

Preparing International Students for Post Academic Transition with particular attention to re-entry to a diverse range of Countries.

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In Late 2008, ASIA:NZ commissioned a three year tracer study of Asia Born New Zealand trained business graduates. The final report was published in 2012. This study involved graduates from many New Zealand education providers including all but one of New Zealand's Universities. This provided a rich source of data related to the post academic transition of graduates. Some of the recommendations from this study focussed on the need to prepare international graduates for their post academic transitions. In this paper we summarise the learning from this major study (and other related studies that informed it) and examine as a case study one university's response to the need to provide particular specialised preparation for re-entry to countries of origin for their international soon-to-be graduates. In this case study we look at how advice around re-entry is adjusted to ensure it is country context specific and the challenge of doing so amongst a very diverse international student body. A core generic understanding of issues to be considered in re-entry preparation emerges as well as some strategies to ensure that the advice and preparation given is fit for purpose for specific New Zealand to country of origin transitions. What has been learned in this case study should be of value to others seeking to enhance career and alumni services, as well as international support services, in the important area of preparing students for post academic transition.

Key Words

Internationalisation, higher education, post academic transition, re-entry, student experience, career services, job finding strategies, reverse culture shock.