International Student Employability

Belinda Howell
Chief Market Development Officer
UTS:INSEARCH
- Motivators
- Parent and Student Expectations
- Action-learning project
- Employer perspectives
- Student perspectives
Sector
- Economics & growth expectations

Individual
- Total student experience

Post-study work rights
GUIDES, RECOMMENDATIONS AND STUDENT SURVEYS
EXPECTATIONS
EXPECTATIONS

End is more important than the means

“Will he get a good job and how much will he be paid?”
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REALITY

- Limited awareness of workplaces
- No part-time work during schooling
- Low take-up of university internships
The program consists of workshops, group activities and work experience to develop business skills and confidence.
Feedback from students and companies about what was valuable

Changed format and made available to all international students

Approach
Learning by doing
Start small and innovate
MEET LYN

Guan Guilin (Lyn)
Jilin Province

17 Years Old
Chinese ‘Early Bird’

10 Weeks English
INSEARCH Foundation
UTS Business Degree – Accounting
UTS:INSEARCH Leadership Program
GRADUATE OF LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Workshops and six weeks work experience

“I learnt more about the Australian workplace and the differences between cultures. Now I am confident about working in Australia as well as with people from other countries.”

- Lynn
WORK EXPERIENCE COMPANIES
TWO KEY QUESTIONS

How do international students contribute to Australian businesses?

What advice would you give to students to improve their employability?
1. CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Cultural diversity brings a host of benefits. Employers identified that international students can be a talent pipeline with:

- New ways of thinking
- Depth of cultural understanding
- The ability to improve the knowledge of other cultures for existing staff

Footnote: Research on diversity from McKinsey, HBR, SA.
2. AWARENESS OF MARKETS

International students may have a pool of knowledge about key markets. They can potentially bring:

- Cultural literacy with the ability to improve the organisation’s orientation towards emerging markets
- Connection and understanding of the youth dominated markets across south-east Asia
International students can bring:

- Family contacts and introductions to networks which can strengthen international ties for future investments
- Knowledge about how to build relationship and cultural awareness
- Opportunities to build long-term connectivity to emerging markets
4. STRONG WORK ETHIC

Businesses identified the energy and initiative that international students bring to the workplace.

- High productivity and output
- Novel approaches to problem solving
What advice would you give to students to improve employability?
PERSONAL/INTERPERSONAL SKILLS

- Interpersonal communication skills
- Cross-cultural understanding
- Teamwork
- Problem-solving
- Initiative
- Adaptability
- Ambition
- Creativity
- Leadership
BUSINESS READINESS

- Understanding of the business environment
- Business etiquette
- Evidence of work-experience / internships
- Professional social media presence
- Passion, drive and enthusiasm
Findings

- Role of pathways
- Insights from employers
- Plans to expand
- Makes a difference for students