

# **NIRMA UNIVERSITY, INSTITUTE OF LAW PLAGIARISM POLICY \***

## **Preamble**

Institute of Law, Nirma University fosters the pursuit of knowledge, skill and scholarship through its various academic programmes and by creating healthy research environment. Academic integrity is a core value in this endeavour.

ILNU recognizes that the open exchange of ideas plays a vital role in the academic endeavour and to the contribution of new knowledge in the domain areas. During such kind of idea sharing, discussion, debates, presentation, submission, it is important for all scholars that they acknowledge clearly the sources they referred. To ensure the proper use of sources and at the same time to recognize and preserve the values of the academic dialogue ILNU frames this policy.

## **Objectives**

This policy reflects the goal of academic integrity for the members of ILNU and lays down general guidelines for appropriate academic behavior and identifies prohibited academic conduct. The intention of ILNU is to ensure fair treatment, transparent process and consistent application in administration of this policy.

## **Scope:**

This policy applies to the academic activities of all registered students of all programmes of ILNU. Under certain circumstances, this policy may apply to the students who have withdrawn or graduated from ILNU where it is alleged that they acted with academic misconduct during the time of their enrolment at this Institute.

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## **\* Acknowledgment:**

ILNU wishes to acknowledge the following institutions whose related policies and procedure provided background and foundation in best practices that has assisted in the development of this policy.

- (1) Brock University
- (2) George Town University
- (3) Harvard University
- (4) University of Pune
- (5) Pennstate University
- (6) Stanford University
- (7) Yoke University

## **Administration of this policy**

ILNU will endeavour to ensure fair implementation of this policy and Academic Integrity Committee will be constituted by the Institute to promote culture of ethics and integrity for their scholarly work.

## **Constitution of Academic Integrity Committee (AIC)**

- (1) Chairman – Academic Coordinator
- (2) Member – Area Head of all areas
- (3) One member from ADS
- (4) One member from EAS
- (5) Member Secretary – Assistant Registrar, ILNU

## **Function of AIC**

- (1) To organize awareness / sensitization programme in different clusters of students and faculty members orienting about the issues of plagiarism and its case laws.
- (2) To promote a culture of ethics and integrity by intervention through ADS and EAS processes and with the help of Research Committee (R.C.) of ILNU.
- (3) To handle the matters related to alleged plagiarism by adopting the procedure hereinafter mentioned in this policy.

## **Definition of Plagiarism**

Plagiarism may be defined as presenting another person work as one's own work. It reflects the unethical practice by submitting a Research Work / Project Work, Assignment Submissions etc. (or any other form of academic submission) wherein a student submits and declares as Original and 'unplagiarized' work but agrees to the methods mentioned in Table 1. This act may be without intention / knowledge / authentication. Submissions without acknowledgement to the Original contributor or proper citation will be deemed to be poor scholarship and devoid of academic integrity.

Copying is defined under the following exemplification:

Table 1

Method of Plagiarism	Description
Complete lift up / Verbatim	Copy All words matching in order, mention, manner and also lacks acknowledgement or mention of the original author / source.
Changing / Abridging / Reconstruction	Intermittent words changed / Some part of a paragraph is changed. Cosmetic changes to Headings / Flow / Construction without providing proper acknowledgement
Content / Idea or Technical Plagiarism	The idea belongs to a published article, material, Journal entry but is not given proper citation; indirectly claiming the article to be one's own
Group Activity – Submitting Someone else's work as one's own	In Group Project Work / Activity, claiming work not done to be one's own
Helping Others in Plagiarism	Direct on indirect involvement or aiding and abetting plagiarism
Lack of Acknowledgement	Ideally, the person who receives any help in the form of editing, paraphrasing, and mention areas where he/she has been helped by others

### **Detection of plagiarism**

It is the prime responsibility of an individual to ensure plagiarism by rechecking one's submission in appropriate mode, method and techniques.

### **Compliance Certificate / Declaration**

All students are required to submit a signed statement that they are aware of the plagiarism policy of the ILNU and no part of their work be it assignment, term paper, project report, thesis or dissertation etc is not copied in any form and it is their own creation.

The faculty should be aware of the tools, methods and practices for detection of the plagiarism. While evaluating the work, if the faculty member identifies plagiarism,

he or she needs to apply to the Academic Integrity Committee (AIC) of the Institute.

### **Procedure to be adopted by Academic Integrity Committee**

On receiving application of alleged plagiarism, the Committee will comply the following steps with the principles of procedural fairness protecting the rights of the alleged. These rights includes right to:-

- (a) Be informed of the allegations against them in sufficient detail to enable them to understand the precise nature of the allegations and to properly consider and respond;
- (b) Have a reasonable period of time within which to respond to the allegations against them;
- (c) Have the matter resolved in a timely manner;
- (d) Have neutral investigation process; and
- (e) Fair and just decision making.

### **Identification and Assessment of Alleged Plagiarism**

Where an examiner detects or is made aware of alleged plagiarism by any person, the examiner must report the alleged plagiarism to AIC which confirms first if there is a plagiarism or not; if it is, then whether it is negligent or dishonest and what is the degree of plagiarism. The AIC will then submit its report along with its recommendation to HOI. Depending upon the report of AIC, and also on the gravity of the case HOI may consider plagiarism as unfair means case and recommends the case for Examination Reform Committee, Nirma University. In the case low gravity of the act, HOI may consider the case as disciplinary issue and impose minor penalty as per rules of Nirma University.

### **Counseling**

As the detection of plagiarism and steps to prevent it are important, equally important is to educate students about the dangers of plagiarism. ILNU will take steps to imbibe and inculcate values and academic ethics amongst students so that they do not resort to any unfair means practices including plagiarism.