Navigating Cultural Currents and Perspectives: An Exploration of Challenges Faced by Overseas Students Pursuing Media in Australia

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Abstract

Australia has emerged as a suitable destination for international students for quality of education system. Additionally, as a nation, Australia supports the co-existence of different cultures. The significance of the study lies in uniquenessin its application of a practice-based method to the study of an under-researched population (international students in Australia in the media discipline). Moreover, the research fills a vacuum in the literature by offering fresh perspectives from a researcher who is an international student, undertaking the discipline that is the focus of the study. This section includes gaining detailed knowledge about the challenges that are faced by international students undertaking media degrees or studies in Australia. Due to provide proper recommendations which are helped the overseas students to improve their education program in Australia.

1. Introduction

Australia is a country which values its diversity and seeks to provide programs that can be availed by every age group within the community. However, the continuous rise in the number of International students in Australia puts forth the need to assess the needs of international students while simultaneously addressing the multi-faceted challenges of overseas students in Australia. A study into the challenges faced by overseas students enrolled in the media field shows that little body of knowledge is available on the topic. Therefore, this study distinguishes itself by

● Using a practice-based methodology which is relevant to the media discipline to map out the challenges faced by overseas students in Australia who have enrolled into the field of media and journalism

● Proposing an issue=-based solution to assist International Students studying media in completing their practice-based assessments.

Media acts as a conduit that allows people to keep updated about everything happening worldwide. However, fuelled by perspectives and ideological differences, there is now only a smaller percentage of overseas students in Australia who are pursuing the media discipline.

These students have to navigate and tackle the cultural, social, and capital differences while completing their practice-based assessments which form the bulk of their coursework in their degree.

Australia has emerged as a suitable destination for international students for its quality of education system. Additionally, as a nation, Australia supports the co-existence of different cultures. Hence, as a

country, it provides a multicultural environment which students of various nationalities prefer. 687,840 foreign students were enrolled in Australian universities between January and March 2024 (Education.gov.au, 2024). Comparing this time to the same period last year, there was a 21% change (Universitiesaustralia.edu.au, 2024). However, it was noted that the distribution of students in different fields is uneven. The nursing, engineering and management field encounters more students than the core fields such as the Media and communications disciplines. It was noted that 24% of engineering, 28% of management and 27% of international students enrol in the undergraduate program in Australia (Education.gov.au, 2024). Hence, the study has focused on the issues of media students and made a shift of paradigm from the pragmatic fields to the core field.However, challenges for international students, and for the faculty teaching them, persist at many institutions despite these efforts to help international students deal with culture shock, differing academic expectations and teaching methods, and different attitudes toward issues such as plagiarism.
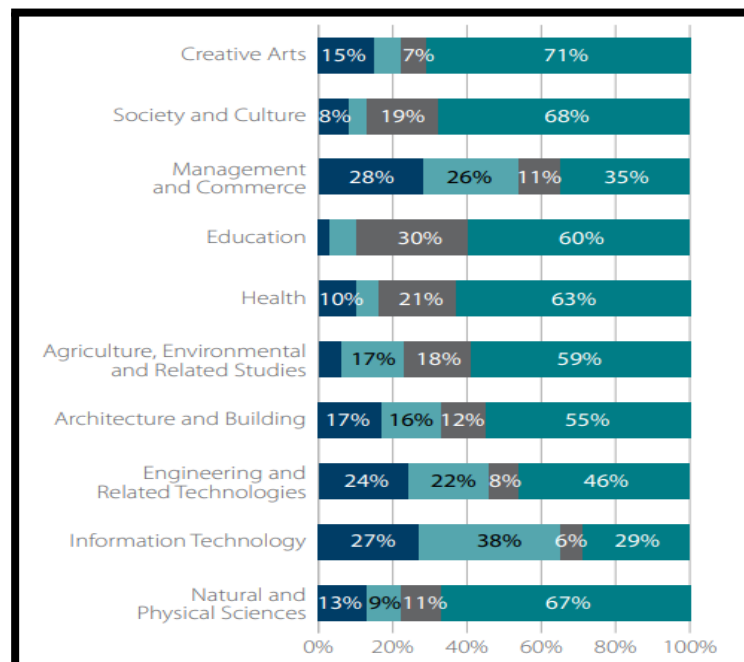
Issues faced by overseas students of media in Australia

Figure 1.1: Percentage of students enrolled in different disciplines
(Source: Education.gov.au, 2024**)**

This practice-based thesis delves into the nuanced experiences of these overseas students as they compete with the locals who have a deeper social, cultural, and capital understanding of the subject. The methodology includes reporting the issues using articles, surveys, and interviews to evaluate the significance and context of the claim and lay down a potent solution to help international media students complete their practice-based assessments. This research also aims to critically analyse the lack of existing subject knowledge on the topic available and thus, contribute to the existing knowledge about International students in Australia and shed light on the multifaceted challenges they face throughout their degree. While this study aims to put forth a potent issue-based solution for these students, it also sheds light on the cultural diversity, richness, resilience, and adaptability shown by these individuals. One of the significant issues relevant to this study is the percentage of students in each discipline. It was noted that the enrolment of students is denser towards the fields that have applications.

