Culture Shock for International Students: Chinese students when they arrive to study university in Australia

They were currently 23,000 international students study in Adelaide. These students think it is the opportunities to be had in that as a modern Western metropolis, Adelaide offers many opportunities: earning the chance to work in an international setting; respected qualifications; and learning the ways of experience with an English-speaking culture. This research essay is based on the two interviews, one with Dr. Lisa Lelines, an experienced teacher-tutor from Flinders University; and another is with a Chinese student named Xiao Lin who studies Accounting at Adelaide University. Drawing on these two interviews, this essay will discuss the differences between Australian and Chinese Universities in terms of through the difference in entrance and graduation; the difference in learning methods; the difference in assessment methods and living in Australia; student life, as these for parts to may represent the culture shock for Chinese students when they arrive to study at a university in Australia.

Firstly, the difference between entrance and graduation. China has got a different educational system with to Australia. China has nine years of compulsory education,
it—which means students must finish Grade 1 to Grade 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 including Cumulative Grade Point Averages-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 Lin also points out that if you did not enter a highly ranked University, it means you have less opportunity to find a good job later on than other competitors. The degrees of from highly ranked Universities are therefore very useful for students attempting to find a suitable job in the future. The Grade 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 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 university here. Schools do not just have GgradeYear 12 courses, but also have foundation courses and Tafe-TAFF courses for students who want to go to University. Tafe and foundation are all these courses
act as a bridges for university entrance. For example, when you finish some TAFE courses, you can transfer to the second year of university. Entry to these courses depends on the student’s study level. Another difference between Chinese universities and Australian universities is when student enter Australian university, courses are much harder in Australia, it is a hard way to go. In Australia, you 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 university. In addition, it can be even more difficult for some international students, since they are studying in a foreign language background.

Secondly, there are also differences in university’s learning methods between China and Australia. Xiao Lin said that the similar learning methods used in these two countries are similar in that both focus on self-directed learning in university. Yet she also mentioned that in China, it is easier because all the learning is focus based on the textbooks. Xiao Lin also gave an example to demonstrate the difference in 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 Masters degree, they need to have an 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 that universities in China have a broad focusing broadly on all fields of study. Because the university wants student to develop in every field of education, further, the timetables are set made by the university, 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, in Australia, the learning methods are more specific comparing to very different to Chinese universities. Lisa Lines and Xiao Lin both 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 the therefore adjust their timetable around a schedule of their biological clock and part-time job or 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 need Students are also free to focus on these specific types of subjects within a degree, after they have selected them. For example, if you studied history, you would not need to study Maths and Physics.

Thirdly, We can also compare the difference in university’s “assessment methods” between the two countries. Xiao Lin mentioned that in China, nearly 90% of the students’ grades are based on a final exam, but when students do their homework it is more easier, because all the works are focusing entirely on their textbooks, so if a student understands their textbooks clearly, they will know
how to do well in their assignment exams. The most important piece of assessment in the University is the final major Graduation Thesis. That is a 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 Lin points out, grades are also given for attendance marks, participation marks, exercises marks, major papers marks, and exams marks, etc., all of them are added together to form your final grade.

“Sometimes, when students don’t Reference very bad or organize not suitable, I won’t give them a high marks, I need to look the whole paper.” Said Lisa. She says that thought as a teacher, when they are marking a student’s paper, they always look at all aspects of the paper, like including spelling, grammar, argument, organisation, and references. Xiao Lin also talked about her own experience for the exam. She said when she studied Accounting in Australia, the focus was on the essay, short answers and analysis. However, in contrast, her friend who did Accounting in China had her study focusing on calculation.

Lastly, one is Chinese students living in Australia compare Australia with 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 for students who attend school in their hometown, they can
Another option is living at school. Chinese universities always provide accommodations for students, which people call dormitories, and most of them have male and female dormitories located separately from each other. Not only have dormitory but also have a canteen for students and teachers, where students may have three meals in a day. All students do not need to worry about the different fees like bills for the internet or electricity, for example, as their university will help them on that. But in Australia, when they study in any foreign country, they need to find a room to rent, connecting the telephone, paying the electricity bills and cooking by themselves. All of the housework needs to be finished by themselves. Xiao Lin said she had moved five times during her five years of study in Adelaide. She also said most of her Chinese friends also had done the same thing.

"I found it is difficult to live by myself, when I first arrived, I could not live as comfortably as in China," she said. She also found that in Australia, the traffic is not very good, most shopping centers are far away from her house, and she had 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 centers are far away from their home. Although she had these problems, she pointed out that the time she spent at home-stay was a very happy time during her life in home-stay. She stayed with a very friendly Australian host family, and gained a lot of experience with Australian cultures for her life. She thinks that most of
Adelaide’s people are very friendly, and the environment is very suitable for people to live.

In addition, it will have a high degree of culture shock when people move into a foreign country, and for Chinese students who arrive in Australia to study at University in Australia. Most of them have targets to want Chinese students come to Adelaide because they want to find better English, find a good study environment to study, and find study at a top University to study. Regardless of the differences between Australia and China in terms of entrance and graduation, learning methods, assessment methods, and living problems, the target will never change, because study in Adelaide provides many benefits for their experience and life.