Plagiarism check of pre-academic and academic student theses at FH JOANNEUM

Preamble:

The FH JOANNEUM Board adopted the regulation for safeguarding good scientific practice and preventing malpractice in science on 10 March 2014, which applies to all students and staff of FH JOANNEUM. In a next step, the following control measures will be introduced at all FH JOANNEUM degree programmes in order to check whether Bachelor’s, Diploma and 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 as follows:

I hereby declare that the present Bachelor's thesis/Diploma thesis/Master's thesis was composed by myself and that the work contained herein is my own. I also confirm that I have only used the specified resources. All formulations and concepts taken verbatim or in substance from printed or unprinted material or from the Internet have been cited according to the rules of good scientific practice and indicated by footnotes or other exact references to the original source.

The present thesis has not been submitted to another university for the award of an academic degree in this form. This thesis has been submitted in printed and electronic form. I hereby confirm that the content of the digital version is the same as in the printed version.

I understand that the provision of incorrect information may have legal consequences.

(Signature) (Place, Date)

2. Check of the submitted Diploma or Master’s theses using the software solution in use at FH JOANNEUM: the report of the plagiarism check must be submitted to the supervisor together with the Diploma or Master’s thesis in printed form and by email. Bachelor’s theses and seminar papers may also be checked in this way, but a check is not mandatory in these cases.

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

3. Any suspected or detected case of academic malpractice in the form of plagiarism in Diploma or Master’s theses shall be immediately reported to the relevant head of degree programme in writing. In the case of suspected academic malpractice the student concerned must also be notified with a request for prompt written comment.

4. If the student does not respond to the request for comment of the suspected case of plagiarism or if academic malpractice in the form of plagiarism has been confirmed, the Diploma or Master’s thesis shall be declared null and void (cf. §20 of the Universities of Applied Sciences Act (FHStG) as amended). The student shall be allowed reasonable time to revise and resubmit the thesis
§19 (2) FHStG as amended and items B.6.c. and D.6.c. of the FH JOANNEUM Examination Regulations). 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 student concerned, however, insists on notifying the Commission specified in Section V of the Board resolution on ‘Safeguarding good scientific practice and preventing malpractice in science’ dated … applying §21 FHStG mutatis mutandis, then the Commission shall be notified to initiate the procedure provided for this case.

5. In the event of item 4, first sentence, the Chairperson of the Commission specified in Section V of the Board resolution on ‘Safeguarding good scientific practice and preventing malpractice in science’ dated … shall be notified by submitting a report.

6. If the head of degree programme himself/herself has supervised the thesis concerned, he/she shall consult a competent member of the teaching staff of FH JOANNEUM in accordance with items 4 and 5.

7. All programme heads shall, by 30 October of each year, furnish the Rector with a report on the cases of plagiarism that have occurred in the preceding year according to item 3, including a brief description and presentation of the measures taken.