

Table 1

What is your age? 39 ⓘ				...
Q2 - What is your age?		Count	Count	
Under 20		13%	5	
21-25		51%	20	
25-30		18%	7	
Over 30		18%	7	

Bar Chart 1

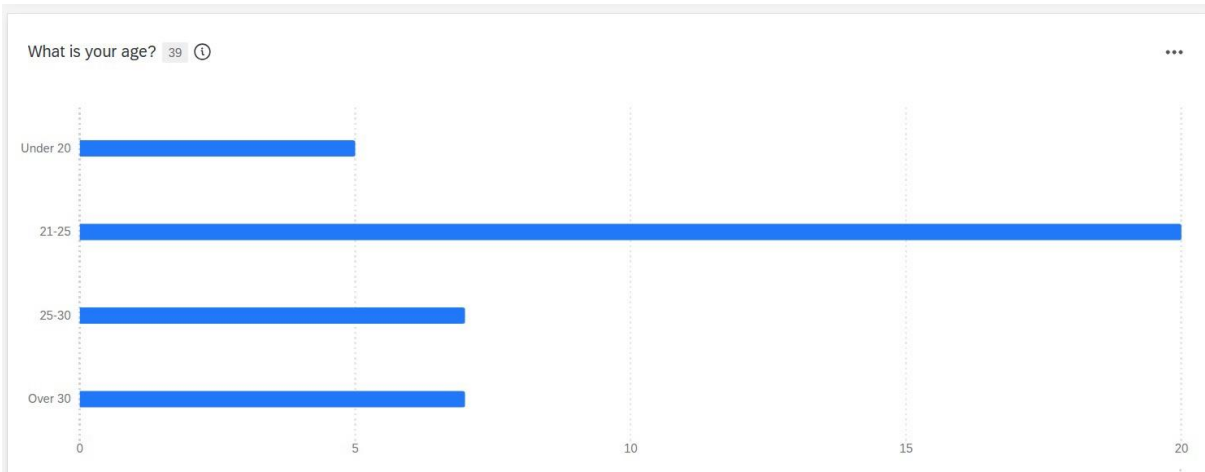


Table 2

What is your gender? 39 ⓘ			
Q1 - What is your gender?		Count	Count
Male		41%	16
Female		56%	22
Non-binary / third gender		3%	1

Bar Chart 2

What is your gender? 39 ⓘ

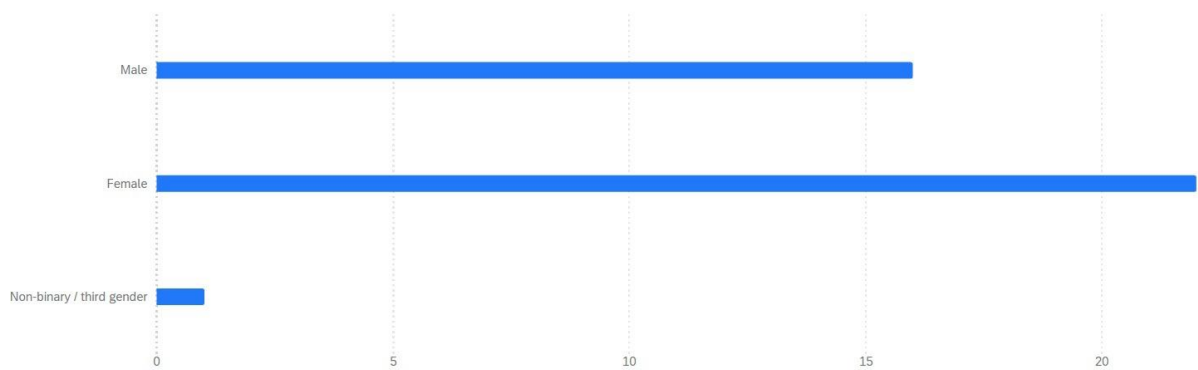


Table 3

Level of study 37 ⓘ

Q3 - Level of study	Count	Count
Under graduate	41%	15
Master's	49%	18
PHD	11%	4

Bar Chart 3

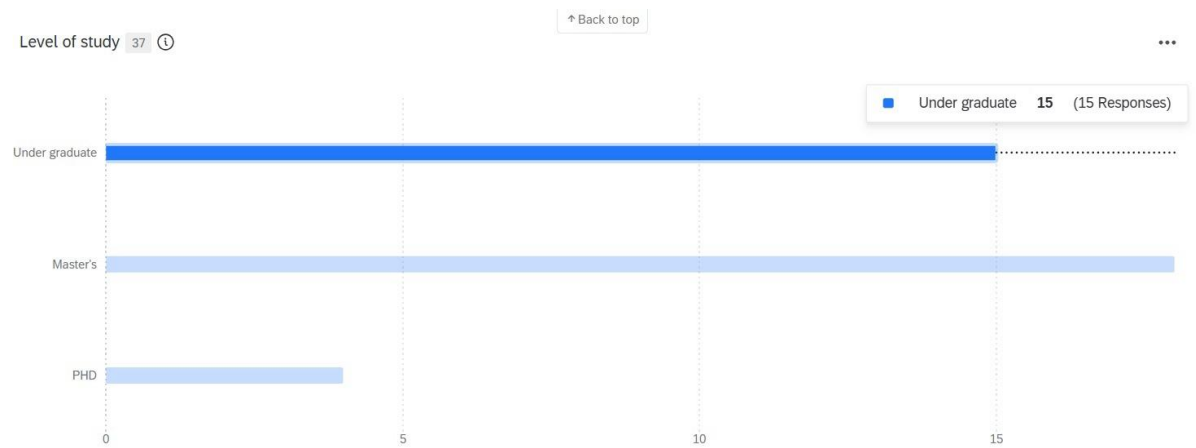


Table 4

Length of stay in the UK 39 ⓘ

...

Q4 - Length of stay in the UK	Count	Count
Less than 6months	18%	7
6 months to 1 year	31%	12
1-2 Years	26%	10
More than 2 years	26%	10

Bar Chart 4

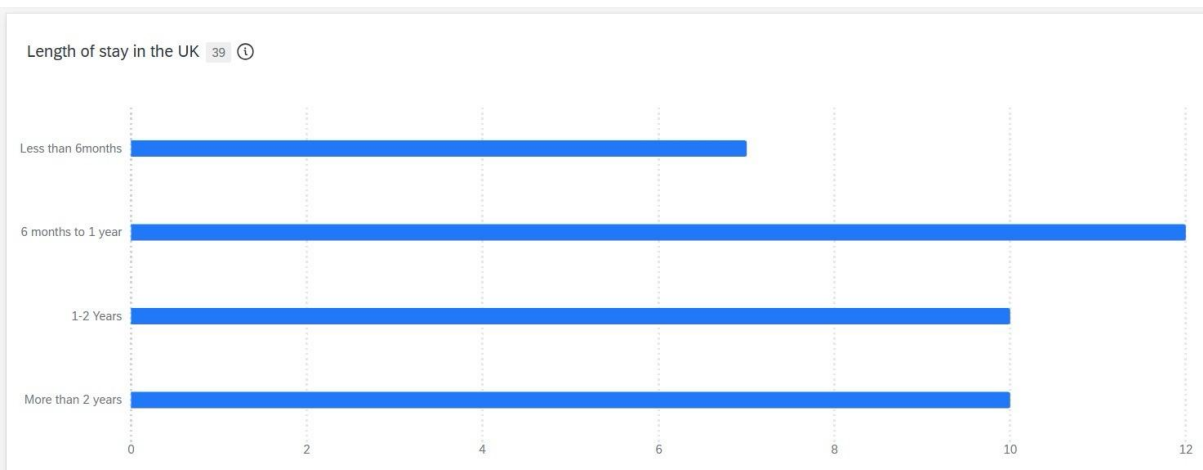


Table 5

IELTS score before come to the UK 39 ⓘ

...

