

Recurring Themes Across Fractal Issues Facing International Students: A Thematic Analysis of 2016 Dissertations and Theses

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This section shares recent dissertations and theses with the *Journal of International Students* readers. There were about 139 graduate dissertations and theses related to the issues and challenges of international students in 2016. The complete versions of these selected dissertations are available in the ProQuest, Michigan-based electronic publisher. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global is the world's most comprehensive collection of dissertations and theses from around the world, spanning from 1743 to the present day. This database has found 17,164 results from 1922-2018 while searching the keywords “international student” in its search engine.

The leading institutions of higher education in producing dissertations related to international students/international education were as follows: University of Toronto (427), Indiana University (423), University of Southern California (401), University of Minnesota (339), The Ohio State University (304), the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (299), Purdue University (298), Michigan State University (275), Walden University (258), University of California, Los Angeles (210), University of Maryland, College Park (205), University of Florida (203), Florida State University (198), Iowa State University (194), and Texas A&M University (192). This does not mean all dissertations/theses were related to international students as the keywords may appear in many other disciplines.

Written in 1922, *The Foreign Student on the American Campus* (by Anne Elizabeth Neely, the University of Chicago) was the oldest dissertation related to international student. ProQuest database indicated

Language

Many dissertations addressed unique challenges as experienced by students from various geographic regions including China and the Middle East. Issues associated with language proficiency such as academic self-efficacy, social relationships were addressed. Moreover, the role of language background, role of mother tongue, communication problems, and identities connected with accents and language learning needs were studied.

Miscellaneous

Many dissertations in 2016 addressed some unique issues such as international students' perceptions of Anglo-Saxon model, propensity to trust, policy experiences, hopes and experiences of international students in the UK, correcting misinformation on HIV/AIDS, roommate-pairing program, and experiences of international students with learning disabilities.

Teaching Assistants

A small number of dissertations (4) specifically addressed experiences of international students working as teaching or graduate assistants. Challenges of having to adjust to new classroom culture, feedback received and experiences of learning to teach in the U.S. were studied with various interesting findings.

Recruiting

Recruiting of international students was another theme that addressed various strategies including those adopted by various institutions including the community colleges. The studies included such topics as recruitment trends before and after 9/11, education agents in Canada, recruitment and representations, and student enrollment patterns in U.S. colleges and universities.

Identity

Identity issues of international students consisted of another theme. Topics included social media on identity formation, gender identity, emerging civic identity, cross-cultural identity, LGBTQ international students, identity and literacy development, identity negotiation while using L2 literacies skills, and identity and cross-cultural adaptation on social media such as the Instagram.

Community Engagement

A small number of dissertations addressed international students volunteering experiences and various ways of community engagement. Topics included community of practice, civic engagement, community service experiences, and cross-cultural adjustment.

Global Awareness

Some dissertations discussed the global awareness opportunities for local students due to the presence of international students by studying pathways of global engagement. Many other topics included study abroad on student academic achievement, global perspectives, cross-cultural friendship opportunities, internationalization initiatives, improving interactions, multicultural awareness, multiculturalism and cultural adaptation.

Discrimination

About half a dozen dissertations studied discrimination as experienced by international students in their host communities. Topics included social norm perception, language discrimination, Islamophobia, prejudice, veiled incivilities, and students' perceptions of social inequalities.

Career

A small number of dissertations explored career outcomes for international students due to their studies in the host countries. Topics included early career outcome differences, choices, experiences and perceptions of employability, branch campus of international institutions, university-to-work transition, and professional career navigation.

College Choice and Mobility Trends

A small number of dissertations studied student mobility trends and college choice deliberations by international students. Topics included study abroad decision and university choice, decision making factors, and decision to attend a community college.

Apart from the thematic observations, interesting observations were found in the geographic regions specifically mentioned in these dissertations. Many of the dissertations addressed students from specific geographic regions. Here also not surprisingly, the dissertations that talked about Chinese students was the highest with 22 dissertations, followed by those about Saudi Arabia (12), Africa (4), United Kingdom (5), and Canada (2). Notable is that even though Australia attracts a large number of

international students and there must be many dissertations addressing international students, they are not usually available from ProQuest database, which was the main source that this thematic analysis based on.

These fractal issues facing international students are awaiting attention of host institutions' student affairs professionals.

