

## GradeMark FAQs

### 1. Is it possible to use anonymous marking within GradeMark?

Yes, but a module leader will need to switch on the 'enable anonymous marking' feature when setting up the assignment & advise students NOT to put their name on their text.

Note also that anonymity can be compromised by late submissions for mitigating circumstances and resits.

### 2. Do tutors *have to use* a prescribed (QuickMark) set of comments *only* when marking on GradeMark?

No, they can use QuickMark comments and/or create their own comments for any text they are marking. They can also personalise QuickMark comments by adding additional remarks. The existence of a module QuickMark set is optional & the extent to which it is used can be negotiated among tutors and/or decided by a module leader.

### 3. Will any text marked on GradeMark automatically undergo an originality report too & therefore be checked for plagiarism?

No, the programme/module leader can decide whether or not this should happen, and switch off the originality checking if they choose. This means that it is possible to mark on GradeMark and bypass an originality report.

### 4. Is GradeMark compatible with OBU's Moodle learning environment?

Yes, Grademark marking is well integrated into Moodle. Once you have created a Turnitin assignment and students have submitted their work, you can grade their papers through the Moodle interface and marks will be added to the Moodle Grade book.

### 5. Aren't face-to-face tutorials much better for students than the audio-feedback function on GradeMark?

There is no reason why using audio-feedback should replace tutorials. Audio-feedback merely offers one of a range of multi-modal feedback & feed-forward options. Furthermore, a student may listen to their tutor's audio-feedback several times. In cases where face-to-face tutorials are not possible (e.g. distance learning), this feature may represent the only opportunity for learners to hear feedback/feed-forward.

## **6. What's in it for students?**

- They don't have to print an assignment, nor turn up in person to submit or collect it.
- Tutors' comments may well be easier to read than when hand-written.
- Students can collect their feedback in their own time and on a range of devices.
- They can easily view their tutors' comments and their assignment (with comments) on one screen, and click an icon to hear up to 3 minutes of audio-feedback.
- Even lengthy feedback comments can be placed adjacent to the section of the work they relate to, something difficult to achieve with hand-written comments.
- All marked copies are potentially visible to all markers, the module leader and external examiner. This may help to reassure students that a standardised approach to marking is in use.
- On one OBU programme which has been using GradeMark since 2010, it has been noted that more students have been collecting their GradeMark feedback/feed-forward than previously used hard copies.

## **7. What's in it for tutors/markers?**

- There is no need to collect and take personal responsibility for hard-copy assignments, nor to hand-write comments and feedback.
- Moderated copies do not need to be photocopied.
- If classes are very large and time for individual face-to-face feedback is short, then the audio-feedback function offers an option for personalised recorded comments too.
- Tutors can see module leaders' and other tutors' marking. They can therefore check that the number of and types of comments are consistent across a module.
- There is an opportunity for peer evaluation (observation) of marking.
- There are opportunities in multiple marker assignments to remove inconsistent use of language in feedback to students by using standard phrases
- Marking time can be reduced through the use of Quickmark comments
- All feedback is legible
- Release of feedback to students can be controlled (simultaneous release)
- Better access to feedback for students, including access to on mobile devices (Turnitin app)

## **8. Are there any disadvantages?**

- Some students who use adaptive software and/or who need to customize their browser displays may find Turnitin/GradeMark restricts their ability to do this.

- Some students and tutors may be concerned that GradeMark is run through Turnitin, which is also used as a plagiarism detection tool.
- Some tutors may feel anxious that their marking is potentially visible to a number of other academics & module/programme leaders.
- Some students and tutors may be concerned about additional 'screen time'.
- Some highly personal marking practices may not be possible when grading this way
- Comments can only consist of text and short audio; images, drawings and many symbols (including mathematical notation) are not available
- Anonymous marking can be compromised by identifying students with late submissions and resits
- 'Blind' second marking is not possible
- The system does not facilitate processes for recording separate marks and feedback by second markers, although workarounds are possible.