Q5 - IELTS score before come to the UK - Selected Choice	Count	Count
IELTS Below 6.0	13%	5
IELTS 6.0-6.5	33%	13
IELTS 7.0-7.5	33%	13
IELTS 8.0 or above	15%	6
Others (Please be specify)	5%	2

Bar Chart 5

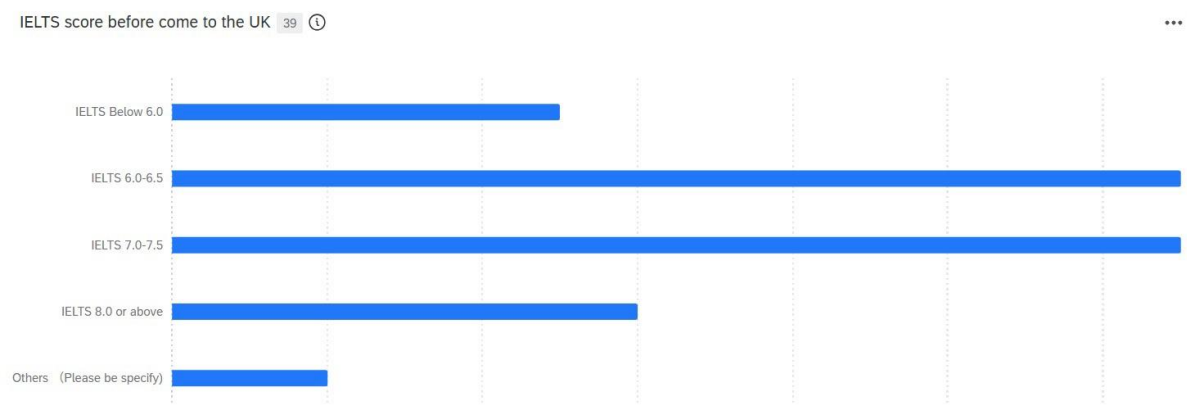


Table 6

How would you define the challeging of stuying in the UK? 39 ⓘ ...

Q6 - How would you define the challeging of stuying in the UK?	Count	Count
Not challenging at all	18%	7
Slightly challenging	33%	13
Moderately challenging	28%	11
Very challenging	21%	8

Bar Chart 6

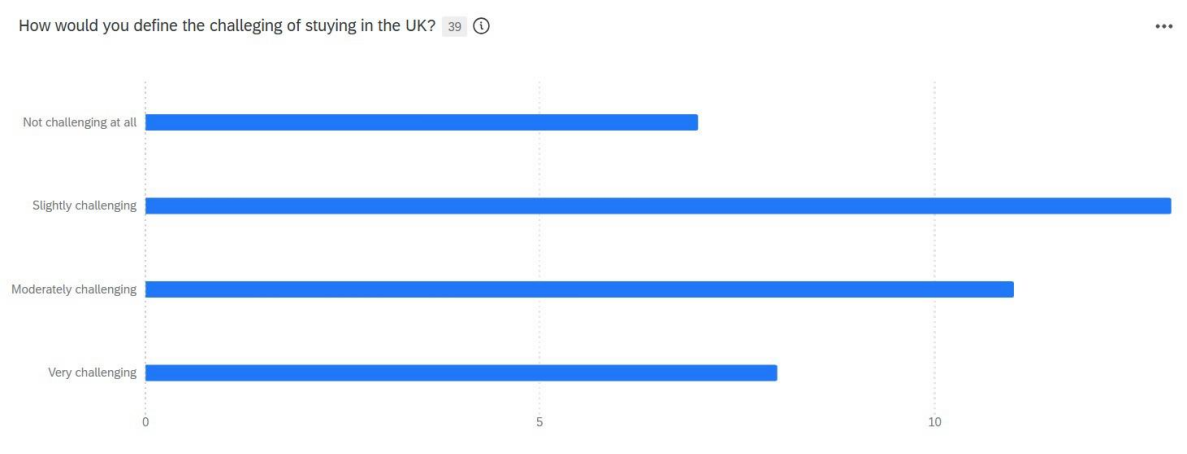


Table 7

How challenging do you find each of the following aspects of studying in the UK? (Scale: 1 = Not Challenging, 5 = Extremely Challenging) 39

How challenging do you find each of the following aspects of studying in th...	1	2	3	4	5
Understanding academic writing style	9	6	15	8	1
Participating in group discussions	7	10	11	9	2
Communicating with lectures	7	10	16	6	0
Making friends with local students	9	10	12	5	3
Adjusting to different classroom cultures	5	17	7	9	1
Managing homesickness or loneliness	9	10	14	3	3

Bar Chart 7

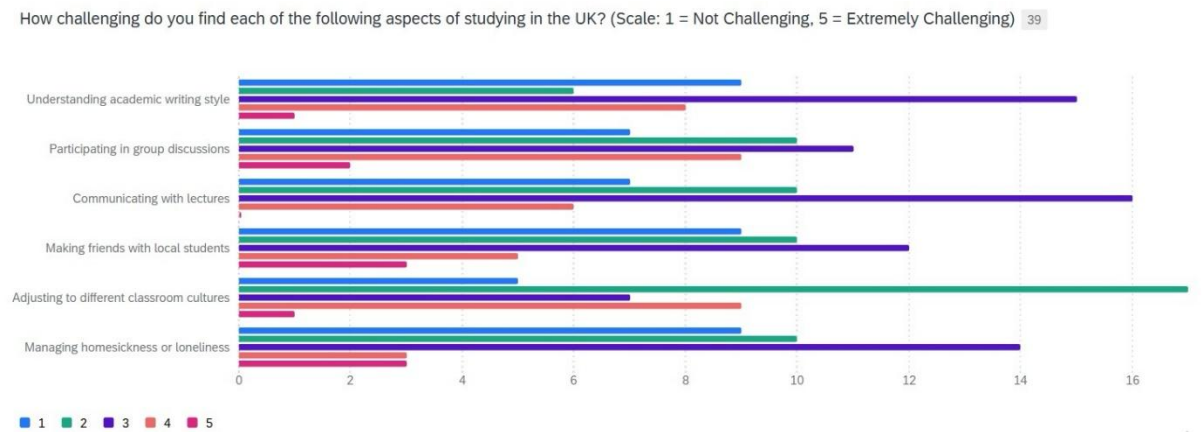


Table 8

How challenging do you find each of the following aspects of studying in the UK? (Scale: 1 = Not Challenging, 5 = Extremely Challenging) 39

