

Integrating International Students into our Institutions: Challenges, Issues, Solutions

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Notes from Groups

1. Large private university – 6600 international students
 - a. Chinese students largest #
 - b. Faculty find it hard to engage an international classroom – different styles of education
 - c. Conditionally admitted students – ESL instruction. Don't learn until August whether they're accepted. Ghetto dorm??? of students (Chinese)
 - d. Readiness of American students to engage.
2. Other offices on campus not aware of international challenges. Need for greater interaction with the international office. Need for skills among staff.
3. School in the Deep South – arguably a 'white' school. Then admitted 'black' students. Maintained separate lives. Then 10 years ago addition of cohort of Chinese students. Groups tend to stay among themselves. International office sometimes reinforces this bias – introducing Chinese students to other Chinese students
4. Some student services offices do not want to make exceptions.
5. International students' own expectations are not realistic – academic challenges, but also social challenges
6. What can we do to better orient international students? Unrealistic to assume that one orientation for international students is enough.
 - 1-credit elective course – International staff taught the course. Mandatory for international students. Learn about options and services (writing and tutoring centers).
 - Guest speakers every week from other administrative units on campus.
7. Buddy system/host families/peer mentoring
8. International Culture Night
9. Digital storytelling initiative – integrating their comments and experiences into other programming

Money for marketing goes up, money for support goes down, not up

Orientation of incoming students and orientations for students/staff/faculty/housing office/peer mentorships/host families/outings, activities

Presidential involvement and visibility important

Pairing study abroad students with international students – difficulty matching