Figure 1 presents the number of students that are enrolled in different fields. A clear disparity can be seen from the illustration. As per the opinion of Miles, Brockman &Naphan-Kingery (2020), fields such as engineering and management provide a clear path for the permanent residency of students. Additionally, the options and opportunities of such finals are on the higher side. Therefore, fewer students are attracted to the discipline of media and communication. On the other hand, it was noted that there are some underlying obstacles in the subjects. Australia is one of the significant destinations for overseas students looking for higher education. However, it is evident that some issues can have a direct impact on overseas students. Such issues can be subjective and the outcome of the issues depends on different elements. For instance, it was noted that the recent outbreak of the pandemic has significantly impacted jobs. Therefore, the study specifically focuses on overseas media and communication students. One of the evident issues that was noted is associated with the number of students. As reported by the Australian government it was noted that between January and March 2024, 687,840 international students were enrolled at Australian institutions. Hence it can be understood the number of overseas students in Australian universities is quite high.

This disparity raises the possibility of hidden obstacles which further impact the choice of such a field as a career opportunity. The disparity is further fuelled by differences in language, social, and cultural barriers. As seen by Riches-Suman (2024) many students struggle to complete practice-based examinations that are an essential part of their training. In such a situation having a vivid understanding of the local phenomenon is essential where the local student has an upper hand. Hence, these difficulties are made worse by competing with local students, who have a better awareness of Australian social and cultural circumstances. Prior studies on overseas students have mostly concentrated on individual students. Such focus on issues of students left a knowledge vacuum about the unique challenges encountered by students studying media and communications. Therefore, the study is keen to discuss the same in a coherent manner.

Understanding the situation for overseas media students in Australia

A great deal of research has been done on the experiences of international students in general. For instance, Sung (2023) has talked about cultural differences as one of the key issues faced by overseas students. On the other hand, for some of the student's language becomes a significant issue during overseas education (Soltani& Nikou, 2020). Such issues are common for media students as well however; there is a clear lack of information on individual students of media and communications. However, it can be comprehended that the issues are subjective and are impacted by different elements such as the knowledge of the student and the needs of the subjects. For instance, language and accent a significant issue for media students who are seeking an internship in Australia for the fulfilment of their course.

Such issues set an uneven challenge for overseas students while they are competing with the local students. Moreover, the number of media students and the unique challenges encountered by media students make a huge differentiation that leads to the disparity. Additionally, contextualise plays a significant role in the career growth of the student. The majority of what they learn is associated with the conceptuality of Australia. Therefore, a minor issue of understanding can be comprehended in the learning process (Warsah et al. 2021). Hence, they have to iterate the learning according to the nation they are working on. This research seeks to close this gap by offering a thorough analysis of the condition of overseas media students and promoting a structure that benefits all media students.

Research Aims and Objectives

The aim of this study is to propose an issue-based solution to assist International students studying media in completing their practice-based assessments. The study's objectives are;

RO1: To understand the different social-cultural and academic issues faced by media students in Australia.

RO2: To understand the impact of such disparity on the performance of the overseas media student.

RO3: To address the impact of such issues on the academic and professional life of the students.

RO4: To provide tangible recommendations in order to improve the higher education system that benefits the overseas media student in their learning.

Research Questions

RQ1: What are the different social-cultural and academic issues faced by media students in Australia?

RQ2: What is the impact of such disparity on the performance of the overseas media student?

RQ3: How do the issues impact the academic and professional lives of the students?

RQ4: What are the tangible recommendations suggested, in order to improve the higher education system that benefits the overseas media student in their learning?

Significance

The significance of the study lies in its uniqueness through its application of a practice-based method to an under-researched population (International students in Australia in the media discipline). Moreover, the research fills a vacuum in the literature by offering fresh perspectives from a researcher who is an international student, undertaking the discipline that is the focus of the study. However, the intention of the study is to influence educational policies and procedures through a unique outcome. Moreover, with a brief understanding of the issuesolutions can be customized for the students. Such factors enable educational establishments to provide more assistance to their overseas students who study media. Furthermore, this research aims to become a foundation stone for a clear path that can guide the overseas media student in pursuing their career. Through the upcoming chapters an overall understanding is developed and based on the findings and recommendations are formed.

Literature Review

The first chapter outlines the challenges overseas students in Australia face when pursuing media studies. The diverse culture of Australia and the high quality of its education system have made it a preferred destination for international students. The media discipline at Australian university has been attracting overseas students due to the media landscape of Australia as well as its innovative programs. Therefore, these students face various challenges that had an impact on their academic as well as their personal experiences. This looks at the main findings of studies of International students, including research into cultural adjustments, financial burdens, academic expectations, and social integration. One of this study's research objectives is to critically discuss the different types of challenges faced by international students in Australia. The existing literature on international students has shown several general needs of this segment of the Australian population, outlined below.

