

CHINESE STUDENTS' LEARNING EXPERIENCES COMPARED TO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' EXPERIENCES IN THAILAND

Phasuk Boontham
Mae FahLuang University, Thailand.
Corresponding Email: phasuk.boo@mfu.ac.th

Abstract

Internationalization has become increasingly important for tertiary education institutions around the world, including Thailand. It has brought several benefits not only to rise the academic scale of international collaborations among universities, but it establishes the means to worldwide perspectives for students as well. In this paper, the Chinese student's reflections on their experience with the international students at the host university are presented on the basis of hosting roles. There are two main purposes of the study, firstly, it was to examine Chinese host students' learning experience of with international students: what benefits of internationalization they perceived; as the role of host students, how their English language skills were improved. Secondly, it was to explore cultural barriers during their interactions in terms of hosting the international students. Through the qualitative methodology, students' diaries were scrutinized to gather their experiences in learning development, also intercultural skills occurred during the interaction with international students. The findings of the study indicate that the learning experience of Chinese students in terms of the improvement of their English language skills and cultural barriers were found. However, there were several obstacles influencing the learning experience of Chinese Education student resulting in a lack of confidence, unfamiliarity of productive skills practice, and the limitation of their study. The study suggests that a preparation of English language practice is required for Chinese education students. A training for understanding different cultures are essential in intercultural situations.

Keywords: Learning Experience, Chinese Education Students, Intercultural Situation, Internationalization.
