

Copying work

There has been much in the press about plagiarism so we asked students about their experience of copying. Two thirds (69%) of students have never allowed a friend to copy their work since starting university and only a small number allow copying because of 'laziness' (2%) or because 'it doesn't bother me' (4%). The fact that 30% of students have allowed a friend to copy their work, and that this is most common among 3rd Year+ students (36%) may be cause for concern. However, when asked why they allowed a friend to copy, 60% of responses were at least superficially constructive. Justifications included; to help friends' understanding, to collaborate for group work, the work was unimportant or routine such as missed lecture notes or situations beyond their control, e.g. illness.

Why did you allow a friend to copy your work?

To help a friend	35%
To help their understanding, they were struggling	20%
To collaborate, for group work	14%
The work was unimportant or routine e.g. missed lecture notes	13%
Situation beyond their control e.g. illness	13%
Time constraints	11%
It doesn't bother me	4%
Laziness	2%
Other / Don't know	4%

Methodology

The fieldwork took place online using The Student Panel from Opinionpanel Research between 2nd December and 6th December 2004. Post-research, the data was weighted according to the national pattern for gender, year of study and university type as defined by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record 2002/3.