

**WORKING TITLE: Motivational Factors Leading to Plagiarism in Chinese  
University Students**

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**ABSTRACT**

Due to advancements in Asian economies, Western universities are experiencing an influx of international students, especially from China. At the same time, plagiarism is becoming an increasingly popular topic for contemporary scholarly articles, research, and media. In many cases, the academic community and the media have written about the cross-section of these two phenomena, focusing on the apparent frequency and egregiousness of plagiarism by Chinese students. The purpose of this quantitative study is to identify common motivations for Chinese students to plagiarize, and ultimately to demystify and understand the mindset of Chinese students who plagiarize. The data for this study comes from a survey that asked Chinese undergraduate students in a Western style English language university in China to agree or disagree with questions from factors that represent possible motivations as well as self-report their likelihood to plagiarize for English class assignments. The survey was given to 435 students and the results are based on 401 useable responses. According to a regression analysis of this data the most significant factor correlating with likelihood to plagiarize is the belief in a “standard answer,” which represents a singular correct answer to a given question. The regression results also suggest that pressure to achieve a high GPA and the student’s division, business or non-business, are also factors, and the other factors included in the regression were not found to be significant.