Indian, Chinese, and Korean International Graduate Students at UIUC: Acculturation and Assimilation

Findings, Implications, and Recommendations

- Of the 6 students we interviewed, only 1 woman went to her department orientation and found it beneficial in her adjustment to UIUC. All 6 participants said they turned to students from their own countries for help. None utilized popular resources provided by UIUC, such as Interlink and Orchard Downs programming.

- Our findings suggest the possibility that many Asian international graduate students prefer to get help directly from students of their own ethnicities rather than from UIUC programming.

- Perhaps the UIUC resources for international students are too spread out. For these students, peers from their own country are a consolidated source of information and assistance.

- UIUC might consider creating one central location for international students, where they can access information pertaining to resources/programming.

- The Counseling Center (Interlink) might consider giving international students the option of choosing a mentor from their own country.

Central Questions Asked:
- What were the top 3 difficulties you faced upon moving to UIUC? Continue to face?
- Who did you seek out for help when you first came to the UIUC campus?
- What resources were offered through the school/your academic department? Which seemed to help you the most? What resources were not so helpful to you? Why?
- Were there any ethnic student organizations that helped you acclimate? How?
- What do you wish someone (the university or your peers) had done differently to help you? Or were you satisfied with the help you received?

Most Frequently-Mentioned Difficulties of the 6 Students We Interviewed

Everyday Difficulties

- Language
- Food (Intolerance to American diet; difficulty finding ethnic food)
- Understanding American mannerisms, slang, accents, and jokes
- Homesickness
- Finding and affording health care
- Transportation

Methodology:
Interview

Participants:
2 Chinese, 2 Indian, and 2 South Korean International Graduate Students at UIUC

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