Culture Shock for <u>International Students</u> Chinese students when they \*

arrive to study university in Australia

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They were Currently, 23,000 international students study in Adelaide. They These students think it is the opportunities to be had inthat as a modern Western metropoliscity, Adelaide offers many opportunities: earning the chance to work in an international settingly; respected qualifications; and learning the ways of experience with an English-speaking culture. This research essay is basedie on the two interviews, one withis Dr. Lisa Llinese, an experienced teacher tutor inatfrom Flinders University; and another is with a Chinese student named Xiao Lin who studiesy Aaccounting atin Adelaide University. Drawing on Tithese two interviews, this essay will discuss the difference between Australian and Chinese Universities in terms of through the difference in entrance and graduategraduation; the difference in learning methods; the difference in assessment methods and living in Australiastudent life, as these for parts tomay represent the a culture shock for Chinese students when they arrive to study at #University in Australia.

Firstly, the difference between entrance and graduation . China has got a different educational system with to Australia. China has 9-nine years of compulsory education,

it-which means students must finish Ggrade 1 to Ggrade 9 before they could can proceed to their social-working life. Everyone has a chance to choose whether they will go to University or not. China has a large population living within 34 provincial-level administrative units. Universities in different provinces have their own standard admission requirements, which includeing Ceumulative Gerade Point Aaverages point (CGPA). Lisa Lines agrees that it there is a keen competition for people who live in other provinces except other than Beijing and Shanghai to enter highly ranked universities in China. In addition, Xiao\_HLin-also points out that if you doid not enter a highly ranked University, it means you have less opportunity to find a good job<u>later on than other competitors</u>. The dDegrees of from highly ranked <u>U</u>universities are <u>therefore</u> very useful for students attempting to find a suitable job in the future. The Ggrade 12 national exams at the end of the semester are very important for students who want to continue their study in a post-secondary school. After the admission to a of the University, everything goes well comparing to entrance, the process leading to graduation will be much easier is easier than was the entrance process.

However, in-Australia's, it's more difference because of their small population means that University entrance is different than it is into China. It is a much easier process for students to enter the gate of uUniversity here. Schools don'tdo not just have GgradeYear 12 courses, but also have foundation courses and Tafe TAFE courses for students who want to go to Uuniversity. Tafe and foundation are all the These courses

TAFE courses, you can transfer to the second year of university University. Entry to these courses depends on the student's study level. Another difference between Chinese university and Australian Uuniversitiesy is when student enter Australian that uuniversity courses are much harder in Australia, it is a hard way to go. In Australia, you can must learn different writing styles than to those taught in high school, and learn more about academic knowledge to focus on the course that you choose—in Uuniversity. In addition, it can be even more difficult for some international students, since they are studying in a foreign language background.

Secondly, the There are also differences in University's "learning methods" between China and Australia. Xiao Lin said that the similar learning methods used between studying in these two countries are similar in that both focus on there are all self-directed learning in University. Yet Sshe also mentioned that in Cehina, it is easier that because all the learning is to focus based on the textbooks. Xiao lin She also gave an example to demonstrate the difference in between the learning methods. Students who study in Chinese universities need to study more subjects, like the Principles of Marxism, College English, Micro-computer Control Technology and others. If they want to apply for a mMasters degree, they need to have take an master exam including Advanced Mathematics, English and other subjects, even for students who if they do not intend to study Maths and or English course in the future. That This

means the that Uuniversities in China are have a broad focusing broadly on all fields of study. Because the university wants student to develop in every field of education, the timetables are setmade by the Uuniversity, and thus there is no flexibility to choose subjects and times, about when they have class and the schedule of subject are all the same with students who study the same major. On the other hand, I in Australia, the learning methods are more specific comparing tovery different to Chinese universitiesy. Lisa—Lines—and Xiao Llin bothall agreed that the learning style in Australia is more flexible. Student can choose their own timetable and subjects (except for their major subject) by themselves. They can depend—on thetherefore adjust their timetable around a—schedule of their biological clock and part-time job orand personal preference. This is better for some students who get up late to—as they can schedule their classes in the afternoon! It is really flexible. They only needStudents are also free to focus on these-specific types of subjects within a degree, after they have selected them. For example, if you studyied history, you would not need to study Maths orand Pehysics.

