

[ Study-Work-Life Balance of  
International Students, A Better  
Lens for Student Experience? ]

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[ Question ]

How do you define  
student  
experience?

[ Question ]

What are the  
components of  
student experience?

[ Question ]

How will you define  
a positive student  
experience?

[ Question ]

Are these definitions similar to your institution's?

[ Student Experience ]

- Originated during the Colombo Plan
- Change in focus after the commercialisation of higher education
- Lack of scholarly literature
- Definitions commonly found in government and universities' strategic reports

## [ Why is it insufficient? ]

- Mostly focus on the internal environment of the university
- Lack of support outside the university
- Decision-making process of International students
- Skills and Graduate Attributes Development
- Recurring problems faced by students

## [ University of Adelaide ]

“Studying at the University of Adelaide means being part of a rich tradition of excellence in education and research, with world class academics and a vibrant student life. Our high-calibre graduates have skills that go beyond the workplace. Our graduates make an impact on the world. **Life Impact.**”

## [ University of Western Australia ]

“By choosing UWA, you will graduate with **internationally recognised qualifications** and you will **be well-equipped to operate within a changing global environment.**”

Vice-Chancellor's Forward  
Professor Alan Robson AM  
*Vice-Chancellor*

## [ Work-Life Balance of Workers ]

- Humanistic approach
- Balance between work and private life
- Relationship between life balance and work performance / satisfaction
- Subjective and personal – “eye of the beholder”

## [ Methodology ]

- Mixed design
- 21 semi-structured in-depth interview with university staff and about 530 surveys from International students
- Analysis of government and universities' official and historical documents

## [ Issue of Self-Selected Bias ]

- “the pattern of the unconnected and stressed student... is a pattern which, in extreme form, means that students experience their university life as unpleasant, even painful, and possibly achieve well below their capacity.”

Rosenthal, D.A., Russell, V.J., Thomson, G.D. (2006) *A Growing Experience, The Health and Well-Being of International Students at University of Melbourne*, pg 116

## [ Re-think of Student Experience ]

- Relatively different from official government and university definition
- Lack of definition in ESOS and the National Code of Practice
- Encompass everything from decision-making to being an alumni
- Broader sense to incorporate learning of Australian culture and making Australian friends

## [ Re-think of Student Experience ]

- Involve life outside university
- Good experience of their life and enriches their overall life experience
- Have a delay effect
- **Did not prominently include work despite growing importance**

## [ Growing Importance of Work ]

- Important aspect in their decision-making in selecting a host country
- Need to attain suitable graduate attributes to boost career prospects
- Financial implications / support
- Problems faced during work – e.g. financial, exploitation, opportunities, time management
- Volunteer Work

## [ Argument for SWLB ]

- Definition of student experience provide a foundation for education policies and strategies
- Students are not provided with sufficient platforms for development
- Student experience should be self-defining which can lead to more positive outcomes and satisfaction

## [ Argument for SWLB ]

Quoting from John Anderson:

***“If one need to excel, one must be prepared to give things a go.”***

*He related to his life where he took many risks throughout his life but he made sure that he got a fall back position*

## [ Definition of SWLB ]

- More than academic
- Each aspect must be mutually enriching and balanced
- Time management / more control over life to reduce anxiety
- Need other activities to get away from studies
- Study aspect is dominant

## [ Definition of SWLB ]

- Varies according to students
- Academic Issues preventing SWLB
- Social Issues preventing SWLB
- Level of environment awareness
- Level of dependency of international students

## [ Importance of SWLB ]

- Health and Well-Being
- Academic success is reliant on it
- More repercussions for International Students

## Implications for Australian Government

- Word of mouth
- The ESOS Act / National Code
- Transport Concessions

## Argument for SWLB

Quoting from John Anderson:

*“Word of mouth advertising is very important... Everything you do must be the best (value) and there is no substitute for quality and excellence”*

*He related to the success of his company*

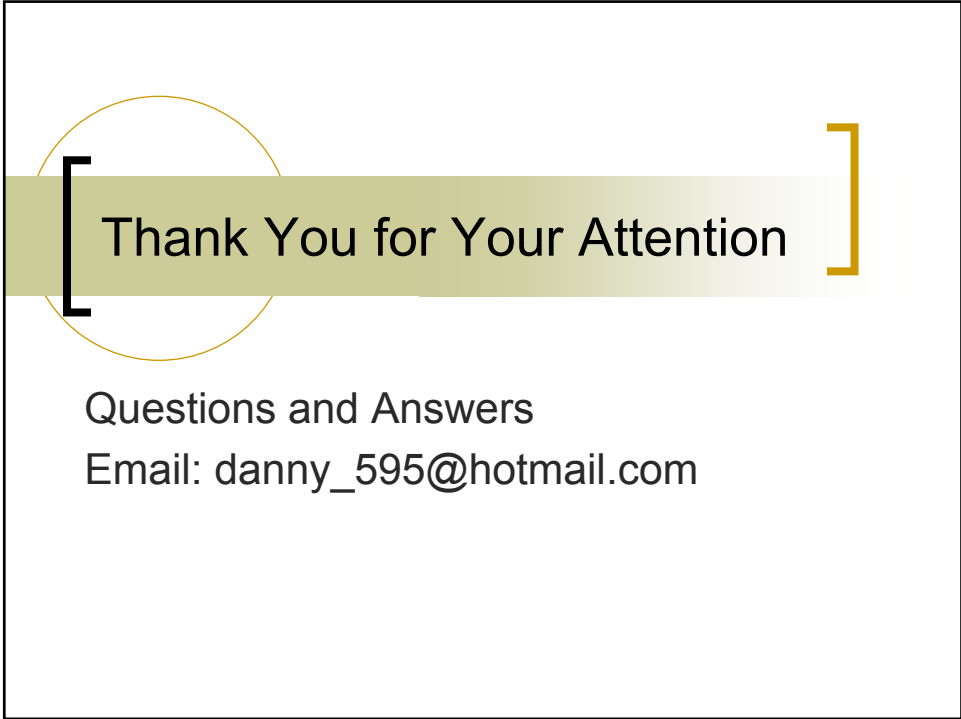
## [ Conclusion ]

- Emerging needs from international students rather than third perspective (from government or university)
- Need for self-defining experience
- More flexibility and protection for international students to explore and venture with minimised risks

## [ Final Note ]

Quoting from John Anderson:

*“I never know I have it  
in me”*



Thank You for Your Attention

Questions and Answers

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