Cultural adjustment

Cultural adjustment as mentioned in chapter oneis based on the cultural shock when the students first arrive in Australia. As stated by Hellstén, (2002), different lifestyles, and social norms, therefore,

educational practices have to be overwhelming. Therefore, adjusting to the new culture requires proper effort and time, which detracts them from their focus on their studies. Therefore, the language barrier is another challenge that has a potential impact on their studies. Students suffer from the Australian accent, slang, and colloquialisms. Therefore, as opined by Sawir, (2005), it reduces their understanding power in lectures and discussions, and it becomes difficult for them to complete their assignment efficiently. In addition, students may experience anxiety and confusion regarding their identities and behavior. They could experience loneliness, homesickness, and doubt about their choice to study in Australia. On the other hand, as argued by Sawir et al., (2008), culture shock is the cause of all these emotions and signs.
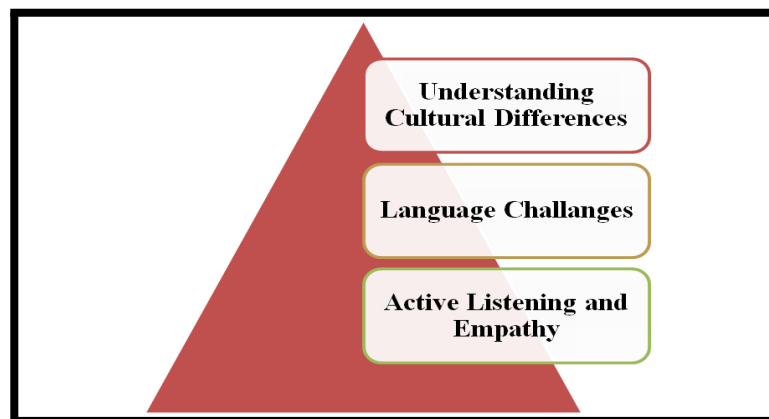

Figure 2.1: Navigating cultural and language barriers for international students (Source: Huang &Curle, 2021)

As per this figure, it has been identified that cultural barrier is the main factor that brings difficulties for international students. After that, teens' mental health and general well-being are impacted by social media in both positive and bad ways. Social media may be a useful tool for adolescents to remain in touch with friends and family and feel connected, but it can also increase the risk of loneliness, anxiety, depression, and FOMO. It is simple to develop an addiction to social media, and studies reveal that students who use it excessively may have a variety of problems, including eye strain, insomnia, bad body image, melancholy, anxiety, and cyber bullying.
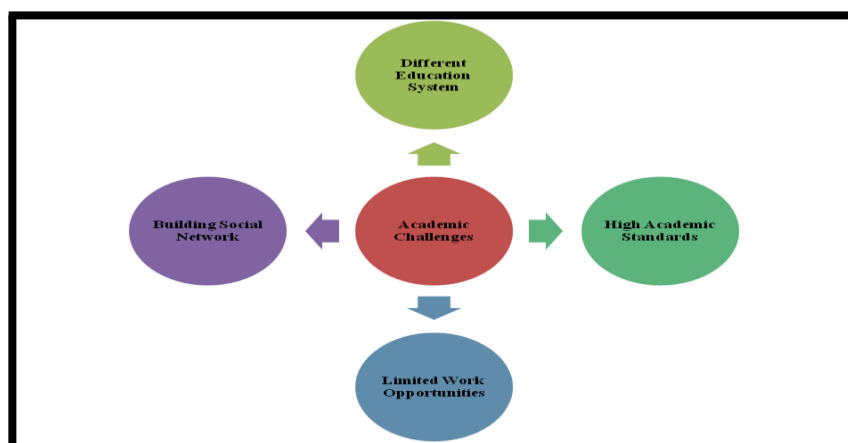
Academic Challenges

Figure 2.2 Academic Challenges of International Students (Source: Barus, Simanjuntak&Resmayasari, 2021)

Another element that negatively affects the pupils' educational program is academic challenges. For international students, one of the biggest challenges is the difference in the educational system. As commented by Arkoudis et al., (2019), for international students, Australia has different academic standards and a different teaching style than their native country. As a result, they may find it difficult to adjust to a new educational approach, and they may find it challenging to follow a study plan that emphasizes critical and interactive thinking. Therefore, high standards of academic style bring various difficulties for the students. As highlighted by Nguyen & Balakrishnan, (2020), media science requires a high level of crucial analysis, creativity, as well as practical skills. However, international students meet challenges due to the difference in education standards. Different experiences of the education process bring pressure on them which has a negative effect on their education process.

Financial Issues

Higher tuition fees have to be paid by international students more than domestic students, which brings financial burdens for the students. Coupled with the excessive cost of living in Australia, has been creating remarkable financial stress. Therefore, limited opportunities for other work break difficulties for the students. As stated by Gribble, Blackmore & Rahimi, (2015), while international students' visas allow part-time jobs, they face challenges in adjusting their time which can lead to financial stress and has an negative effect on their studies. They are unable to focus on their study properly which has a negative effect on their career. Therefore, as international students, they may have to pay for accommodation, food, transportation, tuition, and a host of additional expenses. On the other hand, as argued by Nguyen & Balakrishnan, (2020), should they choose not to rely on scholarships, they will have to develop financial management skills. They may greatly reduce some of the financial hardships with the help of scholarships. Consequently, it is the total of all required fees, lodging and board (if applicable), anticipated costs for books and other living expenses, and occasionally transportation for students enrolled in that specific institution. At the institution's discretion, separate decisions may be made for students who live at home or on their own.