2016 Dissertations and Theses

1. Adams, S. E. (2016). *International students' decision to attend a small, rural community college in Iowa* (Order No. 10244679). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1860834009).
2. Adamu, A. E. (2016). *Social cognition and the acculturation of international students in U.S. higher education institutions: Examining the cognitive rationales of integrative acculturation* (Order No. 10270841). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global. (1908956418).
3. Adhikari, S. (2016). *Writing at the intersection: Understanding international student writers* (Order No. 10132908). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1810133376).
4. Akkurt, M. N. (2016). *International students in supervision: Multicultural discussion as a moderator between supervision related constructs: Acculturation, counselor self-efficacy, supervisory working alliance, and role ambiguity* (Order No. 10109533).
5. Al Ramadan, H. A. (2016). *The experience of married international Saudi students in respect to adjusting to study abroad in the United States of America* (Order No. 10251318). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1858814881).
6. Al Remain, D. (2016). *Social and academic challenges facing Saudi female students in the United States of America* (Order No. 10130059). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1815085786).
7. Alabdulwahab, R. (2016). *Postsecondary education for international undergraduate students with learning disabilities in the United States* (Order No. 10252642). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1884217938).
8. Alajlan, R. (2016). *Psychological attitudes of Saudi Arabian international students toward mental health counseling* (Order No. 10106095). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1790821751).
9. Albrecht, M. (2016). *Cultural influences on Chinese international students willingness to approach instructors online at a US institution of higher learning* (Order No. 10141497). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1822206105).
10. Aldossari, A. S. (2016). *Factors contributing to college retention of undergraduate Saudi students studying in the United States* (Order No.

- 10154257). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1836100258).
11. Alhajjaj, K. K. (2016). *Learning to manage: How Saudi female doctoral students in education manage academic and motherhood roles in U.S. universities* (Order No. 10251982). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1867024745).
 12. Almurideef, R. (2016). *The challenges that international students face when integrating into higher education in the United States* (Order No. 10190410). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1848666627).
 13. Alqarni, A. M. (2016). *Saudi ESL students' acculturative orientations and their influence on their English-speaking proficiency* (Order No. 10587534). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1885051289).
 14. Alsufyyan, K. (2016). *A comparative analysis of American and Saudi Arabian student perceptions of domestic violence* (Order No. 10003131). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1761734088).
 15. Apanecatli-Ibarra, E. (2016). *Exploring the views of American, International, and Mexican students of the Anglo-Saxon model of the research university: A Q methodology study* (Order No. 10189311). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1853881611).
 16. Aslan, E. (2016). *International teaching assistants in the US university classroom: A mixed-methods study of individual differences and L2 pragmatic competence* (Order No. 10103860). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1789884510).
 17. Baffy, M. L. (2016). *The academic discourse socialization of international lawyers at a U.S. law school* (Order No. 10102306). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1785824216).
 18. Bajah, J. (2016). *Factors related to persistence of international student in liberal arts universities in Southern California* (Order No. 10132164). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1809811901).
 19. Battle, R. (2016). *International student-athletes' retention at an NCAA Division I institution* (Order No. 10194608). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1873264909).
 20. Behl, M. (2016). *The needs and acculturative stress of international students in CACREP-accredited programs: An extension of ng (2006)* (Order No. 10474949). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1877987061).
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 22. Biaku, M. E. (2016). *Negotiating higher education in the US: Voices of Ghanaian graduate students at a Midwestern university* (Order No. 10125612). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1796965065).

23. Brown, S. D. (2016). *The impact of demographic and educational factors on international students' propensity to trust: Implications for school officials in higher education* (Order No. 10134128). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1810428436).
24. Bruhn, T. (2016). *Strategic importance of recruiting international students for community colleges framed in the context of an institution's fiscal health* (Order No. 10076461). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1778511350).
25. Bumbalough, M. (2016). *The impact of social media on identity formation: An ethnographic study of Korean graduate students' virtual communities of practice* (Order No. 10143514). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global. (1824073405).
26. Cameron, K. (2016). *Factors influencing the perceived stress and sociocultural adaptation of international students: Policy and leadership implications* (Order No. 10127282). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1809117273).
27. Chang, W. (2016). *Predictors of international students' socio-cultural adjustment* (Order No. 10163381). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1844996081).
28. Chege, G. (2016). *A qualitative study on lived experiences of Kenyan adult immigrants in community colleges in Georgia* (Order No. 10105328). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1790789023).
29. Cheng, A. Y. (2016). *Being a "nu tóngzhì" in the united states: The sexual orientation identity acculturation and enculturation processes of Taiwanese international sexual orientation minority women* (Order No. 10239786). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1878303865).
30. Chin, F. P. (2016). *A study on retention and achievement: Assessment of international students' resilience and coping strategies* (Order No. 10240223). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1871005153).
31. Clayton, K. M. (2016). *International policy experience: Short-term international travel courses in structure degree programs* (Order No. 10141729). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1807413517).
32. Click, A. B. (2016). *Adapting to higher education in a new culture: International students' perspectives on research, writing, and academic integrity* (Order No. 10145877). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1828141812).
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34. Crosby, L. G. (2016). *A case study of non-native English-speaking international university students participating in a community of*

