

Attitudes towards plagiarism amongst transnational postgraduate students in the Graduate School of Education at the University of Western Australia

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Abstract: The Graduate School of Education conducts a number of transnational postgraduate degree courses including Master of Education, Master of Educational Studies, Master of Educational Management and Doctor of Education. These degrees are currently available to students off-shore, with courses being delivered in Hong Kong and Singapore.

The occurrence of observable plagiarism evident in the submitted assessments from these courses has caused concern in recent times. While the level of plagiarism may be no greater than occurs amongst on-shore students, the instances are perhaps more apparent in the transnational population where for some students, English is a second language.

A survey is currently being conducted amongst students enrolled in the Graduate School of Education programs in Singapore and Hong Kong to gain a better understanding of the factors influencing the degree of plagiarism among transnational students. At the same time, assessments submitted will be monitored for evidence of plagiarism. A tally of the frequency of offences will be recorded. The study will seek to determine whether the perceptions of issues surrounding the notion of plagiarism amongst transnational students differ from those of their on-shore peers.

Preliminary results from the study will be presented.

Keywords: plagiarism, international students, postgraduate, transnational, off shore, education.

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