Social Integration

The development of a social network is one of the most difficult tasks for international students. Developing friendships as well as professional networks has been crucial for academic success as well as personal development. Moreover, as commented by Gribble, (2014), foreign students find difficulties in improving their connection with the local students due to cultural differences. Moreover, initial shyness also brings difficulties for students to build social networks. Homesickness and loneliness are another issue that have to be faced by international students. Being away from familiar environments brings feelings of loneliness. Therefore, this emotional strain has a negative effect on mental health which entertains depression.

Practical Experience

Practical experience and work placement are essential for media studies. Therefore, international studies bring difficulties for students to access the proper opportunities due to a lack of connections with local industry. After that, understanding the local landscape of media studies has unique characteristics that indeed audience preferences, regulatory framework as well as industry practices. Therefore, as opined by Jackson & Greenwood, (2015), a lack of connection with local industry brings difficulties for the

students which has a negative effect on their careers. After that, one challenge faced by international students is the scarcity of job possibilities. There is fierce competition for sponsorship, and many businesses don't even sponsor visas. Lack of the right accommodation brings various difficulties for the students; therefore, it has an effect on their career. Moreover, it entertains depression and affects their mental health. On the other hand, as argued by Jackson, (2017), a proper support system from the university is essential to overcome the challenges that have been faced by these students. Universities may offer academic support, orientation programs, after that, counseling services. The university tries to encourage the students which help to utilize their resources and reduce some challenges.

Figure 2.3: Requirements of International Students (Source: Rahmanova&Ekşi, 2023)

After that, the start of the COVID-19 epidemic exposed the mainstream media's dependency on inciting fear in an effort to win back viewers while also gaining ground that has been lost. Public confidence in the media appears to have further declined as a result of agendas, biases, and concurrent media trials. As commented by Gribble, Rahimi & Blackmore, (2017), Australia is a nation that embraces diversity and tries to offer community programs that are accessible to all age groups. However, the number of international students studying in Australia is constantly growing, necessitating an evaluation of their needs and a parallel focus on the many issues facing these students. Research on the difficulties experienced by international students majoring in media reveals a dearth of information. On the other hand, as argued by Gribble, (2014), people may stay informed about global events by using the media as a conduit. However, owing to differing viewpoints and ideologies, the proportion of international students studying media in Australia is currently declining. The majority of these students' degree curriculum consists of practice-based examinations, which require them to negotiate and address cultural, social, and capital inequalities. As mentioned by Gribble, Blackmore & Rahimi, (2015), the complex experiences of international students take place in a competitive academic environment, where locals possess a greater social, cultural, and intellectual grasp of the topic.

Conclusion

Overseas students following media studies in Australia have been facing a wide range of challenges which has been require attention from policymakers and educational institutes. Due to understand and address the challenges that have been faced by students, proper support is needed, which help these students to overcome the challenges. After that, creating a conducive environment helps the students to overcome the challenges, and it has a potential impact on their education process. A flexible academic

environment helps to enrich the cultural as well as the academic fabric of the education program of Australia. This popular destination for media students faces cultural differences, as well as language barriers. They are often adjusted to new academic programs, and after that, new educational environments also bring difficulties for them. After that, students do not be afraid to ask for help if it needed, whether it is for mental stability, visa issues, or scholastic difficulties. International students can get help from university personnel, advisers for overseas students, and mental health specialists when they need it. Students will need to adapt to the local way of life, cuisine, language, and culture. These students can get some knowledge about their host nation and its citizens to help them overcome these obstacles to studying abroad. By doing this, the element of surprise will be removed, facilitating a seamless transfer for the pupils to their new setting.

2. Methodology

This thesis aims to put forward the media discipline in Australia under the microscope and further expand on the smaller percentage of Australian overseas students found in the media discipline. The methodology of a study is associated with the process that was used in order to define the overall analysis. As seen by Smajic et al. (2022), the methodology provides uniformity in the different strata of a study. Therefore, all the strata of an empirical study can be developed according to the objective and question of the study. Moreover, it can be stated that the methodology provides a structural understanding of research. On the other hand, collection of information and processing the same according to the need of the study is essential (Pandey & Pandey, 2021). Therefore, the process of data collection and data analysis is discussed accordingly in the chapter. Additionally, factors such as research design and the process of developing the results are coherently discussed. The introduction to this thesis (Chapter 1) introduced the use of practice-based research as the primary research design. This includes exploring the problem statement through a practice-based approach which is suitable and relevant to the media discipline, with the help of a professional portfolio which includes a media package (TV story) and feature articles at par with industry standards. The conceptual framework for the study is shown below in Figure 2.4.

