

# Plagiarism and Non-Permitted Collaboration in Problem Sets

## Information Sheet for Students

(Resolution of the Faculty of Law of December 14, 2017)

Pursuant to Article 42(2) RSL RW, every written work must end with the following declaration, dated and signed:

“I hereby declare that I have **written this work independently** and that I have **not used any sources other than those indicated**. **All passages**, whose **wording or meaning** was taken from any sources, are **cited and distinctly noted** as such. I am aware that, should the foregoing not be true, this work will be given the **grade of 1.0** and that the University Senate can revoke any academic title obtained based on this work, pursuant to Article 36(1)(r) of the University Act of September 5, 1996 (UniG) and Article 69 of the University of Bern Bylaws of June 7, 2011 (UniSt). [...]”

### 1) Significance of the Declaration of Independent Work

It defines and sanctions plagiarism as well as collaboration of students in the preparation of written works, i.e. including problem sets.

#### a) Plagiarism

Academic work requires correct attribution of authorship. Missing or incorrect references, as well as missing quotation marks, are more than just formal errors.

Inadmissible are, in particular:

- if passages, whose complete or partial wording was taken in the identical form from a work of a third party, are not put into quotation marks and are not cited correctly;
- if passages, whose complete or partial wording or meaning was taken in a rephrased form from a work of a third party, are not cited correctly;
- if a work or parts of a work of a third party are submitted under one's own name.

Requirements set by the Executive Board of the University are reserved.

#### b) Inadmissible Cooperation

The work must be done completely independently.

In particular, the following are not permitted for problem sets:

- the joint preparation of the work or parts of the work;
- unilateral or mutual assistance in the preparation of the work or parts of the work;
- handing over the work or parts of the work or making it available to another person in a unilateral or mutual way;
- the proofreading of the work by third parties is only permitted with regard to linguistic errors.

### 2) Consequences of a Breach of the Declaration of Independent Work

A violation of the Declaration of Independent Work is a serious infraction of the fundamental rules of scientific integrity. It is **irrelevant** whether the violation was **intentional or negligent**. A violation is therefore punished with a **grade of 1.0**. Further disciplinary and other measures are reserved.