How challenging do you find each of the following aspects of studying in th...	Average (How challenging do you find each of the following aspects of studying in th...)	Minimum (How challenging do you find each of the following aspects of studying in th...)	Maximum (How challenging do you find each of the following aspects of studying in th...)	Standard Deviation (How challenging do you find each of the following aspects of studying in th...)	Count
Understanding academic writing style	2.64	1.00	5.00	1.12	39
Participating in group discussions	2.72	1.00	5.00	1.15	39
Communicating with lectures	2.54	1.00	4.00	0.96	39
Making friends with local students	2.56	1.00	5.00	1.19	39
Adjusting to different classroom cultures	2.59	1.00	5.00	1.06	39
Managing homesickness or loneliness	2.51	1.00	5.00	1.15	39

Table 9

What are your main sources of academic pressure? 39 ⓘ

Q8 - What are your main sources of academic pressure? - Selected Choice	Count	Count
Language barrier	33%	13
Heavy workload	26%	10
Fast-paced lectures	41%	16
Understanding accents	23%	9
Unfamiliar assessment formats	18%	7
Other(Please specify)	3%	1

Bar Chart 8

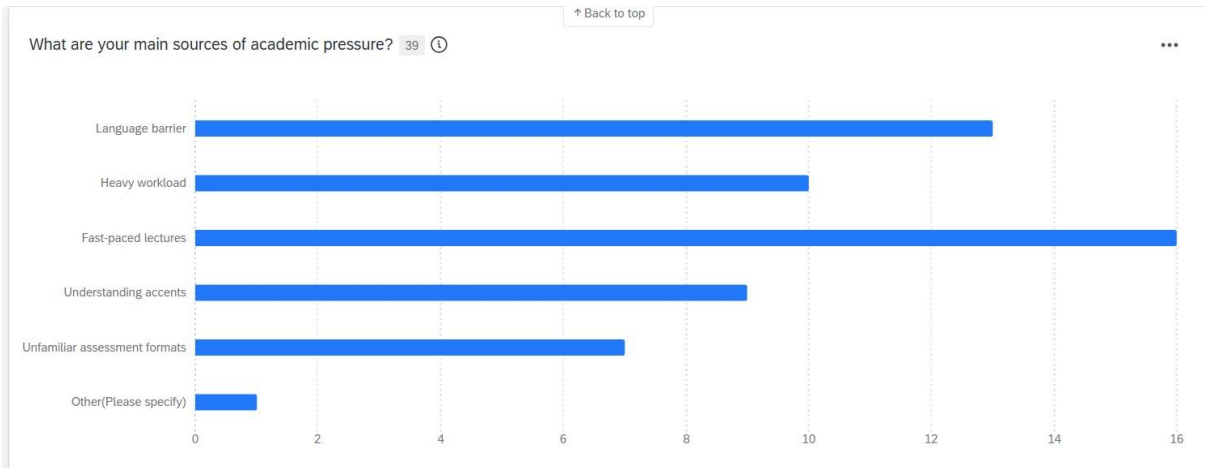


Table 10

Have you faced any discrimination or misunderstanding due to cultural differences? 39 ⓘ

Q9 - Have you faced any discrimination or misunderstanding due to cultural differences? - Selected Choice	Count	Count
Yes	41%	16
No	59%	23

Bar Chart 9

Have you faced any discrimination or misunderstanding due to cultural differences? 39 ⓘ



Table 11

Which strategies do you use to overcome academic difficulties? (Select all that apply) 39 ⓘ

Q10 - Which strategies do you use to overcome academic difficulties? (Select all that apply) - Selected Choice	Count	Count
Attending English Language support classes	26%	10
Forming study groups with Chinese peers	46%	18
Asking questions in lectures /seminars	33%	13
Seeking help from academic tutors	21%	8
Watching English media(e.g., TV shows, YouTube	28%	11
Using translation tools/apps	23%	9
Others(please specify)	3%	1

Bar Chart 10

Which strategies do you use to overcome academic difficulties? (Select all that apply) 39 ⓘ

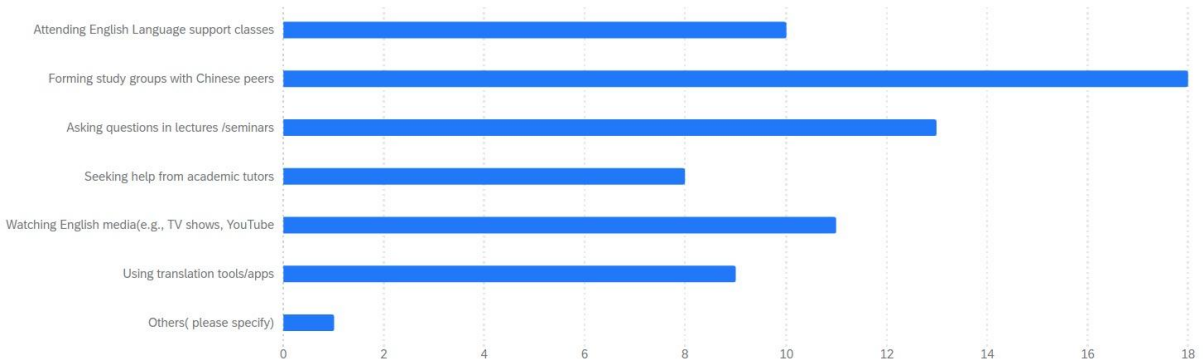


Table 12

How often do you use the following support service?(1=Never, 5=Very Frequently) 39 ...

How often do you use the following support service?(1=Never, 5=Very Frequen...	Average (How often do you use the following support service? (1=Never, 5=Very Frequen...)	Minimum (How often do you use the following support service? (1=Never, 5=Very Frequen...)	Maximum (How often do you use the following support service? (1=Never, 5=Very Frequen...)	Standard Deviation (How often do you use the following support service?(1=Never, 5=Very Frequen...)	Count
University writing centre	2.16	1.00	4.00	1.05	37
Academic advisors	2.59	1.00	5.00	1.23	39
Student counseling	2.36	1.00	5.00	1.10	39
Peer mentoring programs	2.43	1.00	5.00	1.08	37

Table 13

How often do you use the following support service?(1=Never, 5=Very Frequently) 39 > ...

How often do you use the following support service? (1=Never, 5=Very Frequen...	Click to write Scale Point 1	Click to write Scale Point 2	Click to write Scale Point 3	Click to write Scale Point 4	Click to write Scale Point 5
University writing centre	13	10	9	5	0
Academic advisors	11	6	12	8	2
Student counseling	10	12	12	3	2
Peer mentoring programs	9	10	12	5	1

Bar Chart 11



Table 14

To what extent do you feel your academic performance has improved over time? 39 ⓘ ...

