

Supported by



## Plagiarism Advisory Service

### Plagiarism Advisory Service staff survey

This short questionnaire is designed to determine how student plagiarism is currently dealt with at your institution. It will focus on your individual experiences of plagiarism in the last academic year, and your own academic practice in preventing plagiarism.

The questionnaire also seeks to consider the guidance provided by your institution in preventing and detecting plagiarism, and how this informs your practice.

Its findings will enable recommendations to be made in relation to how your institution deals with student plagiarism in future.

Please answer all questions based on your personal experiences. **All responses will be treated in confidence.**

Many thanks for your co operation.  
***The Plagiarism Advisory Service.***

### Section 1: My experience

Please indicate which of the following instances of **plagiarism** and **poor academic practice** you have encountered amongst your students in the **last academic year**.

- 1. Students copying paragraphs from various sources without acknowledgment, and handing them in as their own work. YES NO
- 2. Students downloading or purchasing a piece of work from an essay bank<sup>1</sup>, and handing it in as their own work. YES NO
- 3. Students commissioning a piece of work from a ghostwriting service<sup>2</sup>, and handing it in as their own work. YES NO
- 4. Quoting large passages of text from another source, *with acknowledgment*, but with the addition of little or no original additional material. YES NO
- 5. Students working together on an assignment, and handing in work which is very similar when they are supposed to be working alone. YES NO
- 6. Students copying passages of text from another source, changing some words and handing it in as their own. YES NO
- 7. Making up references. YES NO
- 8. Falsifying data in an assignment. YES NO

Are you able to identify a particular cohort of students in which these actions are particularly prevalent?

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From your own experience, would you like to suggest why this may be the case?

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> A ghostwriting service offers custom written assignments. A charge is made for this service.

## Section 2: Institutional guidance

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements.

1. I am aware that my institution has a specific policy on plagiarism.  

*AGREE*                      *DISAGREE*

*(If you have disagreed with this statement, please go to question 11 in this section)*
  
2. I have a clear idea of what to do to adhere to the institution's policy if I suspect that a student has plagiarised.  

*AGREE*                      *DISAGREE*
  
3. I feel that our policies on plagiarism are too bureaucratic.  

*AGREE*                      *DISAGREE*
  
4. The institution's policy on plagiarism is well-publicised within the institution.  

*AGREE*                      *DISAGREE*
  
5. The institution's policy on plagiarism is not appropriate for the subject area I teach in.  

*AGREE*                      *DISAGREE*
  
6. The institution's policy on plagiarism allows me to take an informal approach to dealing with suspected cases of plagiarism.  

*AGREE*                      *DISAGREE*
  
7. I feel that our policies on plagiarism are too complex.  

*AGREE*                      *DISAGREE*
  
8. The institution's policy on plagiarism allows me to take extenuating circumstances into account when dealing with a case.  

*AGREE*                      *DISAGREE*
  
9. I feel that it is beneficial to have all cases of plagiarism investigated by an independent assessor within the institution.  

*AGREE*                      *DISAGREE*
  
10. Students are made aware of the institution's policies and procedures on plagiarism as part of their induction programme.  

*AGREE*                      *DISAGREE*
  
11. Making an accusation of plagiarism against a student means a lot of extra work.  

*AGREE*                      *DISAGREE*

12. In the first instance, all cases of plagiarism are dealt with at a departmental level.  
*AGREE* *DISAGREE*
13. I feel apprehensive about making an accusation of plagiarism against a student.  
*AGREE* *DISAGREE*
14. I feel confident that my department will support me if I accuse a student of plagiarism.  
*AGREE* *DISAGREE*
15. I tend to ignore minor incidences of plagiarism, as dealing with them is too much trouble.  
*AGREE* *DISAGREE*
16. I always discuss my suspicions of plagiarism with the student in question, before I take any further action.  
*AGREE* *DISAGREE*
17. In my experience no action is taken against most students who plagiarise.  
*AGREE* *DISAGREE*

### Section 3: My own practice

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements.

#### Informing students

1. I encourage my students to read about the institution's plagiarism policies in their course handbook.  

*AGREE*      *DISAGREE*
2. I conduct study skills sessions with my students to teach them how to reference their sources correctly.  

*AGREE*      *DISAGREE*
3. I liaise with library/learning resources staff when developing induction programmes for my students.  

*AGREE*      *DISAGREE*
4. I allow my students to use plagiarism detection software to check their work for plagiarism prior to handing it in.  

*AGREE*      *DISAGREE*
5. I provide my students with practical examples of plagiarism to illustrate the institution's policies.  

*AGREE*      *DISAGREE*
6. I engage my students in discussion on plagiarism and academic misconduct.  

*AGREE*      *DISAGREE*
7. I ensure my students are aware of the essaybank sites.  

*AGREE*      *DISAGREE*
8. I would make use of interactive resources for students to assist me in informing my students about plagiarism.  

*AGREE*      *DISAGREE*

*Setting assignments*

1. I ensure that I change my assignments each academic year.  
*AGREE DISAGREE*
  
2. The criteria I set for each assignment are well-defined, so that my students know what is expected of them.  
*AGREE DISAGREE*
  
3. My assignments encourage students to think critically about the problem which has been set.  
*AGREE DISAGREE*
  
4. I try to use innovative learning methods whenever possible to encourage original work.  
*AGREE DISAGREE*
  
5. I use a learning management system, such as Blackboard or WebCT to assist in my teaching.  
*AGREE DISAGREE*
  
6. I provide my students with formative feedback on referencing and citation.  
*AGREE DISAGREE*

*Detecting plagiarism*

What methods and resources (search engine such as Google, plagiarism detection software, other) do you use to detect plagiarism in your students' work?

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## Section 4: Keeping up to date

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements.

1. I am happy with the training available to ensure I keep up to date with institution's policy and procedures on plagiarism.

*AGREE*      *DISAGREE*

2. I would welcome more staff development opportunities to assist me in preventing and detecting plagiarism.

*AGREE*      *DISAGREE*

3. I would be interested in other training resources offering guidance on preventing plagiarism.

*AGREE*      *DISAGREE*

## Section 5: Myself

*Please complete the following information about yourself. These details will be used to identify whether particular patterns exist within departments or subject areas.*

Department: .....

Subject area: .....

I have been teaching for

less than 1 year

1-5 years

5-10 years

10+ years