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# The Experiences and Perceptions of a Sample of Chinese International Students in New Zealand

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# Abstract

This study was undertaken to explore the experiences of Chinese students in the New Zealand education sector and various perceptions about the level of satisfaction they felt about their life as students in this country. The sample was made up of 140 Chinese international students who were fulltime students studying in different courses at three universities, two language schools and one private tertiary school in Auckland. This study comprised data from a self-completed questionnaire survey carried out between July and August 2004. The research explored relationships among possible factors which influence international students' adjustment including loneliness; feeling of safety; relationships with the host culture and homestay services. The main findings were that students perceived their lack of English skills was a major obstacle in achieving both academic goals and quality interactions with members of the host country. Also, satisfying opportunities for interaction with host national members outside the classroom benefits Chinese international students in their adaptation to the New Zealand education system.

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