



Advising ESL and International Students Webinar Handout

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Overview

Recruitment of international students has become a high priority for many higher education institutions in the United States and Canada. As a result, academic advisors are seeing significantly higher numbers of advisees who have come to their campuses from other parts of the world. What do academic advisors and advising administrators need to know to provide appropriate support for these students? Questions we need to ask may include: *Why do students choose to come to North America for higher education? What cultural and financial circumstances may factor into their decision-making processes? What should advisors know about the prior experiences and assumptions of students who began their education in other systems? How can advisors help these students capitalize on experience they bring from their own countries? How can we help these students adjust to a new culture and educational system?* Drawing on their experiences as international students and as advisors working with international students, recent immigrants, and refugees, our panelists will suggest strategies to assist advisors as they interact with students who are transitioning into North American higher education.

References and Recommended Resources

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Advising ESL and International Students



A Panel Discussion



Recruitment of international students has become a high priority for many higher education institutions. Academic advisors are seeing significantly higher numbers of advisees who have come to their campuses from other parts of the world. What do we need to know to provide appropriate support for these students?

Drawing on their experiences as international students and as advisors working with international students, recent immigrants, and refugees, our panelists will suggest strategies to assist advisors as they interact with students who are transitioning into North American higher education.

*Who are
“international students”?*



“International Students”

- Started their education outside North America
- May be on student visa
- May be immigrants
- English may be second (or third) language

International Student Enrollment

United States

- 764,495 students on visa enrolled in higher education 2011-12
- 3.7 % of total enrollment
- 5.7 % increase from 2010-11

International Student Enrollment

Canada

- 240,000 enrolled at all levels of study
- Increased by 100,000 from 2001-2011
- 6.5 % of total enrollment in post-secondary education

Non-Native Students

- Many came to North America fleeing poverty, war, refugee camps, political turmoil, and other hardships
- Rapidly growing population
- 56,384 people admitted to U.S. in refugee status in 2011
- 24,988 granted asylum in U.S. in 2011
- 34% under age 18

Non-Native Students



- May have fewer options
- May be ineligible for financial aid
- May have different level of family support
- May have to work full time

Why do students choose to come to North America for higher education?



North American Appeal – U.S.

- Prestige
- Marketability
- Appeal of American education system
 - Critical thinking and analysis
 - Majors / programs
 - Flexibility

North American Appeal – Canada

- Opportunities for work experience
- Western education is valued in job market
- Offers immigration possibilities
- Cost of living is comparatively low
- Has diverse population
- Has high quality of life

What cultural and financial circumstances may factor into students' decision-making processes?



Decision Factors

- Family obligations
- Financial considerations



Decision Factors

- Government support / expectations
- Family pressures
- Marketability in home country

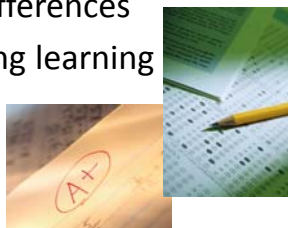


What should advisors know about the prior experiences and assumptions of students who began their education in other systems?



Advisor Awareness

- General Education / Liberal Arts
- Open access
- Philosophical differences
- Ways of assessing learning



Advisor Awareness

- Differing cultural norms
- Student Services
- Academic Integrity
- Cultural sensitivity



Advisor Awareness

- Value of Prior Experiences



How can advisors help these students capitalize on experience they bring from their own countries?



Prior Experience

- Encourage students to share relevant aspects of their home culture
- Have a strong outreach program



Prior Experience

- Value different cultures
- Encourage ownership
- Encourage students to ask questions
- Create welcoming environment

Prior Experience

- Differences in participation expectations
- Differences in learning methods






Prior Experience

Cultural Capital

- Lack of shared worldview

How can advisors help these students adjust to the new culture and education system?



Transition Assistance

- Pre-arrival packages
- Orientation
- Ongoing support and resources
- Connection facilitation



Transition Assistance

- Transfer agreements
- Find a friend
- Encourage participation
- Face-to-face advising
- Active listening / conversation skills
- Oral and written communication

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