Q12 - To what extent do you feel your academic performance has improved over time?	Count	Count
Significantly improved	31%	12
Somewhat improved	54%	21
Stayed the same	15%	6

Bar Chart 12

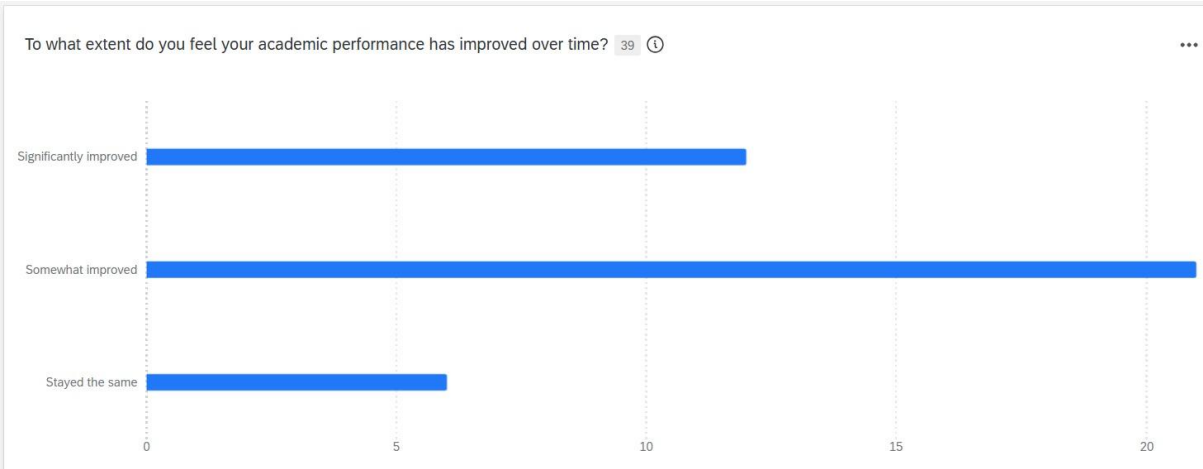


Table 15

How confident do you feel in the following areas now compared to when you first arrived? (1 = Much Less Confident, 5 = Much More Confident) 39 ...

How confident do you feel in the following areas now compared to when you f...	Average (How confident do you feel in the following areas now compared to when you f...)	Minimum (How confident do you feel in the following areas now compared to when you f...)	Maximum (How confident do you feel in the following areas now compared to when you f...)	Standard Deviation (How confident do you feel in the following areas now compared to when you f...)	Count
Speaking in English in academic settings	2.67	1.00	5.00	1.09	39
Engaging in multicultural social situations	2.74	1.00	5.00	1.13	39
Understanding British cultural norms	2.68	1.00	5.00	1.13	38
Expressing your own cultural identity	2.72	1.00	5.00	1.04	39

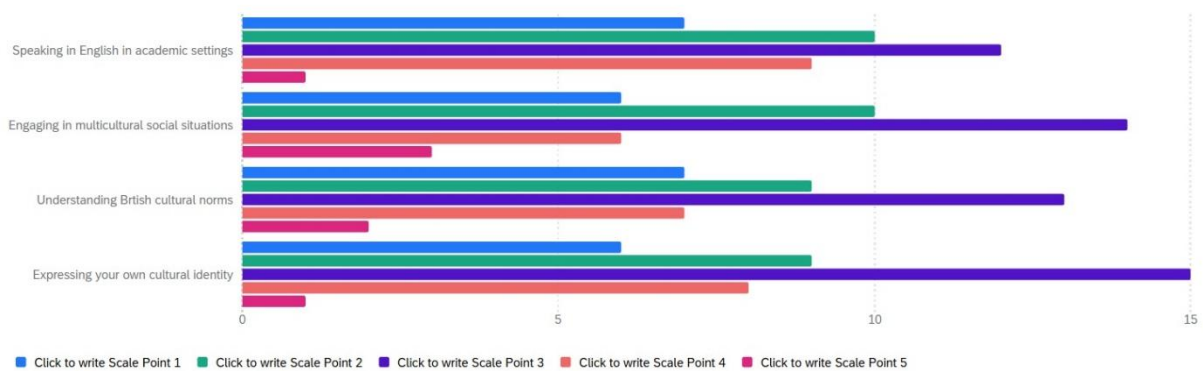
Table 16

How confident do you feel in the following areas now compared to when you first arrived? (1 = Much Less Confident, 5 = Much More Confident) 39

How confident do you feel in the following areas now compared to when you f...	Click to write Scale Point 1	Click to write Scale Point 2	Click to write Scale Point 3	Click to write Scale Point 4	Click to write Scale Point 5
Speaking in English in academic settings	7	10	12	9	1
Engaging in multicultural social situations	6	10	14	6	3
Understanding British cultural norms	7	9	13	7	2
Expressing your own cultural identity	6	9	15	8	1

Bar Chart 13

How confident do you feel in the following areas now compared to when you first arrived? (1 = Much Less Confident, 5 = Much More Confident) 39 ...

**Table 17**

To what extent do you agree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly Disagree, 5 = Strongly Agree) 39 >

...

To what extent do you agree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly D...	Average (To what extent do you agree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly D...))	Minimum (To what extent do you agree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly D...))	Maximum (To what extent do you agree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly D...))	Standard Deviation (To what extent do you agree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly D...))	Count
I have become more open-minded about different cultures	2.71	1.00	5.00	1.32	38
I have developed better intercultural communication skills	2.90	1.00	5.00	1.08	39
My academic skills have improved because of intercultural experiences	2.81	1.00	5.00	1.18	37
I now better understand of my own culture values	2.74	1.00	5.00	1.10	39

Table 18

To what extent do you agree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly Disagree, 5 = Strongly Agree) 39

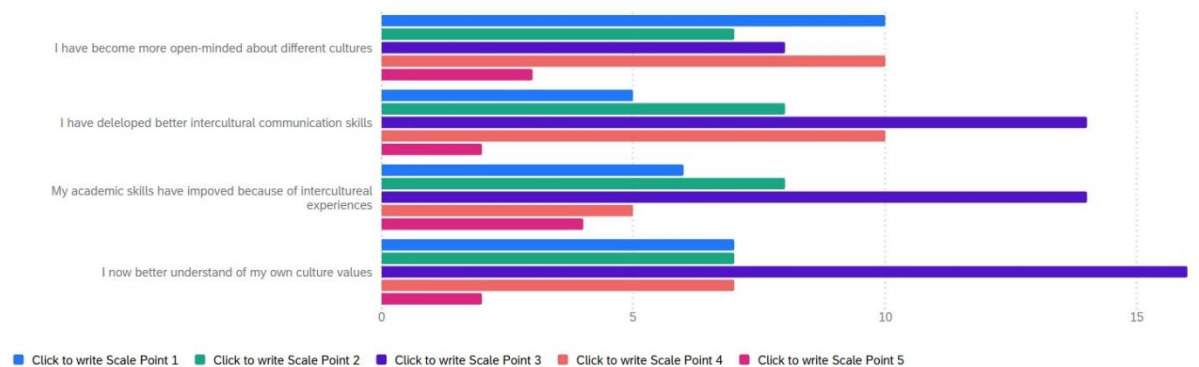
To what extent do you agree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly D...	Click to write Scale Point 1	Click to write Scale Point 2	Click to write Scale Point 3	Click to write Scale Point 4	Click to write Scale Point 5
I have become more open-minded about different cultures	10	7	8	10	3
I have deleloped better intercultural communication skills	5	8	14	10	2
My academic skills have impoved because of intercultural experiences	6	8	14	5	4
I now better understand of my own culture values	7	7	16	7	2

Bar Chart 14

↑ Back to top

To what extent do you agree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly Disagree, 5 = Strongly Agree) 39

...



