Fact-finding Study:

Consequences of COVID-19 on Global Academic Integrity.

COPYLEAKS

Based on the growing concerns from our university and collegiate partners around the rising number of academic dishonesty cases, we researched our data of over 1200 randomized and anonymous student submissions worldwide to uncover the truth. We found that as an effect of COVID-19 and global lockdowns, a sizable number of students were committing to unethical standards and academic misconduct. The prevalence of the problem is alarming and has soared incessantly.
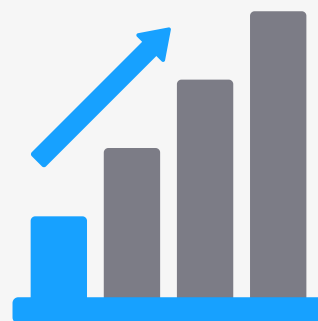
Summary Finding:

Everything You Need To Know.

As a result of COVID-19 induced global lockdowns in 2020, academics worldwide saw a pivotal shift from in-person learning to online learning and the deployment of educational technology. Due to this shift to online education, cheating and plagiarism have become more apparent and widespread.

Globally, the similarity score for academic submissions rose from an avg. **35.1% in period 1** to an avg. **49.6% in period 2**, a change of

141%

31%
Increase in paraphrased content.

39%
Increase in identical match content.

Global change in plagiarism—by countries.

- 116% GERMANY
- 124% FRANCE
- 119% UK
- 126% USA
- 144% INDIA
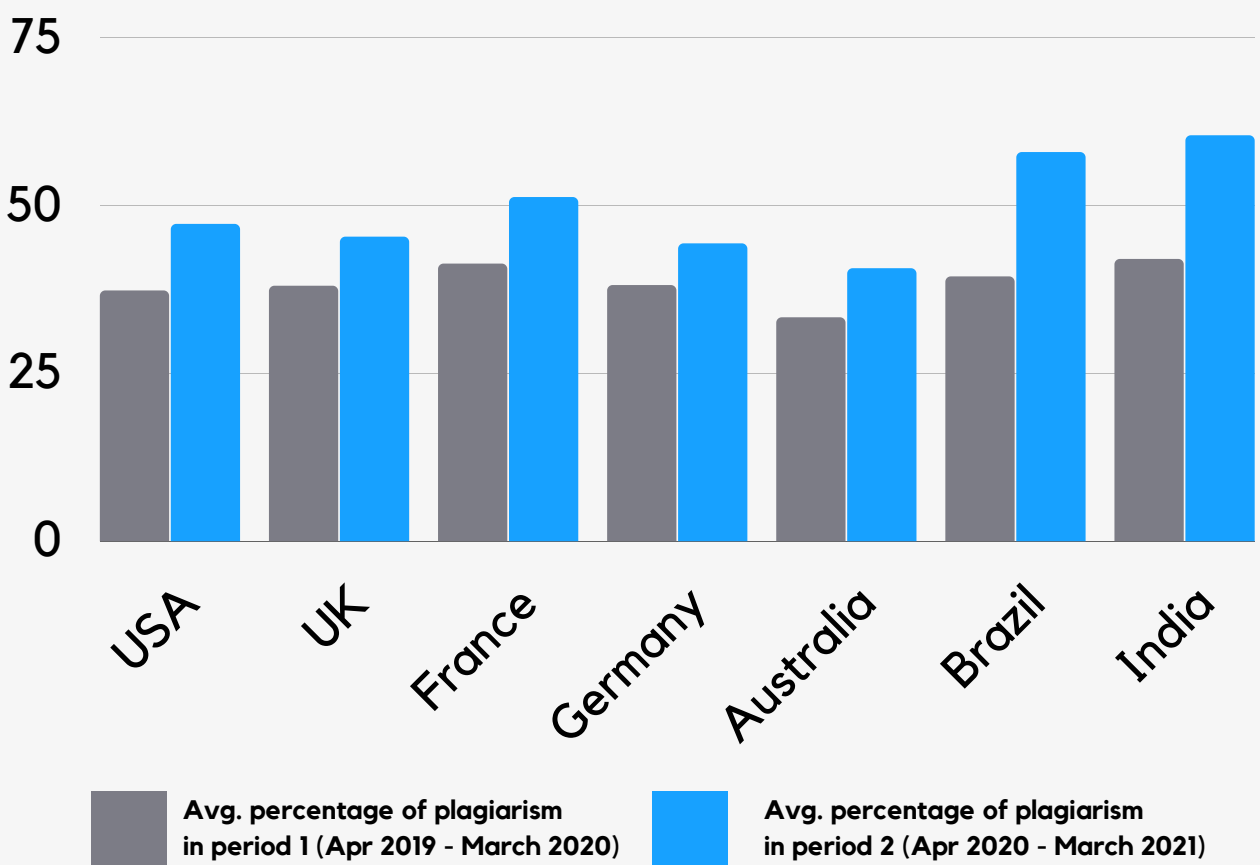- 147% BRAZIL
- 122% AUSTRALIA