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 36. Davis, J. G. (2016). *Psychological challenges of Saudi female international students in Virginia: Single qualitative case study* (Order No. 10258136). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1879785848).
 37. Dykstra, E. (2016). *Differences in motivation and prediction of academic success: A study of American and international college students* (Order No. 10253664). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1867780661).
 38. Eldaba, A. (2016). *Academic self-efficacy, social relationships, and English language proficiency as predictors of international students' college satisfaction* (Order No. 10112399). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1800547695).
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 42. Galligan, P. K. (2016). *Male Chinese international students' utilization of and barriers to mental health resources* (Order No. 10181862). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1834310376).
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 46. Gilliland, M. D. (2016). *Great expectations: Exploring the hopes and experiences of international business students in the United Kingdom* (Order No. 10584615). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1874895165).

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49. Grigg, A. (2016). *Chinese international students' and faculty members' views of plagiarism in higher education* (Order No. 10010905). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1765463927).
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51. Guo, X. (2016). *A descriptive study of international students' needs and service satisfaction at South Dakota State University* (Order No. 10157549). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1837120733).
52. Guzel, H. (2016). *Demographic factors in relation to acculturation and acculturative stress: A comparison of international and domestic university students* (Order No. 10131745). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1818548298).
53. Hart, D. (2016). *The lived experiences of Muslim students' academic achievement despite Islamophobia: A phenomenological study* (Order No. 10148431). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1830478630).
54. Hozdik, E. (2016). *Understanding international students' community service experiences in the United States and their impacts* (Order No. 10119499). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1805341402).
55. Irudayam, I. (2016). *International student satisfaction with support services* (Order No. 10102637). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1786684074).
56. Jiang, X. (2016). *The price of being international: Exploring early career outcome differences between international and domestic master's recipients from U.S. institutions* (Order No. 10130105). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1816189364).
57. Johnson, K. A. (2016). *International student flows to the U.S. before and after 9/11* (Order No. 10154141). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1836069458).
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59. Kang, Y. (2016). *English—only when necessary: Literacy practices of Korean undergraduate students at a 'global' university* (Order No. 10301846). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1857874683).

60. Karaman, M. A. (2016). *The relationship among life satisfaction, academic stress, locus of control, and achievement motivation: A comparison of domestic and international students* (Order No. 10143664). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1824710225).
61. Katsanos, E. (2016). *Why UToledo? A study of the key factors influencing the college choice of international undergraduate students and their decision to enroll at the University of Toledo* (Order No. 10392844). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1874563392).
62. Kavaliauskas Crain, L. (2016). *Jiao Tong: A grounded theory of Chinese international students' transition to American tertiary education* (Order No. 10160543). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1826354036).
63. Kim, S. (2016). *The paradox of gender in a transnational space: Persistence and resistance of gender identity among Asian international undergraduate students in the English language context* (Order No. 10163869). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1844986219).
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67. Kung, M. (2016). *Self-reported experiences of Chinese students with online learning in the U.S* (Order No. 10299000). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1847948521).
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79. Li, M. (2016). *The role of adult attachment in international students' acculturation process* (Order No. 10103984). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1789872589).
80. Li, R. (2016). *Message design for correcting misinformation on HIV/AIDS for Chinese international students in the US* (Order No. 10119956). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1806139030).
81. Little, D. K. (2016). *Students-as-informants: Investigating the use of feedback by international teaching assistants* (Order No. 10294652). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1844577862).
82. Liu, C. L. (2016). *Global friendship in the U.S. higher education environment: The cross-cultural friendship opportunities with the growing number of Chinese international students* (Order No. 10158530). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1839273706).

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97. Murphy, G. A. (2016). *Worlds apart? international students, source-based writing, and faculty development across the curriculum* (Order No. 10126853). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1798494014).
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 109. Preston, N. J. (2016). *Expectations and challenges of international students studying at institutions of higher education in the United States* (Order No. 10251215). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (1865328099).
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