

# USING STUDENT-GENERATED IDEAS TO IMPROVE INTEGRATION OF STUDY ABROAD AND EXCHANGE STUDENTS

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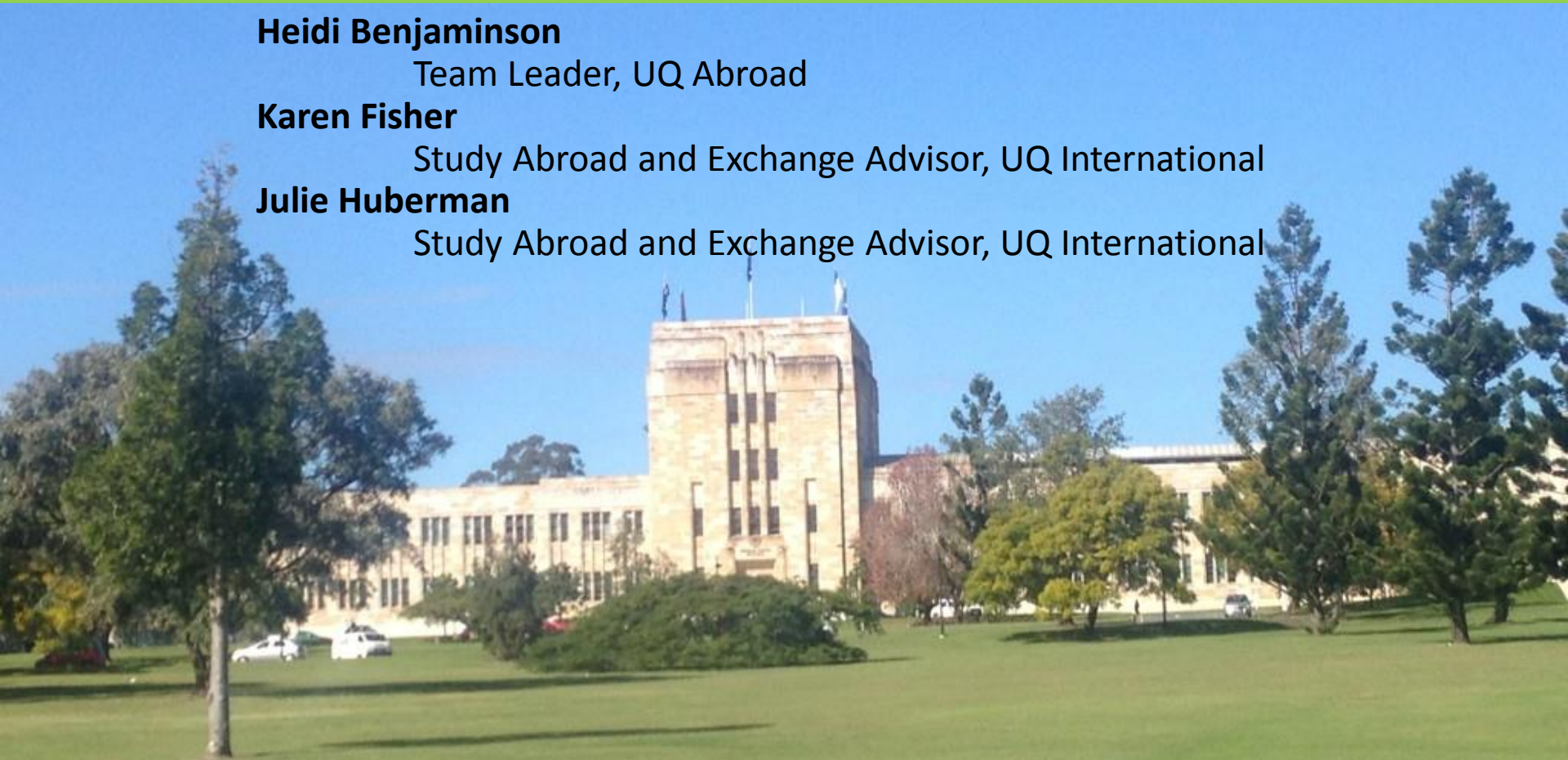
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# INTERNATIONALISATION OF AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES

The presence of international and multicultural student bodies on Australian campuses creates ideal social forums for fostering the development of cross-cultural awareness and communication skills as well as social cohesion. Yet, one of the most disturbing aspects of the internationalisation of Australian university campuses is the lack of interaction between Australian and international students from Asian backgrounds.

**Volet & Ang (2006)**



Volet, S.E. & Ang, G., 2006. Culturally Mixed Groups on International Campuses: an Opportunity for Inter-cultural Learning. *Higher Education Research & Development*.

# GATHERING STUDENT FEEDBACK



Student feedback provides important evidence for assessing quality, it can be used to support attempts to improve quality, and it can be useful to prospective students.

Feedback should be sought at the level at which one is endeavouring to monitor quality

Feedback should be collected as soon as possible after the relevant educational activity.

**Richardson (2010)**

# FOCUS GROUP METHOD



...the focus group interview technique was embraced to explore people's thoughts, feelings and behaviors. Thus, the emphasis in the use of group interviews on their ability to generate data about the "why" behind the behaviour; the ability to ask the kinds of questions that surveys don't ask and that individual interviews, too, miss.

**Lederman (2009)**

Lederman, L.C., 2009. Assessing educational effectiveness: The focus group interview as a technique for data collection. *Communication Education*.

# HOW ARE STUDENTS ARE INTEGRATING?



# WHAT THEY TOLD US IN THE FOCUS GROUP SESSIONS?

University led buddy/meet/greet programs

Residential Colleges

Share House Accommodation

Sporting Activities

Academic Preparation Programs

Clubs and Societies

Stay for two semesters rather than one

Volunteering



# STUDENT EXPECTATIONS VS REALITY



Need more organised activities/social events

Expected to meet more people at Orientation

O Week sessions aimed at domestic students - awkward for international cohorts

Turned out to be more difficult than expected to make friends with Australians.

Perception there are more International students on campus and in the clubs than Australian students

# PUTTING IDEAS INTO ACTION

- What are we already doing?

- What should we do?

- What can we do?



# WHAT HAVE WE ACTUALLY DONE?



- Meet and greets for incoming and outgoing exchange students.
- Involve outgoing exchange students in Orientation BBQ.
- Campus tours with outgoing students

# WHERE TO FROM HERE?



- Other results of the focus groups
  - Enrolment and Timetable session
  - Facebook Group
- Suggestions still to implement
  - Small group activities at Orientation
  - More interaction with outgoing students
- Improving focus groups
  - New Questions
  - Supplement with survey

# QUESTIONS?



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