- Challanges faced by Oversease Students
  - Pursuing Media in Australia
- Cultural and Social Barriers
- Academic and Language Barriers
- Financial Barriers

Production of discipline-specific body of work

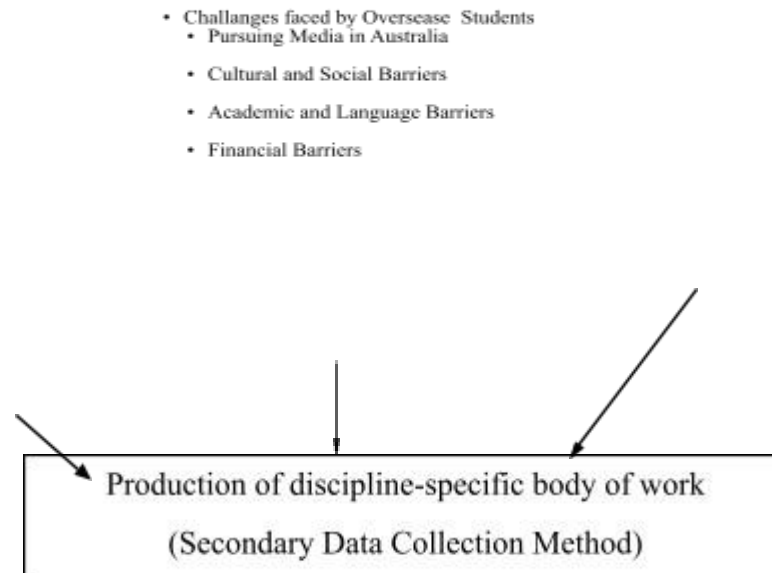(Secondary Data Collection Method)

Figure 2.4 Conceptual Framework

Based on findings from literature review (Chapter 2) and circumstances under which international students' study in Australiua, the contextual assumptions underpinning the research design that are:

1)   International students travelling to Australia, especially those without English as their first language, may require help with adjusting and adapting to the language, culture, welfare support, and the overall learning environment in a new country

2)   International students in Australia holding a Student Visa (Subclass 500) have the right to work in Australia for up to 48 hours in a fortnight. Students can work while they study and also have a wide range of options that allow for networking and gaining valuable industry insights. Furthermore, there is no cap on hours during university breaks, allowing students to work more.

Design of the research

The design of the research is associated with the structural stability of the study. Moreover, it depends on the process of data collection and analysis of the same. As per the opinion of (Garcia & Mayorga, 2021), based on the design of the research standard process can be adopted that aids in the development of a topic. In order to examine the difficulties encountered by international students studying media and communications in Australia a secondary qualitative method was adopted. However, numerical data was also included in order to achieve a distinctive perspective. Therefore, in specific it can be stated that a secondary qualitative method of collecting data was used in the process. Additionally, the outcome focused on the past literature that included data from the students in the media and communication field. This methodology guarantees a comprehensive comprehension of the concerns and facilitates the

formulation of suggestions to increase assistance for these students.

Data collection

Data collection is a significant process that defines the overall study. In order to address the issues of intention students in the medical field in Australia secondary data was considered. As per the opinion of Cheong et al. (2023), secondary sources of data are pre-verified and validated which adds to the ethical consideration of the study. Therefore, systematic searching and retrieval of data was conducted in the process. While gathering secondary data, maintaining relevance is importin. Therefore, databases like Google Scholar, ProQuest, and Research Gate are employed in order to generate trustworthy results for the analysis data. Furthermore, data-backed, genuine, and validated information is easily accessible in the mentioned databases. Furthermore, data published in reliable publications are taken into consideration for the study as an additional precaution. According to the opinion of Budianto (2020), genuine data is necessary for producing taggable outcomes in a study utilising secondary data sources. Furthermore, authentic data help to provide responsible and classified information by countering the tangible aspects related to the research.

Table of thematic coding

SL NO.	Authors	Codes/ keywords	Remarks	Themes
1	Zhang (2020)	Challenges of overseas students, overseas students, Australian students, media students,	It was noted that a small number in the discipline is not only the issue, there are issues such as cultural diversity and financial factors that challenge the uniform learning for the students.	*Theme 1: Media students in Australia are facing dynamic challenges.*
2	Dezuanni (2021)			
3	Gomes (2020)			

4	Xie, Zang &Ponzoa (2020)	Disparity, Impact on the performance, career growth in media, Success	It was noted that language and cultural disparity of the overseas students created challenges in the	*Theme 2: Disparity such as language culture and number of students impact the academic performance of students.*
	Astarita & Patience (2020)	of the overseas media student.	performance of the students. Often, they are facing issues which local students are not facing.	
6	Bodis (2021)			
7	Hastings et al. 2023	Impact on disparity on students, impact on performance, impact on proverbial life	Provides a perspective on the impact of issues such outnumbering students on the personal a perfect life of the student.	*Theme 3: Local media students are leveraged due to their familiarity with a local phenomenon*
8	Usher & McCormack (2021)			
9	Yang (2022)			
10	Jackson & Tomlinson (2020)	Australian education system, scope in the media industry, skills for media students, challenges in	A distinctive perspective was fetched that talked about the issues specifically in the media field. By understanding the	*Theme 4: Education outcomes can be enhanced with the development of systems.*
11	Pham (2021)			

12	Morley & Clarke (2020)	the media field.	issues recommendations can be formulated in a manner to change the education system that	

Table 3.1: Thematic coding

Data analysis

The process of data collision is associated with developing findings based on the collected data. As per the opinion of Mezmir (2020), data analysis is considered one of the primary important processes that aid the development of the results. Therefore, a secondary method of analysis was considered for the study. The discussion of the study was based on the different factors associated with the topic. As per Lester, Cho &Lochmiller (2020), thematic coding develops connected topics depending on a study's output. As a result, the keywords discovered in the secondary, peer-reviewed publications and journals were used to create the themes in the thematic analysis. As a consequence, outcomes that were relevant to the research subject were created. Moreover, with the development of the factors, a detailed understanding was developed that provided a vivid perspective for the study. Moreover, secondary data provides a detailed understanding that is essential to understanding the relation of different social aspects. Hence, with the inclusion of a secondary method of study, a detailed perspective of the challenges associated with overseas studies of media and communication was achieved.

