



10. Unfair Means and Plagiarism

In accordance with the UGC (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018 and consistent with international best practices, the following standards shall apply to all PhD theses:

10.1 Plagiarism Verification

- (a) Prior to submission of the thesis for evaluation, every candidate's work shall undergo a plagiarism check conducted by the Librarian.
- (b) The Librarian shall issue a provisional certificate to the candidate, certifying that the thesis has been tested using the UGC-INFLIBNET prescribed plagiarism software and that its contents fall within the permissible limits.
- (c) A detailed plagiarism report shall be submitted to the Registrar at the time of thesis submission for official record.

10.2 Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools

- (a) **Plagiarism Control**
 - The acceptable similarity index shall not exceed 10%.
 - Any thesis exceeding this threshold shall be subject to review and corrections.
- (b) **Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools**
 - AI-based tools may be employed strictly for supportive purposes such as language refinement, formatting, or structural suggestions.
 - The proportion of AI-generated content in any thesis shall not exceed **15%**.
 - All use of AI tools must be transparently disclosed in the thesis, specifying the tools used and the purpose of their application.
- (c) **Authorship and Responsibility**
 - AI tools shall not be recognized as authors or co-author.
 - The doctoral candidate bears full responsibility for the originality, accuracy, and integrity of the thesis, including sections prepared with AI assistance.
- (d) **Ethical Standards**
 - AI tools must not replace critical thinking, intellectual contribution, research design, analysis, or interpretation.
 - The substantive scholarly contribution must originate from the doctoral candidate.