This work has been submitted to NECTAR, the Northampton Electronic Collection of Theses and Research.

http://nectar.northampton.ac.uk/459/

Creator(s): Yang Feng

Title: International students studying in the UK: what are we experiencing?

Date: 9-10 November 2007

Originally presented to: Universities Council for the Education of Teachers Annual Conference (UCET)

Conference URL: http://www.ucet.ac.uk/196


Version of item: Author Final Version
International students studying in the UK: what are we experiencing?

(Mary) Feng Yan and Johnson Jament
The University of Northampton
About us:
Why did we choose to study in the UK?
Perspectives on our supervisors

• Professionalism

• Empathy and support

• Appreciation of diversity and respect of differences

• Social and cultural events
Opportunities

• Anglo-Irish programmes
• National and international conferences
• Involvement in research projects
• Finnish teaching experience
• Working with visiting scholars
Challenges

• Comparative educational research
• Critical thinking skills
• Language difficulties
• Academic limitations
Perspectives on social adjustment

- Intercultural communication and dialogues
- Promoting international collaboration and understanding
- Antagonism: as an opportunity and as a threat (cultural identity)
- Limited interaction with local students
Cultural events

An Indian day

A Mid-summer night’s dream

Chinese New Year party
Cross the barriers

• preserving an open, yet critical mind to look for differences and similarities from the diversity of culture

• balanced attitude

• awareness of the impact of contextual and culturally sensitive factors

• Being reflexive and critical of one’s own values, assumptions, knowledge and expectations drawn on one’s individualised experiences and socio-culturally based understanding
We have learnt…

• How to work in an emerging world society
• How to think independently
• How to be polite and respectful
• How to be tolerant
• However…
We have also learnt that...

The UK is not a perfect country