

Adaptive personality and residence abroad: Neophilia & self-efficacy

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Focus of study

The acculturation of 92 inbound international exchange students (L2 speakers of English) at a university in Hong Kong.

Research Questions

1. What factors impact their acculturation/L2 socialization?
2. What are the pedagogical implications?

Instrumentation

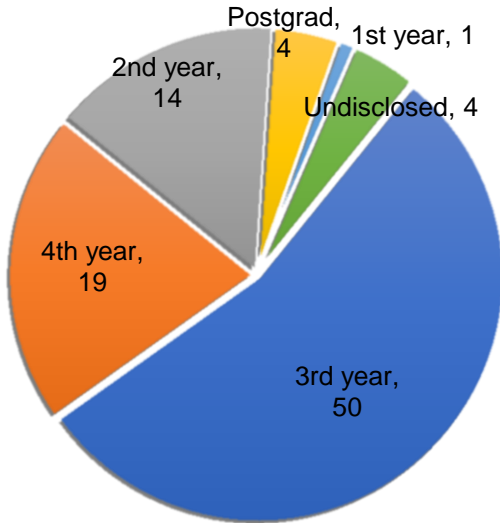
- Pre- and Post- sojourn int'l exchange surveys
- Protocol for semi-structured interviews (15 participants)

SPSS & NVivo 12 Database

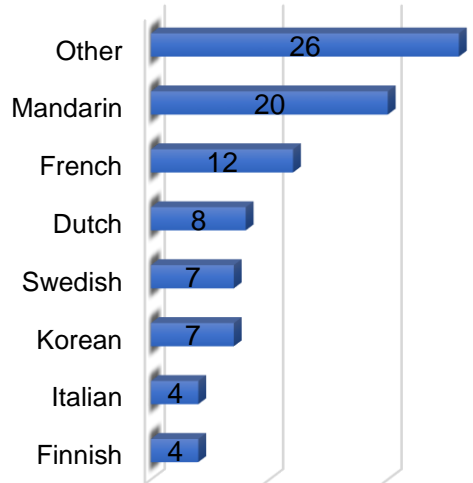
Profile of Cohort (N = 92)

62 F; 30 M; Average age: 21.5 yrs

Diverse areas of study



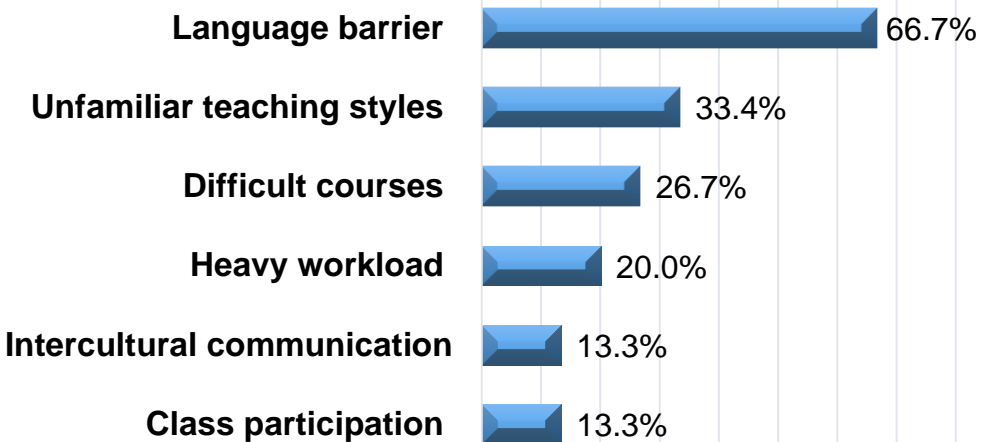
Year of study



First language

Home country: PRC (20); France (11); the Netherlands (9); Korea (6); Sweden (5); Switzerland (5); Finland (4); Italy (4); Others (26)

Adjustment challenges



Influential elements

Positive:

- Adaptive, novelty-seeking personality (neophilia)
- High tolerance of ambiguity
- Strong self-efficacy
- A positive mindset

Negative:

- Rigid personality
- Low tolerance of ambiguity
- Fear of cultural difference
- Negative self-image/ orientation

Pedagogical implications

- Arrange more in-depth orientations;
- Encourage Faculty to better integrate local and non-local students in class;
- Promote the use of tasks that cater to diverse learning styles and personalities;
- Encourage Faculty to view inbound students as valuable resources.