

Supported by



Plagiarism Advisory Service

Plagiarism Advisory Service Student Survey

Using other people's work, often copied from the internet, without proper citation is known to be an issue within Further and Higher Education. We believe that the correct way to address this issue is through the proper education of students and by making it clear what is expected of them in written work.

The survey will identify:

- Which activities students believe to be academic misconduct.
- Where the rules and regulations of academic misconduct are defined for them.
- Whether they consider the guidance given to them to be adequate for their needs.
- Their awareness of actions taken by lecturers to detect plagiarism.
- Their awareness of actions taken by their institution to detect plagiarism.
- Their attitudes towards electronic detection tools.

However, the survey **will not**:

- Identify responses from specific individuals.
- Identify responses from specific institutions.
- Ask students to self-report academic misconduct.
- Ask students to report other students' behaviour.

In all cases, unless specified, please circle the response which reflects your view.

1. Are you aware that the following activities are **against the regulations of your institution**?

- Copying paragraphs from various sources without acknowledgment, and handing them in as your own work. YES NO
- Downloading or purchasing a piece of work from an essaybank¹, and handing it in as your own work. YES NO
- Commissioning a piece of work from a ghost writing service², and handing it in as your own work. YES NO
- Working with other students on an assignment, and handing in work which is very similar when you are supposed to be working alone. YES NO
- Copying passages of text from another source, changing some words and handing it in as your own work with no acknowledgement of sources. YES NO
- Including material in your work taken directly from the Internet without referencing the URL for the site. YES NO
- Making up references for an assignment. YES NO
- Falsifying data in an assignment. YES NO

2. Where are the guidelines for how you provide references and credit other people's work in your own assignments defined? (tick all that are appropriate)

- *Student handbook*
- *Induction session*
- *Course/module handbook*
- *Study skills session*
- *Library session*
- *Other (please give details)*

3. Do the guidelines make it clear how you should incorporate other people's work in your own work? YES NO

¹ An essaybank is a web site offering completed assignments on various topics to students. These are often freely available, or a charge or subscription is required.

² A ghost writing service offers custom written assignments. A charge is made for this service.

4. On a scale of 1 to 4 rate how confident you feel about correctly incorporating other people's work in your own without infringing the institution's regulations. (circle one)
- 1 *Very confident*
 2 *Reasonably confident*
 3 *Only a little confident*
 4 *Not confident at all*
5. Do you think that students who submit essays bought from the internet devalue the qualification you are working towards? YES NO
6. Do your tutors check you have correctly credited other people's work in your assignments during marking? YES NO
7. Do you think your tutors are always able to spot work taken from the internet and submitted as a student's own? YES NO
8. Are you in favour of tutors using electronic detection tools³ to check that students have correctly credited other people's work in their assignments? YES NO
9. Would using electronic detection tools as part of the assessment process: (tick all that are appropriate)
- help address the issue by discouraging the submission of work which is copied from the internet and not credited.
 - help address the issue by encouraging students to spend more time crediting the work of others correctly because it is being explicitly checked.
 - help address the issue by encouraging tutors to spend more time talking about correct referencing and citation techniques.
 - make little difference to current practice.
10. In your opinion, is the issue of students submitting work that is not their own dealt with seriously? YES NO
11. What action do you think should be taken against students who submit work which is substantially not their own? (tick one)
- *Expelled from course*
 - *Resit module/assignment*
 - *Zero mark for assignment*(continues over page)

³ A detection tool allows a tutor to check an assignment electronically against all other work submitted for the assessment and against an international database of several billion pages of content from essaybanks, electronic journals, and web pages in order to identify copied pages.

- *Formal warning*
- *None*

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.