Please share any personal insights on how living and studying in the UK has changed your academic or social outlook 39 ⓘ

Please share any personal insights on how living and studying in the UK has...

Living and studying amongst diverse cultures in my immediate vecinity helps me realise I'm not alone on this journey

Please share any personal insights on how living and studying in the UK has changed your academic or social outlook 39 ⓘ

Please share any personal insights on how living and studying in the UK has...

good

Please share any personal insights on how living and studying in the UK has changed your academic or social outlook 39 ⓘ

Please share any personal insights on how living and studying in the UK has...

I am trying to become a strong and independent woman.

Semi-structured Interview transcript 1 to 6

Semi-structured Interview 1 transcript

participation. So, have you read the concern from, right? You know what is this interview

about, right? So, it's a thank you for agreeing to take part in this interview. And the purpose

of this research is to explore the academic and social and cultural experience of Chinese

students studying in the UK, right? And the interview will take around 13 or 45 minutes,

and your response will be kept confidential and is only for research purpose. You are welcome to skip any question or stop the interview at any point. Yeah, do you have any questions

before we begin? Yeah, it's fine. Okay, thank you. So, I will start at the first question. Okay,

can you briefly introduce yourself? Okay, okay, sorry. Yeah, my name is Yang and I'm about to

become a year two student in Imperial College London. And my course is Chemistry with Medicinal

Cancer. And I stayed in London for about one year yet. This year is my second year in London.

And before I arrived in the UK, I studied out and my final score after else is 7.5. And my speaking

and writing is 6.5. And my listening is 8.5. Yeah. Wow, it's a very good score. Thank you. What

were you initial impressions of the academic environment in the UK compared to China? Okay,

about the academic environment in the UK, I think is quite friendly. And I really like including

the tutors and my international classmates or local classmates are all quite friendly to us.

And one of the most important things everybody is so serious about the academic knowledge or

the lecture handouts, they are quite serious with even a little really small question. And they are

quite serious about that. We can discuss it with our tutors. Even it's quite stupid sometimes,

but they are really friendly and kind of easy to discuss with you. And it's quite good. I didn't

know too much thing about college life in China. But I think based on the experience of my friends

in China, I think they may not focus too much on the academic environment and sorry, academic

study. And their time may be distracted by other things like volunteers or something like that.

But for me, like my life mostly folks on the academic study, even in the college.

Okay. Thank you. What academic challenge have you encountered while studying the UK?

Oh, about challenges. When I first, the first period I came to London, I saw the first challenge

I encountered my fatal workload. And I mean, I have too much thing to memorize or to study. Some of my

friends, they have problems like understand other people's, other people's like, what are they

talking about in English? I was not too annoyed by that. Sometimes maybe sometimes I can only

understand my friends about 70% or 80%. But it's not a challenge for me, I think. I can't accept that.

And it's not a fact to my life too much. I feel really tired or really disappointed or kind of senses about work. There's like too much work you have to finish before the line. And

sometimes you have quite stressful when you manage different work or different talks at the same time.

I have to finish the lab report and I have to finish the engagement point or the coursework

at the same time. So it's quite stressful and it's the most challenging thing I have entered.

Yeah. Okay. And how do language and communication play a role in those challenges?

The communication is quite important because once I have a problem in teamwork and I'm the only

international student in my team. And we have some arguments about the directions and the details

of the whole lab. And so at that time communication played a really important role in it. And

I communicate. I chose my personal tutor and also my other teammates in the same team group.

And I think it's quite important because you have to express your feelings or you have to

discuss yourself with your teammates. Yeah, it's quite important. And in English, it's not

really hard for me. Sometimes I don't know what I'm talking about sometimes. That's true. But

I think it's a process I can adjust this. It's quite interesting for me. Yeah.

Okay. So what social or cultural challenge have you faced since arriving in the UK?

Social. Cultural.

Okay. Okay. For example, it's relating to your classmates, the nature of day to day living,

you know, everything respected to cultural. Thanks. Yeah. I live in like a student accommodation.

It's like a sweet towel. And we share the kitchen. And we from different countries, we have different cultures. And it's quite surprising to find some different culture between me and my flatmates. But I think most people around me, we may be facing some cultural

difference or social difference, which we respect others. And it's quite interesting and meaningful

for me to explore different cultural difference during this period. And I think

I won't call it a challenge. I think it's a good thing because that's one of the reasons why I

came to UK and not stay in China. Yeah, I think we should respect the different cultures difference.

And for me, it won't be a challenge. I enjoy this process. Yeah.

Wow. So do you feel there are differences in classroom expectations or teaching method compared

to China? Oh, yeah. The first thing is the lectures. We have lectures every week. And in China, you have

to check in like you signing or something like that. I'm not really sure about you teachers or professors are expecting you to go to the lecture halls and listening to the lectures.

But in UK, like in Imperial, we can watch the live lecture online on the Blackboard. Or we can

also choose the recording after the live lectures. Anytime you like, you can listen to the

you can choose the available time for you to listen to the lectures. And it's quite flexible,

sometimes. And the classrooms, the classrooms, we have like three or two different types of

classroom. One is the lecture halls I mentioned for us to listen to the lectures. And

that's very important type is like the workshop. The workshop classroom is like tables and people

sit around the tables. We can discuss the crochet sheets, something like that. Yeah.

Oh, okay. Have you ever experienced misunderstanding or awkward situations due to cultural differences?

Could you give me an example? Yeah. But, uh, but, uh, awkward experience. I remember once, um,

I answered a phone call from the Imperial ACT. It's like the computer service, something like that.

Because I forgot to change my password after, after my account, like the other account,

the student account, I forgot to change the password. I missed the deadline. And so I asked

them for help. And they gave me a call about two weeks after I, um, submitted the request. Yeah.

So, uh, when they call me and they asked me, have you like changed your password? And I,

I don't know why I even got that time. I listened to the passport. I said, well, the passport is so like

scary. Oh, it's like they want to change my passport or something that I understand after about five

minutes. Oh, it's a password, not a passport. I don't know. I always like missed this two words.

It's not too awkward, but it was a big at the beginning. Yeah. Okay. Um, how have you tried to overcome

any academic difficulties you have encountered? Um, the most

uh, academic difficulty for me is the, uh, I just managed to walk through like there are too many

things you need to do in a really short time. So I like to make plans and manage my life. And

sometimes I have conflicts or not conflicts like arguments with my teammates or with my

classmates. I like to chat with my personal tutor. She will give me some useful advice. Yeah.

