yesterday, we found the explanation for the high percentage of similarities in the similarities report you sent us. 5.1.2e submitted 5.1.2e thesis via Brightspace on 5.1.2e. That was also when the first similarity report was generated. The report that you sent us was generated on 5.1.2e. The title of the source it matches 89% with is the same as that of the thesis, but now with the addition '(1)', an addition you often see when a document is downloaded or uploaded twice. And that source was uploaded on 5.1.2e, the day 5.1.2e submitted 5.1.2e thesis via Brightspace. In short, both documents are completely identical. The reason why the similarity percentage is not 100% is that, according to the front page of the second similarity report, the bibliography, citations, and minor matches (less than 8 words) have been excluded from the similarity check.

We have concluded that the report of 5.1.2e is misleading. However, we have also found that you are right in that there can be no doubt that 5.1.2e used the paper 5.1.2e wrote for 5.1.2e for 5.1.2e master's thesis. 5.1.2e mentions this 5.1.2e as well in the message 5.1.2e sent you. It means that 5.1.2e is guilty of self-plagiarism, as defined in Article 6.1 of our Rules and Regulations. It also means that 5.1.2e has interpreted the Declaration of Authenticity 5.1.2e signed in a somewhat particular way. 5.1.2e should have mentioned the use of 5.1.2e earlier paper in a footnote.

However, extreme cases apart, we are of the opinion that self-plagiarism is less serious than other forms of fraud/plagiarism. Also, the extent to which 5.1.2e is guilty of self-plagiarism in our view is limited, and we have no reason to think that 5.1.2e meant to deceive. And we have ascertained based on uSis that this is the first time that 5.1.2e has committed plagiarism. We have therefore decided that an official warning in this case suffices and that there is no reason for anything more severe.

We have informed the student of this. We sent 5.1.2e the decision just now, referring at one point to the information 5.1.2e provided in the message you forwarded to us. Our decision mentions that the official warning does not detract from the authority of the examiner(s) to take the incorrect use of sources into account when grading 5.1.2e thesis.

Please let us know in case you have any questions regarding this.

Best regards, on behalf of the Board of Examiners,

5.1.2e

From: 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@law.leidenuniv.nl>
Sent: woensdag 5.1.2e 09:07
To: LAW - Examencommissie <examencommissie@law.leidenuniv.nl>
Subject: Fw: Thesis grade still pending 5.1.2e

Dear 5.1.2e,

Please see the message below.

With best regards,

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Faculteit Rechtsgeleerdheid - 5.1.2e
Kamerlingh Onnes Building
Steenschuur 25 – Room 5.1.2e
2311 ES Leiden
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5.1.2e

From: 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @umail.leidenuniv.nl>
Sent: Wednesday, 5.1.2e 1:03 AM
To: 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @law.leidenuniv.nl>
Subject: 5.1.2e Thesis grade still pending

Dear 5.1.2e

After reviewing the Turnitin similarity report, I believe I have identified the cause of the issue. The issue does not stem from the assignment I submitted for 5.1.2e as I had already detected the similarity during my self-check and subsequently paraphrased the content. Additionally, this assignment only covers a small portion of the paper, and the latter sections were never submitted as part of any coursework. Instead, I suspect the actual problem lies in the fact that I purchased a third-party Turnitin account from a website to conduct a self-check before submission. At the time, the seller assured me that their account would not store or include my uploaded files in the database. However, it now appears that my entire paper may have been indexed by Turnitin during the self-check process.

Attached to this email, you will find:

1. The assignment I submitted for 5.1.2e (the Word document)
2. The similarity report generated when I used the third-party Turnitin account for self-checking. (the PDF document)

I would greatly appreciate any guidance or clarification you could provide on this matter.

Thank you for your time and understanding.

Best regards,

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5.1.2e <5.1.2e @law.leidenuniv.nl>

5.1.2e 06:23

5.1.2e <5.1.2e @umail.leidenuniv.nl>

5.1.2e Re: Thesis grade still pending

Dear 5.1.2e

I understand. Unfortunately, I had to report the case to the Board as this is an obligated step for me given the result of the similarity report (89%) and the overlap between the text of the assignment in 5.1.2e and the thesis text.

I'll let you know about the decision of the Board as soon as I hear back from them.

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With best regards,

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5.1.2e

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From: 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @umail.leidenuniv.nl>

Sent: Tuesday, 5.1.2e 5:24 AM

To: 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @law.leidenuniv.nl>

Subject: 5.1.2e Thesis grade still pending

Dear 5.1.2e

I hope this email finds you well. I sincerely apologize for reaching out again before receiving your response to my previous email. Given the urgency of this matter and its implications for my graduation, I hope you can understand my need to follow up.

I am writing to respectfully clarify my position regarding the plagiarism concerns raised about my thesis. While my paper does contain extensive references to existing literature—both direct and indirect—I made every effort to properly cite all sources by including footnotes and quotation marks where appropriate. To better understand the issue, I kindly request access to the Turnitin similarity report. This would allow me to identify specific areas of concern and address them accordingly.

I want to emphasize how deeply invested I am in this work. My thesis applies

5.1.2e

—an approach I believe is original, as I have yet to encounter similar analyses in existing scholarship (based on my literature review). The research process involved meticulous study of numerous sources, and I take academic integrity very seriously.

Additionally, I wish to share the personal significance of this situation. Even the mildest sanction (e.g., delayed graduation) would pose severe financial hardship for me. As a 5.1.2e the tuition fees are prohibitively high, and I may lack the means to continue my studies if my graduation is postponed. My passion for

—honed through three years of 5.1.2e competitions during my undergraduate studies—led me to Leiden University, where I have dedicated myself wholeheartedly to this academic journey. It is my sincere hope to resolve this matter fairly and continue contributing to the field.

I truly appreciate your time and understanding. Please let me know if there is any additional information I

can provide or steps I should take to facilitate this process. Might there still be any possibility of resolving this matter favorably? Thank you for your consideration.

With utmost respect,

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< 5.1.2e @law.leidenuniv.nl>

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< 5.1.2e @umail.leidenuniv.nl>

5.1.2e Thesis grade still pending

Dear 5.1.2e

I am writing you to inform you of the fact that your LLM thesis can currently not be graded.

The reason for this is that your Turnitin similarity report indicated potential plagiarism issues. Because this is the case, we are obliged to send the thesis and the report to the Examination Board for further investigation. Until the Board reaches a decision, the thesis cannot be graded.

Thank you for your understanding, I will keep you up to date about the process.

With best regards,

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