

Abstract for ISANA Conference

Impressions of China

This presentation will share with delegates some information about international student services in China at one university – the South China University of Technology in Guangzhou in the Southern part of China. A month based at the University, one of the Project 285 and 311 Chinese universities through the support of an Australian Endeavour Executive Award was informative and enlightening. The international student sector in China is a thriving industry. It is also vastly different from Australia. In China it is not uncommon to have more than 17 different nationalities in a classroom. The sector encourages international students with scholarships and the tuition fees are relatively cheap. The services offered to international students in China differ from the range of services offered to international students in Australia. The relationship of professional and academic staff with students is also different from Australia. There are also challenges in intercultural engagement and in this aspect China is no different from the rest of the world. This presentation will also share some information on their attempts to bridge the cultural divide and foster engagement with the local students.