

Transcript

What happens to my assignment after I submit it?

SPEAKER: Yeah, so when people submit a TMA, it's run against two systems that we use. One is called Turnitin, and Turnitin looks at all the other information that's publicly available on the web. So it's looking at books, journal articles, and websites. And there's another piece of software called Copycat.

And Copycat will contain information from students who studied the module before and students who are studying at the moment and compare all of those to see if there are students who were writing the same thing. Maybe somebody picked something up from a student who studied a previous year and did a really good essay, or maybe two people are working alongside each other, which is always great, until you submit the same essay.

So those tools help us to understand where students might be picking up information. But it's absolutely not about the software. The software is just a tool, and it's just a guidance. So what happens next is those software reports go to usually the module chair or another member of the module team.

And it's the module chair who will make a decision as to whether that assignment might contain plagiarism or not. So there's always a human check before it even gets investigated. So it's their decision, then that actually you've conveyed your understanding by rewording that, and you won't get picked up for an academic conduct investigation for something like that.

Even if you did, the next stage is where it goes to an academic conduct officer, and the academic conduct officer will do the more detailed stage of the investigation. So they will drill down into the reports to say, what's happened here? What have you done? Where have you got the information from? Is it reasonable that you have paraphrased that enough, or is it verbatim from somewhere? And what the academic conduct officer can do is, they can decide to actually-- that referable wasn't really a very good one, so they're going to dismiss that and take no further action. They might give you a warning or what we would call an informal caution at the moment to say, we do appear to have picked up some references from somewhere. Be very careful and don't do it again.

You'll often be sent for study skills support, so study skills support will be a one-to-one session to help you go through your essay, go through some of the things you might have done wrong, and help you to think about how you could change what you're doing in future, which might be, as you say, maybe changing the way you write things into your notes.