

Departmental policy on reuse of coursework for MA thesis

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The [CEU Policy on Plagiarism](#) leaves room in interpreting the rule that the same written work should not be used for credit twice. Article 2 considers the case of submitting something for coursework which has already been submitted for credit elsewhere as only legitimate when it is allowed by the academic unit and prior permission is given by the instructor. The Appendix of the plagiarism policy states that „[s]ubmitting without permission one's own work that has been largely or wholly submitted for credit to another course” is a case of “less serious plagiarism.”

To prevent that we are interpreting this regulation in different ways, the Department of Philosophy has agreed on the following rules and guidelines:

- The Department does not support self-plagiarism. Applied to the writing of the MA thesis this means, that the MA thesis needs to be a self-standing achievement in addition to term papers and similar course work. Thus, the MA thesis needs to go substantially beyond the content (not just the wording) of work already submitted otherwise for credit at CEU. Reuse of work submitted at another higher education institution (with credits not transferred to CEU) is not possible.
- Students should thus not just copy and paste the overall text from their written course work to the MA thesis. Yet, reuse of certain passages or ideas from the course work in the MA thesis is possible, up to a certain extent. As a guide, not more than two standard CEU term papers (not more than max. 4000 words in total) should be reused in the described way. If a thesis plan goes beyond such limited reuse, it needs extra justification.
- Any reuse of text and ideas already submitted for grade in another context needs to be announced, i.e., made transparent in the final document, as part of a special copyright notice (see also [CEU's Thesis Writing and ETD Submission Guidelines](#)).
- The supervising faculty and the instructor of the course from which work was reused needs to approve in advance any reuse as not being tantamount to self-plagiarism.