

## **Plagiarism and international students: A matter of values differences?**

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Plagiarism is often cited by lecturing staff as one issue causing difficulties for international students in tertiary education. However, there is little hard evidence of different perceptions of what this involves or of the possible sources of these differences.

A survey was carried out of 31 Chinese students preparing to enter university and 63 New Zealand students in their first year of university study. All participants completed an instrument on which they rated their perception of the seriousness of six scenarios involving different levels of plagiarism on a nine point Likert scale.

Significant differences were found on four of the six items with Chinese students rating these items as less problematic than New Zealand students.

These findings are discussed in relation to the findings of survey of values completed by the 31 Chinese students.

Implications of the findings for international students and tertiary institutions and suggestions for further research are discussed.