

The Relevance of Sustainability Skills for International Students

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Abstract : Sustainability often appears to be an unfamiliar concept to many international students that enrol in a New Zealand technological degree. Lecturers' experiences with classroom interactions and evaluation of assessments indicate that studying the concept enlightens and enhances international students understanding of sustainability. However, in most cases, even after studying sustainability in their degree programme, students are not given an opportunity to practice and apply this concept into their professions in their home countries. Therefore, using a qualitative approach, the academics conducted research to determine the change in international students understanding of sustainability before and after their enrolment in an Applied Technology degree. The research also aimed to evaluate if international students viewed sustainability of relevance to their professions and whether the students felt that they will be provided with an opportunity to apply their knowledge about sustainability in the industry. The findings of the research are presented in this paper.

Keywords : education for sustainability, international students, vocational education

Conference Title : ICHEM 2017 : International Conference on Higher Education and Management

Conference Location : Melbourne, Australia

Conference Dates : November 29-30, 2017