

## The impact of returning Asian students of NZ-Asia relationships

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The movement from Asia to New Zealand to study has increased markedly over the last fifteen years. So too has the flow of graduates back into Asia. Graduates returning to Asia experience a range of adjustments in their re-entry into Asia and these adjustments, along with their experiences of life and study in New Zealand, redefine their worldview, in particular their perception of New Zealand and New Zealanders. The Asia New Zealand Foundation (Asia:NZ) commissioned an Outlook paper based in research that would help the understanding of how experiences of entry to and life in New Zealand, along with the resultant re-entry adjustments, affect the thinking of Asian graduate about New Zealand. The paper was interested in how these transitions and adjustments translate and contribute to Asia New Zealand relationships. The Outlook paper is an informed opinion piece based in research and is designed to influence thinking around the subject of Asia New Zealand relationships.

In this paper the research and understanding that informed the work for Asia:NZ is used to focus on Asian graduate views of their experiences in New Zealand; their experiences of returning to Asia; and how these experiences contributed to developing and continuing links with New Zealand and New Zealanders. This paper also examines some of the implications for the New Zealand Asia relationship related to the building of closer relationships through formal and informal linkages. The question of Asian graduate views of how well New Zealand's international education industry contributes to positive outcomes for Asian graduates and Asia New Zealand relationships is also discussed. The enduring effect on the worldview of returned Asia graduates from living and studying in New Zealand and the implications of that on Asia New Zealand relationship is described. In particular, attention is given as to how that worldview permeates influence and thinking of others within the wider context of business and community.