

Two Different Learning Environments: Arabic International Students Coping with the Australian Learning System

Authors : H. van Rensburg, B. Adcock, B. Al Mansouri

Abstract : This paper discusses the impact of pedagogical and learning differences on Arabic international students' (AIS) learning when they come to study in Australia. It describes the difference in teaching and learning methods between the students' home countries in the Arabic world and Australia. There are many research papers that discuss the general experiences of international students in the western learning systems, including Australia. However, there is little research conducted specifically about AIS learning in Australia. Therefore, the data was collected through in-depth, semi-structured interviews with AIS who are learning at an Australian regional university in Queensland. For that reason, this paper contributes to fill a gap by reporting on the learning experiences of AIS in Australia and, more specifically, on the AIS' pedagogical experiences. Not only discussing the learning experiences of AIS, but also discussing the cultural adaptation using the Oberg's cultural adaptation model. This paper suggests some learning strategies that may benefit AIS and academic lecturers when teaching students from a completely different culture and language.

Keywords : arabic international students, cultural adaption, learning differences, learning systems

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