

The Value of Study Abroad for Māori and Pasifika Learners: In Relation to the Tertiary Education Strategy in New Zealand

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Abstract : Study abroad has become a significant aspect of the tertiary system for New Zealand tertiary institutions and has been having a valuable contribution to student achievement and completion rate. The purpose of this doctoral study was to explore the significance and value of study abroad at an individual (learner), institutional (university), and national (government) level, with a focus on Māori and Pasifika learners. Previous research had conducted on the values and benefits of study abroad; however, there is a gap in knowledge on how study abroad can contribute to the educational experience of Māori and Pasifika students in tertiary studies in New Zealand. This study's main focus aimed to explore the current participation and history of involvement of Māori and Pasifika students with study abroad using the University of Auckland and the University of Otago as case studies. It analysed the experiences of Māori and Pasifika students who were interested in study abroad or have returned from a study abroad. This research also explored how study abroad had become a significant aspect of the tertiary system in New Zealand, focusing on Tertiary Education Strategies. These questions were analysed using a range of methodologies, including a literature review to review how various institutions and nations, in particular New Zealand, were approaching study abroad, semi-structured interviews with Māori and Pasifika students on their experiences expressing interest in study abroad, and case studies of current/ returning Māori and Pasifika students who have had a study abroad experience. The anticipated results from this research will address several gaps in the existing literature and provide ways to better support Māori and Pasifika students who want to have a study abroad experience. This study will also inform education policy at an institutional and national level to boost the achievement of Māori and Pasifika students aligning with the Tertiary Education Strategy priorities.

Keywords : study abroad, Māori and Pasifika learners, international education, tertiary education strategy

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