Glossary and data explanation:

- **Period 1:** Apr 2019 - March 2020 and **Period 2:** Apr 2020 - March 2021.
- **Plagiarism percentage:** Every scan result from Copyleaks receives a similarity score (percentage), broken down by identical and paraphrased content type plagiarism. The similarity score is calculated by dividing the number of words scanned by the number of plagiarized words found.
- **Avg. percentage** is calculated by dividing the total of all similarity scores across the sample set by the total sample size.

COPYLEAKS

These countries were hit the hardest.

USA · UK · France · Germany · Australia · Brazil · India

75 · 50 · 25 · 0

Avg. percentage of plagiarism in period 1 (Apr 2019 - March 2020)

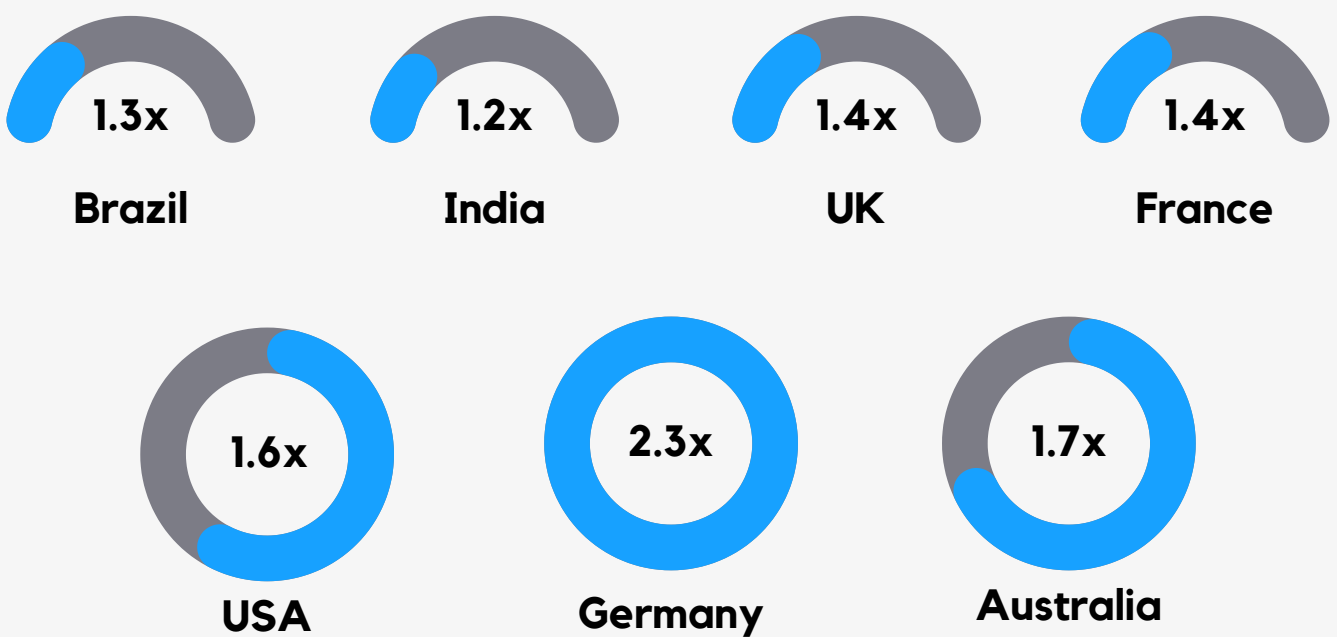**Avg. percentage of plagiarism in period 2 (Apr 2020 - March 2021)**

