

Perceptions of Overseas Student Exchange Programmes: Are They Effective Opportunities for Personal and Professional Development?

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Perceptions of Overseas Student Exchange Programmes

- Internationalisation of Higher Education
- Mission of Universities
- Overseas student exchange
- What do you think?
- Literature
- Our Project

Internationalisation of Higher Education

the process of integrating an international, intercultural, or global dimension into the purpose, functions or delivery of postsecondary education

(Knight, 2003)

Drivers of Internationalisation?

- Economic
- Global Citizenship

Economic Driver

International education is now New Zealand's 5th most valuable export sector, and supports an estimated 28,000 jobs.

(NZ Tertiary Education Strategy 2014 - 2019)

Global Citizenship

At a time of unprecedented global economic upheaval, the need for individuals, institutions and countries to develop intercultural understanding and competence is more acute than every before.

(Daly & Barker 2010)

Global Citizenship

The responsibility of educational professionals to foster “intercultural dialogue as the open and respectful exchange of views between individuals and groups from different ethnic, religious, linguistic and national backgrounds on the basis of mutual understanding and respect”

Council of Europe White Paper 2008

The Core Mission the University





AUT Strategic Plan

- increase international student numbers
- enhance the internationalisation of research, the curriculum, staff & student mobility.
- enhancing students' international and intercultural competencies
- increase the opportunities for students to add an international dimension to their qualification

Overseas Student Exchange

There is a growing national recognition that skills obtained through international student exchange programmes are essential not only for the development of a globally minded well educated citizenry, but also for the development and enhancement of New Zealand as a knowledge society interacting in a global economy.

(Doyle et al. 2008)

Overseas Student Exchange

Studying overseas on a student exchange can change your life. You'll be immersed in another culture, make lifelong friends and get international experience before you graduate.

(AUT Website)

Student Exchange as a Learning Experience?

What do you think?

Student Exchange Literature



A word cloud visualization of terms related to intercultural exchange and student literature. The words are arranged in a horizontal, slightly curved layout. The largest word is 'intercultural' in a dark brown color. Other prominent words include 'communication', 'capabilities', 'awareness', and 'employability' in dark grey. Smaller words in yellow and orange include 'foreign language', 'openness', 'knowledge', 'global competence', 'diversity', 'ideas', 'culture', 'prosperity', 'values', 'views', 'skills', 'cultural', 'economic advance', 'difference', 'leadership', 'society', and 'contribute'.

communication
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economic advance
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leadership
society
contribute

Dominant Research Paradigms

- Positivism:
 - Travel and exposure
 - Educator → Learner
- Relativism:
 - Immersion and interaction
 - Educator → Learner
- Experiential-constructivism:
 - Reflection and facilitation
 - Co-constructed: educator and learner

Bringing the Learning Home

- The value of international student exchange for students and their university can be increased through structured support.
- A structured program of intervention to formalise learning outcomes.
- Recommend experiences of exchange students be highly valued within campus culture as a resource which can contribute to internationalisation.

The Project

- Explore students' knowledge and experiences of student exchange opportunities at AUT
- Explore students' perceptions about what they learnt from exchange
- Use the research process to involve staff and students in the debate about the purposes, problems and possibilities of student exchange and the recommendations that arise as an outcome of the study.

In Summary.....

Questions?



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