

## **Turnitin or Turn it off**

Dr E Chew

University of Glamorgan

The aim of this project is to investigate the technology enhanced learning and teaching experiences at the University of Glamorgan. This is a collaborative project of 6 academics from 4 faculties, which provide experience sharing and critical analysis of the pedagogical and technological impact of Turnitin and GradeMark. Turnitin is an online submission and text matching system which integrated with the University's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), Blackboard. It allows lecturers and students to check submitted coursework for potential plagiarism by comparing it against continuously updated databases and sources. GradeMark is an online grading tool developed by Turnitin which allows lecturers to give students valuable and time sensitive feedback (TurnitinUK, 2010).

Taking a small group of the Glamorgan's lecturers and their students from different disciplines (more usage of technology versus less usage of technology in learning and teaching), the project responds to the needs of the online submission and assessment agenda at Glamorgan with the following objectives:

- a.) To identify both the academics' and students' confirming and disconfirming experiences on Turnitin and GradeMark – the online submission, plagiarism detection, feedback and grading tool.
- b.) To discover academics' perceptions and experiences of the impact brought by GradeMark (underpinned by Vygotsky's educational theory).
- c.) To produce a series of good case studies and a video based on the findings from (a) and (b) to promote blended learning, teaching, assessment and feedback.

Both qualitative and quantitative data were collected by an online questionnaire and video interviews. 104 students responded to the online questionnaire, and 6 lecturers and 6 students were video interviewed. The comparative findings of this project demonstrate evidence-based data across different disciplines in the University of Glamorgan. For instance, top ten positive experiences and top ten disconfirming experiences. List of recommendations is suggested to nLearning and lecturers for potential future enhancement of the system and practice. The project also provides case studies of pedagogically good practices with the use of Turnitin and GradeMark that can be referenced by other colleagues within the institution and across the UK.