

Effect on multicultural interaction on international students

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Previous studies have indicated that local/international student intervention programs are beneficial in order to help international students make local friends (e.g., Ward et al 2001). However, no study was found which assessed the effect of multicultural interactions as activities for international students. The aim of the present study was to examine the effect of a bus excursion on international students. Ninety six international students from 12 countries completed surveys one month and four months after the bus excursion. Results found that students who participated in the program tended to have a greater number of overall friends particularly local (Australian) friends; showed a decrease in their Asian identity; and maintained both home culture maintenance and local culture recognition. These results suggest that participants in the multicultural activity are better adjusted in their new environment. It was concluded that education providers should be encouraged to organise greater numbers of such multicultural intervention programs for international students.