

**A LEGAL STUDY ON PLAGIARISM AMONGST  
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN  
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA (UiTM)**

By

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The students/authors confirm that the work submitted is their own and that appropriate credit has been given where reference has been made to the work of others.

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In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful.  
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## ABSTRACT

Plagiarism in academic institutions is now becoming a major problem. With the rapid progress in the area of information, communication and technology (ICT), students can access information at their convenience, at anytime and anywhere. This enables them to commit plagiarism in their academic writing through various ways such as *cut-and-paste* information from the internet and also not doing the proper referencing.

This paper investigates the extent of Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) undergraduate students' understanding and awareness of avoiding the act. Literature reviews from previous study, cases and regulations are collected and digested in order to investigate this issue.

Several interviews have also been conducted and the answer reveals that there is some lack of awareness among undergraduate students on plagiarism in their academic writing and they felt that the information regarding this act was not done extensively even though various campaigns has been done by the university in order to curb this problem. UiTM has come out with a new plan and policy that can be seen as quite impressive and will be able to deter this problem but sufficient awareness must be given to the students as well to promote academic integrity.

The aim of this research is to encourage academic staffs and students to acknowledge the concerns on implementation of plagiarism policy. The definition of the word plagiarism and the awareness in avoiding the act shall be made clear and precise in order to overcome this problem in academic writing.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgement	ii
Abstract	iii
Table of Contents	iv
List of Cases	vii
List of Statutes	viii

### CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.0	Introduction	1
1.1	Problem Statement	4
1.2	Research Objectives	4
1.3	Research Methodology	5
1.4	Scope of the Research	5
1.5	Limitations to the Research	6
1.6	Significance of the Research	7
1.7	Conclusion	7

### CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW ON THE ISSUE OF PLAGIARISM AMONGST STUDENTS IN ACADEMIC WRITING

2.0	Introduction	8
2.1	Definition of Plagiarism	9
2.2	Awareness amongst students on avoiding plagiarism in academic writing	11
	2.2.1 Lack of awareness in term of university policy	11
	2.2.2 Lack of awareness in term of referencing or footnoting	13
	2.2.3 Lack of awareness in term of punishment	13
2.3	Conclusion	14

## CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty that can be defined as using other's work without giving proper citation or acknowledgement. This act is also an academic dishonesty which is also a form of intellectual dishonesty and it involves unintentionally or intentionally copying someone else's work passing it off as your own without citing any references. In simple words, as long as the work done is not genuinely done by that person, it can be derived as plagiarism.

Way back in 2002, 15 students have been alleged to have committed the act of plagiarism. All of them were from the Malaysian Campus of Newcastle University who was initially given zero marks for using unattributed material from the Internet for their assignment. However, that case was reopened in which their assignments were re-marked as the Australia's education minister; Brendan Nelson was concerned about losing revenue from offshore students. The alleged students at the university's graduate school of business in Kuala Lumpur were then issued pass marks, some of them receiving distinctions.

A study has found that Malaysian students studying at offshore campuses of the university in Malaysia were more inclined to plagiarize than Malaysian students studying in Australia<sup>1</sup>. According to a media statement by Lim Kit Siang, all the ambitions to develop Malaysia into an international centre of academic excellence with a sizable foreign student population to earn revenue for Malaysia would all come to

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<sup>1</sup> Benson Honig, Akanksha Bedi. *"The fox in the hen house: a critical examination of plagiarism among members of the Academy of Management."* Academy of Management Learning & Education, 11, no. 1 (2012): 101.