

South African Universities Switch Off Turnitin's AI Detector Over Bias and False-Positive Risks

AI in Education · Good practice · South Africa

Quality score: 67/100

Evidence strength: Descriptive / self-reported

Summary

Facing evidence that AI-text detectors misclassify non-native English writing, South Africa's UCT, Stellenbosch, UFS and Wits disabled Turnitin's AI detector in 2025-26, replacing it with redesigned, process-based assessment instead of automated policing.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of learning impact	1/3
Equity & inclusion	3/3
Transparency, ethics & data protection	3/3
Teacher capability & pedagogy	1/3
Scalability & sustainability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-07-30

[University of Cape Town](#) — accessed 2026-07-30

[ITWeb: SA universities move beyond AI detection tools](#) — accessed 2026-07-30

[Daily Maverick: Turning off AI detection software is the right call for SA universities](#) — accessed 2026-07-30

[iAfrica: South African universities switch off AI detectors](#) — accessed 2026-07-30

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