

To: 5.1.2e [5.1.2e @umail.leidenuniv.nl]
Bcc: LAW - Examencommissie[examencommissie@law.leidenuniv.nl]
From: LAW - Examencommissie
Sent: Tue 5.1.2e 2:17:30 PM
Subject: RE: 5.1.2e decision Board of Examiners (plagiarism)
Received: Tue 5.1.2e 2:16:00 PM

Dear 5.1.2e

The possibility of an appeal is mentioned in the email that you received from us, for this you only need to scroll down. There you will also find a link to the information you ask for.

On behalf of the Board of Examiners,

5.1.2e

From: 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @umail.leidenuniv.nl>
Sent: dinsdag 5.1.2e 15:26
To: LAW - Examencommissie <examencommissie@law.leidenuniv.nl>
Subject: 5.1.2e decision Board of Examiners (plagiarism)

Dear the Board of Examiners,

I'd like to inquire if the official warning is open to appeal. If so, could you please share the process and deadlines?

Thank you for your help.

Best regards,

5.1.2e

5.1.2e LAW - Examencommissie <examencommissie@law.leidenuniv.nl>
5.1.2e 14:46
5.1.2e <5.1.2e @umail.leidenuniv.nl>
5.1.2e decision Board of Examiners (plagiarism)

Dear Cheng Chen,

On 5.1.2e you submitted your master's thesis. Your supervisor noticed similarities between the first few pages of your thesis and a paper you submitted earlier for 5.1.2e without any reference to this paper. In accordance with the provisions contained in Article 6.2 of the [Rules and Regulations](#) (R&R), the supervisor reported this finding to the Board of Examiners. The Board of Examiners also received a similarities report that showed an 89% match with another text. However, the investigation by the Board of Examiners has shown that this is because your thesis was uploaded twice, once on 5.1.2e and once on 5.1.2e. The similarities report generated by Turnitin on 5.1.2e is therefore irrelevant.

The Board of Examiners has studied your thesis and the paper you submitted for 5.1.2e and has concluded that there can be no doubt that you indeed used the paper you wrote for 5.1.2e for your master's thesis, without any reference to this.

The Board of Examiners considers that pursuant to Article 6.1 R&R, fraud is "any action or omission that renders proper judgment of someone's knowledge, insight, skills, (professional) attitude or reflection entirely or partially impossible". The same article defines plagiarism, a form of fraud, as being "in any event (...) submitting a previously submitted or similar text for assignments in other exam components."

The Board finds that by using the paper for 5.1.2e for your master's thesis, you have acted in violation of these provisions, and in violation of the Declaration of Authenticity that you signed. You are guilty of self-plagiarism.

As to the question if a sanction is appropriate and if so, which sanction would be proportionate, the Board considers as follows.

It can be argued that self-plagiarism is a special form of plagiarism, which is less serious than other forms of plagiarism. But this does not detract from the clear provision in the R&R quoted above. However, the Board has also taken note of the e-mails you sent to your supervisor yesterday and today, in which you admit the use of the paper you wrote for 5.1.2e, and in which you also say that you noticed the similarities earlier and subsequently paraphrased the text used in your thesis. Further, the Board has ascertained that the extent to which there is self-plagiarism is small. Lastly, the Board notes that this is the first time that you have committed plagiarism.

In view of the above, the Board of Examiners has decided that an official warning suffices and that there is no ground to declare the result of the thesis invalid.

The Board of Examiners stresses the necessity to be aware of the provisions contained in Chapter 6 of the R&R, one of which lists the measures that may be taken in the case of fraud/plagiarism. Please note that if you commit plagiarism again, the sanction imposed will be more severe.

The examiner has been informed of this decision. Please note that this decision does not detract from the examiner's authority to take the incorrect use of sources into account when grading your thesis.

On behalf of the Board of Examiners of Leiden Law School,

5.1.2e



Universiteit Leiden | Faculteit der Rechtsgeleerdheid |
Steenschuur 25 | 2311 ES Leiden | examencommissie@law.leidenuniv.nl

An [appeal](#) against this decision lies with the Examination Appeals Board, c/o Rapenburg 70, PO Box 9500, 2300 RA Leiden or via email: secretariaat-jz@bb.leidenuniv.nl. An appeal must be lodged within six weeks after the decision having been emailed to you. If urgency so requires, the Chair of the Appeals Board may also grant an interim injunction at the request of the appellant.