

This paper contains guidelines for research students on how to include previously published work in their thesis while avoiding [self-plagiarism](#).

General Guidelines

1. If you have published material before submitting your thesis, you must cite the original source appropriately in the relevant chapter and include a *Statement of Originality* after the title page, as instructed in the PGR Thesis Presentation Notes document, published on the [Thesis Submission and Examination webpage](#).
2. Before reusing figures, tables, or text, verify whether you transferred copyright to the journal. If you do not own the copyright, obtain formal permission from the copyright holder. See the QMUL Library Services offer guidelines to help you [understand the use of copyrighted material](#). Once you have secured approval from the copyright holder you can include it in your thesis, provided you comply with the following guidelines:
 - a) Any included published material should be adapted to match the thesis style and format. You may add extra context, background, methods, or data not present in the original publication.
 - b) If the work was co-authored, your contribution and those of others must be clearly stated in the *Statement of Originality* after the title page, as instructed in the PGR Thesis Presentation Notes document, published on the [Thesis Submission and Examination webpage](#).
 - c) Use of sections from published papers with minor edits for consistency and voice.
 - d) Embedding an unedited PDF or copying the entire paper without adaptation is not allowed.
3. If your thesis is submitted before publication, inform the journal editor and cite your thesis appropriately when publishing. This applies to both reused material and previously published ideas.
4. Ensure compliance with [copyright rules](#) when your thesis is published online.

What is self-plagiarism?

As outlined in the [Academic misconduct policy](#), paragraph 6:

‘Queen Mary defines ‘plagiarism’ as presenting someone else’s work as one’s own, irrespective of intention. Close paraphrasing; copying from the work of another person, including another student; using the ideas of another person without proper acknowledgement; and repeating work that you have previously submitted – at Queen Mary or at another institution – without properly referencing yourself (known as ‘self-plagiarism’) also constitute plagiarism.’

Supplementary Resources on Academic Integrity

Students are encouraged to review the guidance and complete the relevant training courses available via the links below:

- a) [Academic Integrity at Queen Mary](#) (Online Course)
Familiarise yourself with academic integrity.
- b) [Academic Integrity and Avoiding Misconduct](#) (Online Course)
Understand key principles of academic integrity and how to avoid common pitfalls.
- c) [Guidelines on the use of copyrighted material](#)<https://qmul.libcal.com/calendar?cid=8153&t=g&d=0000-00-00&cal=8153&inc=0>
QMUL Library Services offer guidelines to help you understand the use of copyrighted material.
- d) [Student Guide to Generative AI](#)
Learn how generative AI tools can support your academic work and how to use them responsibly.
- e) [Library Services' Academic Skills Centre](#)
Access resources and guides to enhance your understanding and skills in artificial intelligence (AI).
- f) [AI for Student Learning and Research](#) (Online Course)
Explore how AI can be effectively integrated into your learning and research practices.