The effects of the pandemic were felt all around the globe, but countries like **Brazil** and **India** saw a steep rise in academic dishonesty.

All academic institutions across the globe need to review their strategies now.

Some countries were affected by COVID-19 more than others, which resulted in different lockdown patterns. This showed a clear outcome on academic performance and a difference in the way academic integrity was compromised.

Paraphrasing* grew exponentially—more so in developed nations.

1.3x **Brazil**

1.2x **India**

1.4x **UK**

1.4x **France**

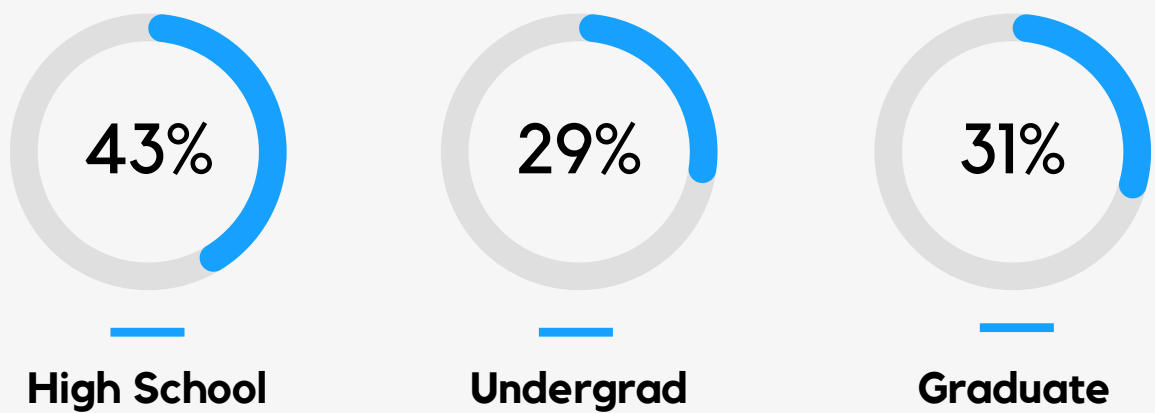1.6x **USA**

2.3x **Germany**

1.7x **Australia**

*While **paraphrasing** to some extent is permissible, paraphrasing with the intent of plagiarizing and deceiving a plagiarism detection system is unethical. The data stated here is the paraphrasing identified by **Copyleaks** at above acceptable levels.