Thirdly, We can also compare the difference in Uuniversity's "assessment methods\_" between the two countries. Xiao Lin mentioned that in China, nearly 90% of the students' grades are are from the basedebased on a final exam, but when student's' do their homework it is more easier, because all the works are focusing based entirely on their textbooks, so if a student understands their textbooks clearly, they will know

how to do well ion their assignment exams. The most important piece of assessment at in the Uuniversity is the final major Graduation Tthesis. That is a This paper to show how students do with their course which includes the tests research and academic skills that have been developed by students throughout their course. In Australia, as Lisa liner points out, grades are also given forthat they havethere are attendances marks, participantion-marks, exercises marks, major papers marks, and exams marks, etc., all of them which are adding ed together to make form yourthe final grade. -"Sometimes, when student done Reference very bad or organize not suitable, I won't give them a high marks, I need to look the whole paper." Said Lisa, sShe says that thought as a teacher, when they markinged a student's paper, they she always looks the at all aspectsdifferent part of the paper, like including: spelling, grammar, argument, organisationze, and rReferences. Xiao Lin also talked about her own experience for the exam. She said when observes that when she studied Aaccounting in Australia, the focus wasere on the essay, short answers and analysis. However, Iin contrast, her friend who did Aaccounting in China had her study focusingwas examined on calculation.

Lastly, one is Chinese students living in Australia compare Australia withhave a different experience of life than they would living in China. In China, when students go to University, they usually have two ways of living options. One is living with their family, which is Ffor students who attends school inst their hometown, they can

live with their family. Another option is living at school. Chinese universities always have provide accommodations for students, which people call itin the form of dormitoriesy, and most of them have male dormitory and female dormitoriesy located separately from each other. Not only have dormitory but also have This includes a canteen for students and teachers, where Setudents may can have three meals in therea day. All-Sstudents do not need to worry about the different fees like bills for the internet fees or, -electricityy fees for example, as their no matter they live in school or home because their parents and or Uuniversity will helps them on that. But Iin Australia, when they study in aor in any foreign country, they students need to find a room to rent, and connecting athe telephone, pay the electricity bills and cooking by themselves. All of the housework needs to be finished completed by themselvesthe students too. Xiao Lin said she had moved five5 times during her five5 years of study in Adelaide. She also said most of her Chinese friends also dohad done the same thing. "I found it is difficult that living by myself. Wwhen I first arrived, here I can could not live as comfortablye as in China'-, she "S said Xiao lin. She also found that in Australia, the traffic is not very good, most shopping centers are- far-away from her house, and she hase to wait 30 minutes to one+ hour for the bus on weekends and holidays. It is very hard for a student without a car, especially when the shopping centres areis far away from their home. Although she had these problems, she pointed out that the time she spent at her home-stay was a very happy time. during her life in home-stay. She stayed with a very friendly Australian host family, and earned gained a lot experience with Australian cultures for her life. She thinks that most of Adelaide's people are very friendly, and the environment isare very suitable for people to live.

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In addition, it will have a Thus it can be seen that there is a high degree lot of culture shock when people into a foreign country, and for Chinese students who arrive in Australia to study at Uuniversity in Australia, m Most of them have targets are want Chinese students come to Adelaide because they want to find betterimprove their English, find a good study environment to study, and find study at a top Uuniversity to study. No matter the Regardless of the differences between Australia and Chine in terms of entrance and graduatione, learning methods, assessment methods, and living problems, the target never change, because study instudents will keep coming to Australia because studying in Adelaide provides many will take the benefits for their experience and their life.