Okay. Um, what resources or support service, for example, language support, academic workshop,

peer support, have you used, uh, would that help for or why or why not? So which kind,

what kind of help have you, uh, used, what kind of resource you use to support your, uh,

academic study? Okay. Uh, we do have workshops and tutorial, uh, it's a meant for you. How to, uh,

tracking and you have to go to the workshops, the Imperial and that's a beginning. I don't think

it's quite useful because it's just like for me to sit in the classroom and do the questions. But

in term two, I also mentioned that to my personal tutor, I said it's like I got to, it's like a

process. Not I find it's useful immediately, I think, uh, in term two, I got to find, I can understand what the tutors are talking about and I can like become more braver to ask questions

in the workshops to the TA or to the professor. It's quite useful for me and I will try to do better

in the next year and the language support. Um, I don't have, I think I can handle the language

difference or the language difficulties at the beginning. So I'm trying to solve, uh, everything

makes me uncomfortable in language by myself. So I don't use the support in my school, yeah.

Okay. Do you often, um, do you often call call like, read or study with other international

or local students? How do those interactions help with your studies?

Yeah, I definitely like chat with my flatmates or my other international students or also local

students. So they are all like, frankly, we can communicate and or discuss some questions and we

also have a lot like teamwork or presentation. We have to do it together. It's quite helpful and I

quite enjoy the this process most of time because it's like you can, you can see or you can make

friends with people from different countries. And that's one of the reasons why we go to UK to

start our college life. Yeah. Yeah. Okay. Have you developed any personal strategies to manage your

workload or improve your academic English? Yeah. Uh, the first thing I want to mention is I like to

make plans like to trip for them like the checklist. I, I kind of like to do to make develop the checklist at the beginning of the day and I made a list of the things I need to do.

And the other thing I want to mention is my, it's kind of like my own slogan. I'm, I know I'm studying and living in a totally new country for on my own by myself. Yeah. So,

uh, it's quite likely to encounter different problem or difficulties. So I'm not, make the problems or difficulties. I try to tell myself, uh, you don't need to be afraid of them.

You need to solve them. So, um, study the academic knowledge is important, but the most

important thing is to become a problem solver. You can, you need to have the ability or the skill

to solve the problems you've made in your life and also in your work. Yeah. Very impressive.

To my old slogan, I think it's really meaningful for me. I've already done it. And you are my

desk and I see that reading. Okay. It comes from a problem solver. Yes. Yeah. It's very helpful.

So at our time, how do you think you are experiencing the UK has influenced your identity or the way you

think? Um, I actually, I become like a girl. I've cut a lot here. Even it's just a year in UK.

Like I develop many daily skills like cooking and I also go to the bank on my own for the first time.

And this ability, I think, is not like the academic knowledge. It will more influence my future life, not just my career or something. And I think another important different is like I try to solve the problems on myself or I try to face difficulties or not difficulties,

just like normal thing independently, try to solve them independently. So I always talk to

my best here. We need to become strong and independent women. Yeah. Yeah. That's the, that's the influence.

Okay. Have your communication skills changed since you arrived in what we have changed?

No, I say change. Uh, because at the beginning, like, uh, last October, last year, the, uh,

October, the first is my first time to go to UK. And I'm not that confident to speak English

with local people. But after about half year, I think, uh, my communication skills in UK improve quite a lot. I become like more confident to chat with them and to express my feelings. And

I also like to mention my own thoughts, my own opinions about the group work. Yeah. It's quite

meaningful. I like this change. I kind of like this change. Yeah.

Okay. Do you feel more comfortable engaging with students from different cultures now

compared when you first arrived? Yeah. I think, um, it's quite, or impressing or chat to,

even though people have different cultures back then that we work hard together.

So push or to make our own project or our lab or our work towards the same direction.

It's quite good. It's quite good for me. Yeah. Okay. So in what ways do you think adapting to

British culture has impact your academic performance or study habits?

I did find some difference like in our study habits between me and the other local students.

But, um, I, I use my own study habits for quite a long time. Yeah. Like over 10 years. So I, I,

of course, I can learn some new habits or new things. Uh, the nine

see honors have, they have good study habits, which I can learn. But I kept most of my own,

like, academic or study habits. Yeah. I kept most of the old things I had because I'm already

getting used to them. And I, um, like quite good at, um, or my old study habits quite matched to myself. So I, sometimes I learn some new thing and add it to my study habits system.

Yeah. Kind of. I kept my own things. Yeah. Okay. Do you feel this intercultural experience has

prepared you for future academic or professional goals? And if not, why not? If it is, why it?

So the intercultural experience, uh, I, for me, I don't have like,

so really clear our future goals or professional goals. Uh, now right now, because I just like

finish my first year of the study, but I think the skills and also, um, happy or, and happy

experience. And they all become, um, good things or treasures for me for my future life. Yeah. So

I have, uh, and happy group, group study with my team, with my team about in the journal, I think.

And my tutor told me you should, so lucky you make this situation in your first year, not in your

second year, not in your third year, not after you have your own job. So the all experience, some

are good, some are not, but they all become chairs for me, like make me a better people for my future

life. Okay. Is there any, anything else you would like to share about your experience as a Chinese

students in the UK? Yeah. Um, for me, at the beginning, I'm not confident. That's true. I'm not,

that confident as a Chinese student, because maybe it's because I'm an international students, maybe

because it's my first time to live in the foreign country on my own. But you don't need to do that.

You, you can try some new things in your life. All the experiments you have are quite important

for you. So you need to be that, uh, not confident and you should like try new things, don't afraid of trying new things and try to become a problem solver and try to become strong.

And we, yeah. Okay. Uh, so I was very, very good interview and thank you for sharing,

uh, your opinion with me. And, uh, wow, it was very impressive for me to understand how you

thank you. Thank you. Thank you. And I also wish you a very, very good study journey, uh, in the UK.

And, uh, thank you very much for your help. You'll be with this study. Yeah. That's my, uh, well, for this,

uh, assignment time to do you. So I have, we'll have a bigger essay coming in next to following two years.

Yeah. And, uh, thank you so much. I really appreciate it.

I'm sorry. Yeah. I don't have much time.

Okay. Uh, thank you. And, uh, let's me try how to stop the, uh,

Semi-structured Interview 2 transcript

Hello.

Hello.

Thank you for participating in my interview.

You read the consent form, right?

I sent it before.

The purpose of this research is to explore the academic, social, and cultural experience of Chinese international students, standing in the UK, and the interview will take around 13 to 15 minutes, and your response will be kept to be confidential and used only for this research purpose.

So, welcome to skip any questions or stop the interview at any point.

Do you have any questions before we begin?

No?

No?

Okay. Thank you.

My first question is, can you briefly introduce yourself?

For example, what's your course?

How long you have been studying in the UK and you're in the English background before arriving?

Please.

My name is Jemsha Njai.

I was born in South China before I go to UK.

My course is a degree of marketing.

So, my English background is University English and I always have to go to UK.

Okay. What were your initial impressions of the academic environment in the UK compared to China?

For English teaching, that struck me because when I was in China,

I don't use English.

Not so much English in all lectures or classes.

So, then a lot of things.

I may be a lot of pronunciation and maybe all my words, I can't catch very clearly.

So, that is one big difficulty for me.

Okay.

What academic challenges have you encountered while studying in the UK?

How do language and communication play a role in those challenges?

Yes, because when I was communicate with other international students, sometimes there will be a challenge for me because international students could learn their English.