Ethical considerations

Maintaining the ethical outcome can be significant in the development of the study. For the data collection, several factors were considered. For instance, all the collated information was cited appropriately. Additionally, at the end, all the writers and their articles are mentioned in the reference list. Furthermore, the collated data was used as it was intended and after the use, all the data was deleted. Additionally, confidentiality was mentioned throughout the research. A secondary qualitative method was followed in the study that aided in maintaining the overall ethical outcome.

Dicussion

The academic path for the international student of media in Australia is discussed in this chapter of the study. Moreover, the focus of the study is associated with the challenges faced by media students. As per the opinion of Arslan &Coşkun (2020), the challenges of overseas students are subjective. Therefore, it was evident that the challenges of the media students are different and need unique solutions. Based on the past literature following themes were derived.

Theme 1: Media students in Australia are facing dynamic challenges.

Through the analysis of the past analysis, it was noted that the media students in Australia are facing a dynamic challenge that hinders their stability in the course. For instance, Zhang (2020) has discussed that for an international student proficiency in language is a significant issue. Additionally, the ascend of English in Australia is different which adds complexity for the students. Furthermore, media is a subject that requires a strong grip on the language. It is essential to be proficient in the language and be proficient in the theoretical concepts. At the same time, oral communication is significant. At the time conducting debates, presentations and collaborative projects. Such issues reduce classroom participation and engagement in career-building activities. On the other hand, Dezuanni (2021) has pointed out that cultural disparity is one of the significant issues for overseas students that hinders the overall progress of overseas students. Moreover, it exacerbates the challenges created by linguistic disparities. Media students have to monitor local and cultural phenomena which can be challenging for overseas students due to cultural disparities. The unfamiliarity of overseas students with these norms and the requirement of critically engaging with the content make an unfair deal for overseas students. Different cultural perspectives about classroom involvement are a significant issue (Gomes, 2020). Active engagement is greatly valued in many Western educational environments; overseas students can be more used to passive learning. Such change in the process of learning can feel uneasy or unprepared to engage in active learning. Additionally, there are common issues that are faced by overseas students of different subjects. For instance, Nguyen & Balakrishnan (2020) have stated that financial constraints are major issues compared with the cost of living in a particular area for an overseas student.

The cost of living and the cost of tuition are significantly high in places such as Australia. Such issues create a financial burden for overseas media students. Such issues are often counter by working in part-time local jobs which divides the focus of the student from the academic goals. On the other hand, media courses have their own demands. For instance, a student needs to spend additional money on projects. subscription rental, equipment and software. Such expenses can be significant issues for students who are facing issues related to finances. As seen by Singh & Fan (2021), an overseas media student faces issues regarding the skill gap which is required in the field significantly. It has possible that overseas students have attended schools where the emphasis was not placed on the industrial requirements. Additionally, students might not be familiar with technical proficiency which is common in Australia. Hence, they have to be more proactive in order to set in the new setting. Hence, International students could find it difficult to fulfil these requirements without sufficient assistance and training. In addition, overseas students can struggle is understand local media rules and ethical standards, as they might differ greatly from those in their native countries. Therefore, such challenges create hindrances in the pursuit of media courses for overseas students.

Theme 2: Disparity such as language culture and number of students impact the academic performance of students.

For overseas students studying in Australia, it is essential to have a contextual understanding of the topic. Additionally, having a distinctive understanding of the culture is essential for the students. As stated by Xie, Zang &Ponzoa (2020), language proficiency is a primary barrier for students studying in overseas countries. Courses such as media and communication require a vivid understanding of language and emotions associated with the same. Such ability also includes comprehending and articulating critical concepts. Additionally, students who are looking forward to a media-related career need to indulge in critical discussions and processes that require high-quality writing. Misunderstandings of the course material negatively impact the assignment. In addition, an unwillingness to participate in class discussions can be caused by the same. Students are further isolated from completely connecting with the topic and their peers due to the frequent usage of local vernacular and idiomatic terms in media content. Therefore, it can be understood that in an overall perspective language and understanding of the same is essential for overseeing media and communication students.

