

Encouraging successful diversity engagement and intercultural interaction in campus and community environments

Sylvia Hooker¹, Terry McGrath², Lian Hong Brebner³

¹ Massey University s.d.hooker@massey.ac.nz

² International Student Ministries, terry@ism.org.nz

³ AUT University lian-hong.brebner@aut.ac.nz

Encouraging successful diversity engagement and intercultural interaction in campus and community environments – a workshop

When students change countries, cultures, climates and communities as well as entering a new educational environment they present challenges for campus support services. Amongst the challenges such transitions present are the challenges to ensure good quality experiences occur in the areas of diversity engagement and intercultural awareness and interaction within the campus and wider community environments. The international student entering our campus environment may also have to handle additional challenges to such engagement due to having to communicate in English which may be a second language for them and to negotiate differences of diet and patterns of social interaction. International student support services in tertiary and secondary education environments can assist the transition into the new environment for the student by providing programmes and events that enhance diversity engagement including intercultural interaction amongst the whole student body including interactions within the international mix of students as well as with domestic students.

This workshop will provide a framework for thinking about the diversity and intercultural engagement needs encountered within your campus and planning programmes and events to meet those needs appropriate to your context and probably a limited budget. Within the workshop some tried and proven programmes and events will be showcased as illustrative outcomes of the thinking and planning framework which has theoretically underpinning drawn from the work of Jane Jensen (1998) the Canadian sociologist and which is the framework frequently used to inform in areas of immigration. Attendees of this workshop should come prepared to contribute from their experience to make connections and to learn from others as well as the experience of the workshop presenters.

Key Words

International relations, diversity, intercultural interaction, settlement, academic success, Community connections