

# **Non-academic pastoral support factors influencing international PhD students experience in sport research at Auckland University of Technology.**

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The Auckland University of Technology (AUT) has seen an increase of the number of international Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) students conducting sports performance research at AUT's Millennium Campus. Due to this increase of numbers it has highlighted issues in the pre-administration of the arrival and transition of these international research students. These students can arrive in New Zealand and start their research at any time of the year. In some situations they arrive without any contact with international student support and other key AUT administration staff and may only be in contact with their academic supervisor. Due to these situations occurring there have been instances where students have faced challenges which could have been minimised by having the administrative staff engaged. These encounters have been impacted by students based at a satellite location; and conducting their research in isolation.

This presentation will be confined to research undertaken on key identifiers of international doctorate student experience at the stages of arrival in New Zealand and transition into AUT Millennium campus.

The investigation was conducted by semi-structured interviews taken from a sample from these international PhD students (n=6). The interview focused on the student personal experience regarding positive and negative administrative engagement with their arrival and transition to AUT.

This research will provide evidence based responses from those students canvassed and identify common themes of the student experience. In particular the correlation of student experience to non-academic support will be discussed.

**International doctorate students; Non-academic support; Arrival; Transition; International Student Support; Student experience; Sport research; Satellite campus.**