



Students and Copyright

A student (regardless of the category of enrollment) may encounter copyright in two ways: with copyright belonging to others and with the student's own copyright. This document outlines the rights and obligations of students regarding copyright.

For more information see www.wur.eu/copyright or contact copyright@wur.nl.

Copyright belonging to others

Students must respect the copyright of the original creators when using texts, images and videos from books, journals, magazines, lectures, readers or from websites.

This means that, in principle, all reproduction or publication of the works of others requires permission from the copyright holder(s) (the original creator or publisher). For this reason it is also not permitted to share lectures, handouts, exams or other study materials with others or to offer them on websites (e.g. via www.studeersnel.nl).

In some cases, however, the student may make a copy or otherwise copy texts, images, and videos from others without having to obtain permission from the copyright holder.

This is the case, for example, with:

- Use for personal study: it is permitted to make some copies of a work within the meaning of the Copyright Act for the purpose of personal use (study). These copies may not be shared with others.
- Quotations: it is permitted to quote short sections of public works in the student's own argument or scientific treatise. This applies to texts, images and videos. The size of the quote should be in proportion to the purpose and means. The source and author must always be mentioned. Permission is required if the copy serves to decorate something or make it more attractive to the eye.
- Works in the public domain that are no longer subject to copyright, because, for example, it has been 70 years since the creator of the work died.

If parts of the text and/or images in theses and other work are taken from books or magazines (possibly from the Internet) without proper acknowledgement of the source, then, in addition to plagiarism, there may be infringement of the copyright of the rightholder. Such infringement may lead to an obligation to compensate for damages. For plagiarism, see Rules and Regulations Examining Boards.

Copyright belonging to the student

It follows from the Copyright Act (In Dutch: the *Auteurswet*) that the student who creates a thesis or other work product owns the rights to that work product. If more people create a work together, they could jointly own the copyright. The student is responsible for the content of the work product and for respecting the (copy)rights of others. The University is responsible for supervising and assessing the student in the creation of the work products and for assessing the educational quality. The University may keep and use some copies of the work products for these purposes.

Copyright means that the student has the power to decide whether or not to make the work products publicly available. (Written) agreements can be made about the copyright of the student, for example with an internship provider, or with WUR if the student participates in research of WUR. These agreements may include, for example, that the student (temporarily) cannot publish the work product, or that the student transfers the

copyright or grants a license. These agreements can therefore restrict the effect of the student's copyright.