Additionally, the cultural disparity is a significant factor and a challenge associated with the overseas students. As stated by Astarita & Patience (2020) media and communication deal with local phenomena and cultures. Therefore, it can be stated that the media and communication schedule usually deal with socioeconomic challenges and local culture. Moreover, most of the case studies that overseas students encounter is related to the Australian environment. As stated by Bodis (2021), each area has its own significant cultural and social adjustments that are different from other areas. Hence, because they are not aware of these cultural nuances, international students might find it difficult to relate to or completely comprehend these instances, which could lead to a gap in understanding of the subject. In the process of fathoming such a scenario, one must keep in mind that overseas students are also facing issues as they are exposed to classroom behaviour, learning processes and educational norms which are different from what the theory was used to. Hence, the addition of such cultural disparity leads to an additional layer of complexity for the students. The number of overseas students in the media and communication is also a significant issue that creates challenges for students. As stated by Dodd et al. (2021) having a supportive group is necessary for overseas students. Due to the limited number of overseas students enrolled in these courses, they lack a community of support to turn to when they encounter comparable difficulties. Such a situation can challenge the psychological well-being of the students. For overseas students, this isolation can exacerbate stress and feelings of alienation. Additionally, such a feeling makes it more difficult for them to ask for assistance or talk about their experiences.

Theme 3: Local media students are leveraged due to their familiarity with a local phenomenon

For subjects such as media and communication, there is an unfair advantage for the local students over their internal counterparts. Such inequality is created due to the inherent familiarity of local phenomena. Cultural nuances and a critical understanding of a topic play a critical role in the process of developing an accurate examination (Hastings et al. 2023). Lacking the cultural and linguistic benefits overseas

students face challenges in subjects such as media and communication. Local students are certainly more attuned to the local community and the nuances of the region. As stated by Usher & McCormack, (2021), understanding the vividness and conceptual depth of such phenomenon acts as the base of the media industry. Due to their upbringing in the regional media landscape, local students of media are well-versed in the nuances of Australian politics, social concerns, and culture. Therefore, due to their cultural fluency, they are able to interact with the course content more deeply. Such integration with the course allows the students to have active insights that are more complex and pertinent to the given environment. Such disparity in the coursework and understanding of the local communities allows students to understand courses that rely heavily on case studies.

On the other hand, the local students have an edge in the real-world applications of media research as well. Internships and connections with local newspapers are some of the significant skills that one must have at the time of entering professional life. Therefore, local networks play a crucial role in collecting information. Hands-on projects in communication and media courses typically require students to negotiate the local media ecosystem through fieldwork, internships, or production tasks. Hence, Local students usually have greater access to network and industry contacts (Pham et al. 2021). Having such facilities allows the ability to interview, get internships, and work together on projects. Such projects provide them with These changes to improve students' academic achievement and employability while offering important real-world experience.

Theme 4: Education outcomes can be enhanced with the development of systems

From the aforementioned analysis, it is evident that in order to develop a supportive environment for the overseas student it is a multifaceted task. Moreover, the situation needs to be dividend in distinctive strata and then needs to be encountered accordingly. However, such issues can be effectively counted and possibly the shortest time with the integration of a support system, advanced technology and redesigning curriculum.

First and foremost a support system is a significant element associated with encountering the disparities for students. In addition, comprehensive support services are required to have a significant influence on a student's achievement. However, the support system needs to encounter different strata of the education system. These strategies include career assistance, mental health counselling, and academic advising. However, a support system needs to address both academic and personal issues by allowing students the resources and assistance they seek to successfully achieve their academic goals Yang (2022). Retention rates, dropout rates, and the creation of an inclusive learning environment can be increased by well-designed support systems. Moreover, the interest of students in core subjects of communication and media can be increased.

Curriculum design is an essential component of educational systems as well. Moreover, students can be trained and improve their preparedness for the demands of the current job market. Moreover, the curriculum can significantly aid in such a process. An educational programme that is flexible according to the needs, culturally relevant, and in line with industry standards can attract more students.

Hence, the courses need to be practical skills and preparedness for the real world can be improved by

having a global perspective. Additionally, the learning can be improved by integrating learning experiences including internships and project-based learning (Morley & Clarke, 2020). However, the scheduling of the learning process needs to be done in accordance with the global industry needs. In addition, while the global borders are open with the integration of technology it is suggested to integrate advanced technology for the business. Through the integration of advanced technology, it is possible to achieve global cooperation with other university students (Jackson & Tomlinson, 2020) such integration can aid in developing a better understanding for all the students. Moreover, students can be prepared for the global job market and will be comfortable working in other nations as well.

Conclusion

It was discovered via the examination of previous analyses that Australian media students face a dynamic challenge that jeopardizes their stability in the program. It has been stated that language competency is a major concern for overseas students. Furthermore, Australia has a distinct English accent, which makes things more complicated for the pupils (Novikov, 2020). Additionally, media is a subject that calls for a command of the language. Both linguistic proficiency and conceptual understanding of the theories are prerequisites. Oral communication is significant at the same time. For example, a student must pay extra for projects, equipment, software, and subscription rentals. For students who are having financial difficulties, these costs might be very problematic. According to Sleeman, Lang &Dakich (2020), there is a considerable skill gap in the media industry, which presents challenges for international students studying there. It's probable that international students attended institutions where the industrial needs were not given much of a focus. Furthermore, it's possible that kids are unfamiliar with technical competency, which is typical in Australia. They must thus take greater initiative to establish the new environment. Hence, without enough support and training, international students may find it challenging to meet these standards.

