

## **FH JOANNEUM measures for checking plagiarism in pre-academic and academic student theses**

### **Preamble:**

In line with the FH JOANNEUM Guideline for Good Scientific Practice and Prevention of Research Misconduct, the following quality assurance measures are in place at all degree and certificate programmes at FH JOANNEUM. This is to verify whether Bachelor's or Master's theses comply with the rules and principles of good scientific practice, and are free from illegitimate appropriation of intellectual property or findings of third parties.

### **1. Obligatory signed declaration**

I hereby declare under oath

- that I have independently prepared this Bachelor/Master thesis and have performed all associated tasks myself, using no other sources or aids than those indicated.
- that in preparing the thesis I have adhered to the guidelines of FH JOANNEUM for ensuring good scientific practice and for avoiding misconduct during the preparation of this work,
- that I have properly cited all formulations and concepts taken over from printed, unprinted works as well as from the Internet in wording or in the essential content in accordance with the rules of Good Scientific Practice (guideline GSP) and have marked them by precise references,
- that I have declared in the methodology or an index all aids used (artificial intelligence assistance systems such as chatbots [e.g., ChatGPT], translation applications [e.g., DeepL], paraphrasing applications [e.g., Quill bot], image generator applications [e.g., Dall-E], or programming applications [e.g., Github Copilot], and indicated their usage at the corresponding text passages.
- that this original thesis, in its current form, has not been submitted to any other academic institution for the purpose of obtaining an academic degree<sup>1</sup>.

I have been informed that my work may be checked for plagiarism and for third-party authorship of human (ghostwriting) or technical origin (artificial intelligence assistance systems).

I am aware that a false statement may result in legal consequences such as a negative assessment of my work, the subsequent revocation of any obtained degree, and legal prosecution.

### **2. Check of the submitted Bachelor's or Master's theses using plagiarism detection software provided by FH JOANNEUM**

Students submitting a Bachelor's or Master's thesis to FH JOANNEUM must check the thesis (or have it checked in agreement with their supervisor) using a plagiarism detection software

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<sup>1</sup> This wording does not apply to joint study programs (e.g., double degree programs); the regulations stipulated for these apply.

provided by FH JOANNEUM and shall send the check report (or have it sent) to the supervisor in printed form and by email upon submission of the thesis. While other pre- academic and academic papers (e.g. term papers) may also be checked in this way, a mandatory check is not necessary.

The plagiarism check report provides only an indication and can neither confirm nor exclude that an act of research misconduct has occurred. Only the supervisor, in consultation with the head of degree programme, is entitled to state that research misconduct in the form of plagiarism has occurred by issuing an assessment to that effect.

### **3. Suspected research misconduct in the form of plagiarism**

Any suspected or detected case of research misconduct in the form of plagiarism in Bachelor's or Master's theses shall be immediately reported to the relevant head of degree programme in writing. In the case of suspected misconduct, the student concerned must be informed and requested to promptly provide a written comment.

If the student does not respond to this request for comment or if research misconduct in the form of plagiarism has been confirmed, the Bachelor's or Master's thesis shall be declared null and void (cf. §20 FHG as amended). The student shall be allowed reasonable time to revise and resubmit the thesis. The supervisor shall, in consultation with the head of degree programme, decide whether the student may resubmit the thesis on the same topic or whether he/she must choose a new topic.

If the head of degree programme himself/herself has supervised the thesis concerned, he/she shall consult a qualified lecturer at FH JOANNEUM.

All programme heads shall, by 31 October of each year, furnish the Head of the Board with a report on the cases of plagiarism that have occurred in the preceding year acc. to point 3, including a brief informal description and presentation of the measures taken.