

# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES DEVELOPMENT & SUSTAINABILITY (IJESDS)

## Plagiarism Check Guide

### What is Plagiarism?

Plagiarism is the act of presenting someone else's work, ideas, or words as your own without proper acknowledgement. In academic publishing, plagiarism is a serious ethical violation that can result in rejection of your manuscript, damage to your academic reputation, and even disciplinary action from your institution. All manuscripts submitted to IJESDS must be original and free from plagiarism.

### Why You Must Check Before Submitting

- IJESDS checks all submitted manuscripts for plagiarism before sending them for peer review.
- Manuscripts with high similarity scores will be rejected immediately without review.
- Even unintentional plagiarism — such as forgetting to cite a source — can get your work rejected.
- Checking your own work before submission gives you the opportunity to fix any issues first.
- It protects your academic integrity and professional reputation.

### Recommended Plagiarism Checking Tools

#### Grammarly

[grammarly.com](https://www.grammarly.com)

Free & Paid

Grammarly is easy to use and checks both grammar and plagiarism. The free version corrects grammar errors. The premium version includes a plagiarism checker that compares your text against billions of web pages. Paste your text directly into the Grammarly editor or install the browser extension.

#### Duplichecker

[duplichecker.com](https://www.duplichecker.com)

Free

A completely free online plagiarism checker. Simply paste your text or upload your document and click check. It is straightforward and useful for a quick check. Note that the free version has a word limit per check.

#### Smallseotools Plagiarism Checker

[smallseotools.com](https://www.smallseotools.com)

Free

Another free online tool that checks your text against web content. Paste your content and get an instant similarity report showing which parts of your text match online sources.

**Plagiarism Checker X**[plagiarismcheckerx.com](http://plagiarismcheckerx.com)

Free &amp; Paid

A desktop-based tool that works offline. You can check documents directly without uploading them to a website. Useful if you are concerned about the privacy of your unpublished research.

**iThenticate**[ithenticate.com](http://ithenticate.com)

Paid (Institutional)

The gold standard in academic plagiarism checking. Used by major publishers and universities worldwide. If your institution has access, use this tool for the most comprehensive and reliable similarity report. Ask your university library or research office if they provide access.

**Turnitin**[turnitin.com](http://turnitin.com)

Institutional

Widely used in Nigerian universities. If your institution provides access through your lecturer or department, use Turnitin for a thorough check. It compares your work against a vast database of academic papers, books, and websites.

## What Similarity Score is Acceptable?

Most reputable academic journals accept a similarity score of 15% or below. However, a lower score is always better. Note that not all similarity is plagiarism — direct quotes that are properly cited, common phrases, and reference lists may show up as matches. What matters is that your ideas, arguments, and writing are your own.

## How to Fix Flagged Sections

- Rewrite the flagged sentence or paragraph entirely in your own words (paraphrase).
- If you must use the exact words of another author, put them in quotation marks and cite the source.
- Add a proper in-text citation to any idea, fact, or finding that comes from another source.
- Remove any content that you cannot properly attribute to a source.
- Run the check again after making corrections to confirm the similarity score has reduced.

*Remember: Paraphrasing is not just changing a few words. It means completely rewriting an idea in your own words and sentence structure, while still citing the original source.*