

Enhancing academic experience of international students in western research universities

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It is widely acknowledged that international students from Asia face varying academic challenges when navigating western research universities. It has been suggested that they bring with them learning styles which are conceptually 'different' from the western ways academic learning. The implications of which have yet to be fully understood – suggesting a fresh look at integrating international students into the host academic community is a neglected necessity. The current literature is mainly clustered around their language needs with limited discussions on the pedagogical and academic issues. This paper is an attempt to address some of the concerns by asking an academic needs question: What individual and institutional factors can enhance academic success or cause barriers in teaching and learning among international students? It will suggest that enhancing teaching and learning outcome is in large part a function of the effort, time, support, and quality of the interactions between the student and the academic community.

Key words: International students, teaching and learning, western research universityies