

## US college student expectations of studying in Australia or New Zealand – insights from down under.

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Students from the US coming to study in Australia or New Zealand on exchange, or for postgraduate studies may be excused for thinking that our cultures are not dissimilar from theirs. However their expectations may not match their lived experience. The presenters undertook a study tour in the US in March 2014, visiting private and community colleges in the Maryland region, and attending the NASPA Conference and International Symposium. They also made site visits to two public universities in Baltimore. This session will focus on the differences identified between the US and Australian and New Zealand systems of higher education, and potential implications of these for US students studying, and for institutions hosting these students. It will also highlight differences between professional preparation for those in student support and development roles in the US, and in our region, and how these may impact the student experience.

Delegates will be invited to consider how the presenters' observations and reflections on this exchange visit might resonate with their experience of visiting universities overseas, and how such exposure can enhance cross-cultural understandings, and therefore the nature of support and development services provided to US students studying in Australia and New Zealand.

### **Key Words**

US higher education; college experience; international exchange; study abroad; Student Affairs; Student Services; parental engagement; student expectations.

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