It's pretty well better than me.

So, sometimes when we look to discuss, I think I may be not so fluent or sometimes don't know how to play.

Sometimes don't know how to describe what I want to say.

Okay. So, what social or cultural challenges have you faced since arriving?

For example, something relating to classmates, lectures or day to day living?

Culture, yes.

The culture, lecture living, yeah, it was that the pattern of teaching in UK is very different from China,

but in UK, the teacher will just give you a lot of questions.

So, that's you better to find the answers for the questions.

So, that is very completely different to patterns.

Okay. Do you feel there are differences in classroom expectations or teaching methods compared to China?

Could you read the question again?

Do you feel there are differences in classroom expectations or teaching methods compared to China?

Yes.

Yes.

Yes, a little bit different.

Is this the okay?

I just say this because I don't know how to say what was the difference?

Hello?

I just want to say yes, a little bit different time, but I don't know how to say what's the difference to change.

Okay. That's the problem.

Have you ever experienced misunderstanding or awkward situations due to cultural difference?

Yes, of course.

Because different culture has different backgrounds.

So, when you touch the other counter, like international culture, so you may don't really understand them well to their counter or the international culture.

So, sometimes maybe you may understand different culture.

Yes.

Okay. How have you tried to overcome any academic difficulties when you have encountered?

So, how have you tried to overcome any academic difficulties you have encountered?

Try to find a lecturer to or maybe find the other students who I think maybe who are very well in learning and studying.

So, that maybe just overcome the difficulty.

Okay. What resources or support service, for example, language support, academic workshops,

peer support, have you used when you studied in the UK?

Yes.

I will use the language support and a lecturer's support as well.

Yes. Definitely.

But the helpful, why is the helpful or the not helpful, why not?

I don't think it's very helpful, but a little bit helpful because when you come to ask for help,

they will give you the respond and teach you how to do what to do.

Sometimes, right, these, right, these, even they don't know, even don't know maybe what your lecturer say,

but give you some suggestions that will be a good idea for the international students to learn the lecture.

Yeah.

Okay. Do you also collaborate or study with other international or local students?

When, yes, when we have, when we in the lecture, we are in a group, we will get together to learn,

but not so much to learn, not so much.

But when we are in a group, we will come together and run.

Yeah.

Okay.

So, how do these interactions help with your study?

I mean, so do these interactions when you talk to with your classmates or when you talk in the group discussion, right?

Do you think it's helpful for your study?

Yes. That's really, really helpful because in a group like, just like in a question, different people, different international students, so they will have different fields.

So, different fields and all may be different opinions.

So, you will learn different things.

So, that will be helpful.

Okay. I mean, how do you interact with the international students or local students?

Do you prefer to interact with them or do you prefer to interact with the Chinese students?

Actually, I would like to interact with Chinese students because you could communicate.

In Chinese.

Yeah.

So, you prefer to contact with the students in Chinese instead of English?

Because we will in Internet with Chinese, we will be understanding what the things say and we will know how to maybe to find the answers in the same.

Do you think because of the learning method, you go from China at the same.

Do you think you have a better understanding when you talk to Chinese students?

Yeah.

Okay.

Have you developed any personal strategy to manage your workload or improve your academic English?

No.

So, you don't have any personal strategies how to manage your workload.

When you do your homework, for example, and in order to improve your English level, for example, trying to write something down and to memorize them, like to do a schedule around your workload.

Or you don't have any strategy, just to go with the flow.

So, yes, I have the strategy.

But not so much.

Just have some, you know, do something like write down things and to mark the point and at the main point to remember some important important clues from the lecture.

Okay.

So, over time, how do you think your experience in the UK has influenced your identity or the way you think?

Sorry.

I could you could you could you explain this question because I have a little bit.

Don't understand that question.

Okay.

For time.

So, for example, for time being, how do you think your experience in the UK has influenced you?

For example, your identity or the way you thinking, you know, the way you thinking maybe is influenced by your studying experience in the UK.

Do you think it to change you?

It to change the way you think or you come back to, you know, after you study in the UK, do you think it changed the way you thinking from when you was in China?

Yes, definitely.

We changed the way you think.

So, you know, you can compare to in China because there is interview in the national world.

So, and that's all open minded.

So, a lot of things will be different.

So that definitely will change.

Okay, have your communication skills changed since you arrived in what we so do you feel your communication skills change since you come to the UK?

If it is, and what we change, you know, okay, describe.

Communication skills has been changed.

What's the line when you say hello to the different people?

You don't have to say the way in China say hello.

So, different international students and different international person, you have to say hello to different weight.

So, that is a big difference.

Okay, do you think a more comfortable engaging with students from different culture now compared to when you first arrived?

Do you feel more comfortable, right?

Communicate with different students from different cultures and compare when you first arrived in the UK.

Do you think more comfortable now?

Compared to the first time, I'm first arrived in the UK after I live a time, I live a long time in the UK.

So, that will be feel comfortable now.

Because when you come to UK, you sometimes you rent the room to maybe with other international students, maybe other international work people to live together.

So, different culture and different background.

So, you don't know how to say to them or just train with them.

So, that is a difficulty.

But after a period of time, when you are family with them, you could pray well with them as well.

So, that's no problem.

Communicate communication.

Okay, in what ways do you think adapting to British culture has impacted your academic performance or study habits?

So, in what we do think adapting to British culture, right, has influence or impact your academic performance or study habits?

Is your study habits changed when you're adapting British culture?

Yes, the academic literature has changed as well because you use the different language and then to get to have the literature.

And different kinds of resources to have the lecture.

So, maybe very big difference.

Okay, do you feel this intercultural experience has prepared you for future academic or professional goals?

Do you feel this intercultural experience, for example, you adapt to British culture, this experience will help you, you know,

it has prepared you for future academic or professional goals.

For example, if you feel the academic or professional goals, like if you're going to do your master's, your PhD,

or if you're teaching at university, do you think this intercultural experience would help you?

Yes, of course, the intercultural, international culture, no, I don't think the international culture would help me maybe to purchase the PhD or maybe more higher degree sometimes because you must note the different

culture, but you need to pursue that it's not purchasing.

Yeah, you know the different culture, different about different culture, but maybe the different culture could not like to pursue to higher education.

Because there is non-business with the literature.

So I think that's I think. Yeah.

Okay, is there anything else you would like to share about experience as a Chinese student in the UK?

Maybe just how to cook and share the different culture from the other countries.

So it's changed the different counter to teach them or maybe to let them know what is a Chinese culture.

Yeah.

Okay.

That's all the question for today.

And thank you very much for your participation and anything else you want to end?
Yeah.

If you don't have anything else to say, we'll finish this interview.

Okay.

Hello.

Yeah.

Okay. No problem.

Okay. Thank you. Thank you very much.

Yeah.

I welcome.

Semi-structured Interview 3 transcript:

Okay, hi, thank you for your agreeing to take part in this interview and thank you for your participation. The purpose of this research is to explore the academic, social and cultural experience of Chinese international students studying in the UK and this interview will take around the 30 to 45 minutes and your response will be kept confidential and used only for research purpose and you are welcome to skip any question or stop the interview at any point. Do you have any question before we begin?

