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# Crynoldebau / abstracts

Effective Teaching and Learning for International Students in Welsh University Settings

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Background

UK higher education attracts increasing numbers of international students. One-third of these students are from Asia (UKCISA 2015). In Wales they form an important part of the Welsh economy. In order to help international students get the most from their time here, Welsh universities have essential roles in developing appropriate educational strategies and helping international students integrate into Welsh culture. The aim of the presentation is to set out the challenges faced by international students from Asia and propose strategies that can support their academic progress.

Methods

Based on literature review and personal reflection, the presentation focuses on learning styles, academic and cultural adaptation, and strategies for enhancing international students’ learning.

Results and Discussion

Many international students from Asia learn through passive learning styles (listening, memorising, reflecting) (Kember 2000; Hofstede et al. 2010). Such students may struggle with student-centred educational approaches used in Welsh universities as most of their prior learning is likely to have been teacher-centred. Although the students may appreciate the benefits of student-centred learning, the author found that academic support and time for international students to adapt themselves to a new educational environment is insufficient. Opportunity for international students to interact and learn with local students in the Welsh community is rare.

Strategies to help address these challenges need to be developed and implemented. Lectures or tutorials should provide guidance for students to develop learning through reflection which build upon students’ experience of reflective learning. Educators may need to be available after the session as students may only feel confident to ask questions then. Opportunities could be provided for local and international students to learn together in small groups. For cultural integration, international students need opportunity to learn about Welsh culture and their local community. Mutual respect is key for successful teaching and learning.

References

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