Glossary and data explanation:
- Period 1: Apr 2019 - March 2020 and Period 2: Apr 2020 - March 2021.
- **Avg. percentage** is calculated by dividing the total of all similarity scores across the sample set by the total sample size.
- **Percentage change** is calculated by dividing average percentage in period 1 by period 2.
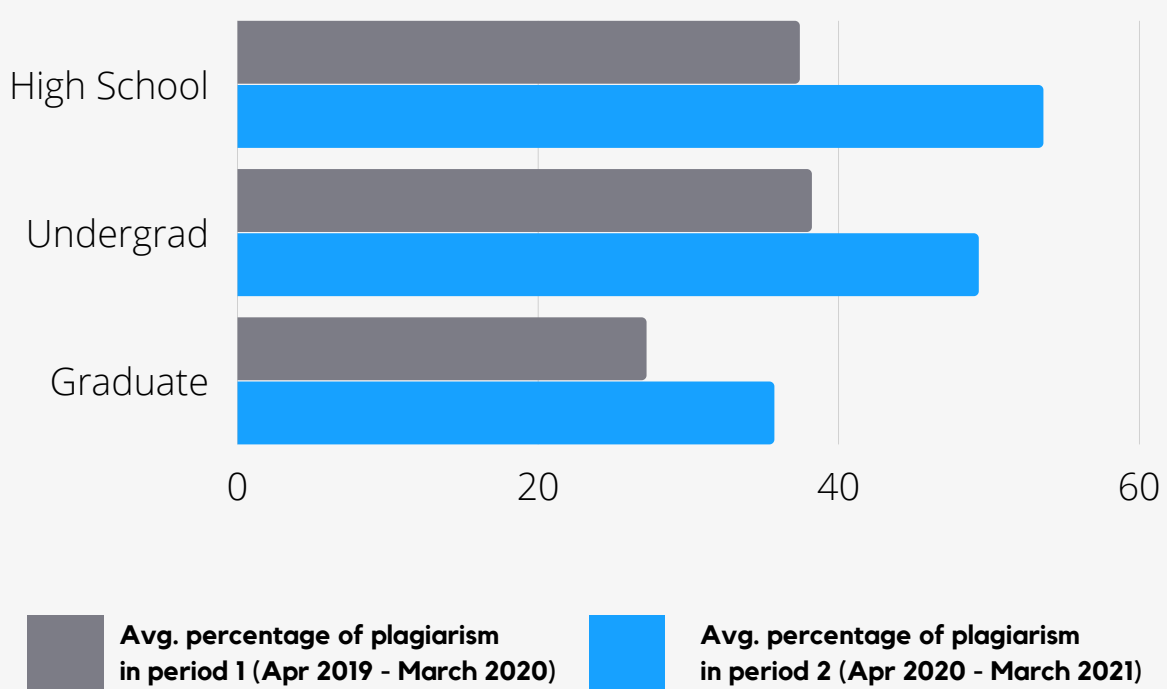
COPYLEAKS

Global rise in plagiarism—by education level.

43% High School

29% Undergrad

31% Graduate

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected 91% of the world's students, teachers, and parents.

Source - Education: From disruption to recovery (UNESCO)

Average percentages of plagiarism in submissions—by education level.

High School
Undergrad
Graduate

0   20   40   60

Avg. percentage of plagiarism in period 1 (Apr 2019 - March 2020)

Avg. percentage of plagiarism in period 2 (Apr 2020 - March 2021)

Recommendations

The "panic-then-forget" cycle must be stopped. It is imperative that Institutions worldwide adopt and implement academic standards that can be sustainable—with or without a pandemic in play.

- Make use of a plagiarism detection solution that utilizes cutting-edge technology to help foster student growth and provide lifelong value from education.
- Instill in students the systemic and cultural value academic honesty brings and recognize it when students achieve that.
- Provide tangible evidence and samples of what students submitted.
- Showcase the assessment rubrics used to evaluate submissions.

We're all in this together. Even if it means to be separate for now.

Glossary and data explanation:
- Period 1: Apr 2019 - March 2020 and Period 2: Apr 2020 - March 2021.
- **Plagiarism percentage:** Every scan result from Copyleaks receives a similarity score (percentage), broken down by identical and paraphrased content type plagiarism. The similarity score is calculated by dividing the number of words scanned by the number of plagiarized words found.
- **Avg. percentage** is calculated by dividing the total of all similarity scores across the sample set by the total sample size.
- **Percentage change** is calculated by dividing average percentage in period 1 by period 2.