The main obstacle for students studying abroad is language competency. Courses like communication and media demand a deep comprehension of language and the feelings that go along with it. This skill also involves understanding and expressing important ideas. Students who want to work in the media industry also need to participate in critical conversations and writing-intensive procedures. Ignorance of the course material has a detrimental effect on the assignment (Kaisara& Bwalya, 2021). Furthermore, the same may contribute to a student's reluctance to engage in class debates. The widespread use of colloquial and regional words in media content further distances students from fully engaging with the subject matter and their classmates. Consequently, it is clear that from a broad standpoint, language and comprehension.

2. Conclusion

The overall discussion of the research study has been conducted within this section. As per the introduction section, the background of the study and significance of the study have to be discussed which helps to gain knowledge about the challenges that are faced by international students. According to this section, it has been conducted that, Australia's high-quality educational system has made it a desirable location for overseas students. Furthermore, Australia as a nation embraces the coexistence of

many cultures. As a result, students from different countries appreciate the diversified environment that our nation offers. Between January and March 2024, 687,840 international students were enrolled at Australian institutions. There was a 21% difference between this time last year and this time this year. It was observed, meanwhile, that there is an unequal distribution of pupils throughout the several fields. More students are employed in the nursing, engineering, and management industries than in core subjects like media and communications.

Therefore, according to research objectives, it has to be discussed that, the experiences of overseas students in general have been extensively studied. For example, has discussed the persistent problems of cultural differences and the problems experienced by international students. However, when it comes to studying abroad, language becomes a major problem for certain pupils. These problems are prevalent among media students as well, yet there is a glaring dearth of data about specific media and communications students. It is understandable, yet, that the problems are arbitrary and influenced by a variety of factors, including the student's background knowledge and the requirements of the topics. For instance, media students looking for an internship in Australia face substantial challenges related to language and accent.

Moreover, the literature review section is based on a detailed analysis of the research objectives. As per this section, the study's originality is what gives it relevance. Furthermore, the research is significant for a number of reasons. By providing new insights into the literature, it closes a gap in the body of work. Furthermore, knowing international students majoring in media and communications facilitates appreciation of the particular difficulties faced by the industry. Nonetheless, the study aims to use a distinctive result to impact educational policies and practices. Furthermore, remedies may be tailored specifically for the pupils with a brief comprehension of the problems. These kinds of variables allow the establishments to help their international media students more. Additionally, the goal of this research is to serve as a cornerstone for a well-defined professional path for international media students.

After that, in the methodology section, data collection, as well as the data analysis process has to be discussed. As per this section, it has been discussed that the important procedure of gathering data defines the study as a whole. Secondary data was taken into consideration in order to address the concerns of intention among Australian medical students. The study's ethical considerations are further enhanced by the pre-validation and verification of secondary sources of data. As a result, the procedure involved methodical data retrieval and searching. Reliability must be upheld when obtaining secondary data. As a result, to produce reliable findings for the analysis data, databases like Google Scholar, ProQuest, and Research Gate are used. Additionally, the aforementioned databases provide conveniently accessible, authentic, and authenticated data. After that, creating conclusions based on the data gathered is related to the data-collecting process. One of the most crucial procedures thought to support the creation of the outcomes is data analysis. As a result, a backup analytical strategy was taken into consideration for the research. The many aspects related to the subject matter formed the basis for the study's discussion. Based on a study's findings, related subjects are developed through thematic coding. Consequently, the topics in the thematic analysis were developed using the keywords that were found in the secondary, peer-reviewed papers and journals. Consequently, results that were pertinent to the topic of the study were produced.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Recommended to improve the education system that benefits the overseas media student in their learning

Implementation of diverse international perspectives into the curriculum is capable of providing a proper understanding of international media landscapes. Therefore, educational institutions allow their students to choose elective courses that help to achieve their career goals (Sleeman, Lang &Dakich, 2020). Moreover, advanced media production tools help to provide proper access which helps to ensure the students provide proper training to utilize these tools. Improvement of the online learning platform helps to improve the effectiveness of the learning program for international students which help to bring success in the media industry.

Recommendation 2: Recommended for cultural adjustment and academic collaboration for overseas students

International students must take part in local activities and events which helps to improve their understanding of the local culture. Therefore, students must try to make local friends which helps to gain insights into local norms. Moreover, group study also helps to overcome the cultural as well as educational barriers. It helps to develop a collaborative attitude and helps to adapt to the local culture (Rahmanova&Ekşi, 2023). Moreover, collaboration also helps to overcome the language barriers of the students. Additionally, language courses also help students reduce their language difficulties. With the support of the educational institute, as well as local students, overseas students are able to overcome the challenges that they have to face during their education program.

Limitations of the Study

This study is based on a secondary data collection process which helps to collect data from various peer-reviewed sources. Moreover, a lack of statistical information has which has a significant limitation of this study (Barus, Simanjuntak&Resmayasari, 2021). After that, the lack of proper pieces of information about the challenges of overcoming strategy is another limitation of this study. , moreover, this collected data is unable to answer all the questions which are related to the research objectives.

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