Nope. Okay, thank you. So I will ask you the first question.

Right? Can you briefly introduce

yourself?

Hi, my name is Kaya and I've been studying in London at Imperial College since September 2024. I'm on a four-year integrate the Master's course studying chemistry and before I came to London, I think I would say I'm already quite fluent in English because I was studying in an international school since I was 13, which basically follows the British curriculum. So classes and group assignments were all conducted in English. Oh, I'm pressing. Okay. So what were you initial impressions of the academic environment in the UK compared to China? Right.

When I initially reached London, I feel I had quite a big culture shock because I feel like in the academic environment in the UK is more focused around independent learning culture. Like students are expected to manage their own study schedules and do wider reading beyond lectures.

But for back home in China, I feel like the teaching structure is more structured and teachers typically lead learning and they sort of spoon-feed

students information. Yeah.

Okay. And what academic challenges have you encountered while studying in the UK?

For example, how do language and communication play a role in those challenges?

First of all, I don't think language and communication was a big challenge for me because as I mentioned previously, I think that I'm already quite fluent in English before coming to London. I think the main problem was actually juggling between my personal life and the heavy workload and university. So I had many assignments due around the same time and I had to take care of my chores in my dorm as well.

Oh, I see. So what social or cultural challenges have you faced since arriving?

I don't feel like I really have faced many social or cultural challenges since I was studying in the international school and it's multicultural, right?

So I've met a lot of people from different backgrounds.

When I moved into my dorm here, my dorm was quite *kalke-mochiro* as well. There were people from all sorts of backgrounds in different countries. But I do feel like there are sometimes some cultural differences that could lead to very minor challenges. I wouldn't say that they are very major and will affect my life significantly.

Okay, so you don't have any cultural challenges relating to, for example, classmates, lectures or day-to-day living. We don't have any cultural challenges for you, right?

No, not really.

Oh, okay. Do you feel there are differences in classroom expectations of teaching method compared to China?

Yeah, there are definitely differences, like I mentioned previously.

In the UK, teaching tends to be more independent and students are expected to think critically. I assume, yeah, we are expected to think critically and work on most of our assignments and projects ourselves.

They focus more on independent learning, but teaching methods in China are more based on a spoon-feed method, like how I would say previously.

Like teachers would just normally give their students information and the things that they need to learn and memorize compact to in the UK where students are expected to find out the answers themselves.

Okay, good. How you ever experience misunderstanding or awkward situations due to cultural differences? I think because you said you don't have any cultural challenges. Is that ever from your experience, have you ever experienced this misunderstanding or awkwardness in your case?

No, not really.

So it's all okay. Even some London local culture, anything, nothing different from the international school you were studying?

No, not really. I haven't experienced any sort of cultural differences, but there are major misunderstandings that have experienced.

Yeah, so there's no any cultural shortcuts for you, nothing.

It's just a normal experience because it was so the international school you go to, same quote. Are they all foreign teachers teaching there or some of them are Chinese,

some of them are British? Yeah, there are some foreign teachers in my international school as well,

but they are mainly locals. Oh, okay. So how have you tried to overcome any academic difficulties

you have encountered? I think there are some

academic difficulties for you as well, even your English is very good. But how have you

tried to overcome any academic difficulties you have encountered?

Yeah, there are definitely some academic difficulties when I reached initially in London,

and I am still, I'll say I'm still struggling with them right now because when I was studying,

I just see in back home, I felt like I feel like the difference in difficulty level in university

compared to secondary school or high school is a big gap. And I think mainly what I've tried to

do is to, I will always ask my friends questions if I can solve them and I will, in tutorials,

I will also try and go up to lecturers and ask them questions if I do need help.

Okay. Do you find it's quite useful, easy for you to overcome and when you're using this

method to deal with it? So what resources or support services like language support, center, maybe academic workshops or peer support, how will you use it?

I haven't used many of these services provided by the university yet, but I think that academic

workshops and tutorials do help because the group size is much more smaller compared to a lecture,

right? In like a lecture that's around like 200 people and it's quite difficult for you to ask

questions, like ask your lecturers questions and stuff when you don't understand. But basically,

in academic workshops, the group size is way smaller. It's about 30 plus people. So if you

have difficulties in understanding the content, you could always stay back for an extra like 10

minutes and the lecturer would most of the time they will be really happy and they will be willing

to help you. Yeah. Okay. So do you often collaborate with other international or local students?

Because the group projects at Imperial are always, we don't get to choose our own groups. We are

assigned groups. So we don't get to choose whether we want to study with so-called international or

local students. But based on my experience, I've been put into groups with both international and

local students. And I think there is a bit of difference as to how we work. But I don't find a

major problem in working with local students from the UK as well. All right. Do you think it's very

helpful when you do your interactions with all those students? When you study, do you think a group

work or are you studying with others is helpful for you or not help at all? Some people found that

it's very distracting if they're studying with others. Or do you prefer to study myself or with Chinese students or with local students? I prefer to study alone as well. But if you're

talking about like personally studying or like preparing for an exam, I prefer to study alone

instead of studying in a group regardless whether it's international or local students because I feel

I get easily distracted when I'm studying in a group of friends with a group of friends. But

I think if you're talking about like a group project based like an assignment, I think it's definitely helpful for universities to have group assignments like this because it definitely helps

improve my communication skills with the local students as well. And I also get to understand

how they work as a team. So if I once I graduate or I want to continue on with my postgraduate

studies, it will definitely help me a lot. Okay. Have you developed any personal strategies

to manage your workload or improve your academic English?

I think definitely. I know you know the your academic English is very good enough. Maybe you

don't need to improve your academic English. But you must have maybe you have like developed a personal

strategy to manage your workload. And you mentioned before, you think the workload is

back higher than it was in the high school, right? So do you have a personal strategy? How to manage

your firm if you could explain to me place? I think definitely start early. If you are preparing

for an exam, don't start last minute and try cramming everything in the last week before the

exam because that's definitely helped since the workload is much more heavier, like I mentioned,

and I think it's trying to create a to-do list that you aim to finish off your work by let's say

by this weekend and try to set a goal for yourself as well. I think it's okay to not be able to complete

the to-do list or achieve your goal. But if you have like achieved half of it, that's fine as

well. It's just it just acts as a motivation for you to continue working.

Okay.

Over time, how do you think you experience in the UK has influenced your identity or the way you think?

Hmm.

influenced my identity or the way I think.

I feel like I haven't been here long enough in the UK since it hasn't even been a year, right?

It's almost a year. I don't feel like my study abroad experience has influenced me a lot,

but I think that people in the UK are more open-minded compared to people back home.

So yeah, maybe that will have influence on like my

on how I think about different stuff as well, on my perspective on different stuff.

Like I think drinking culture here is quite significant. So people like in unique, especially

in welcome week of universities, people do tend to go to a lot of pubs and drink a lot to

very nice and party as well. So yeah.

Yeah, definitely. Yeah. Okay. So you notice there's a different between those cultures, yeah? Okay.

Have you your communication skills changed since you arrived in what ways? But this question I think

maybe you haven't. But if you think that the communication skills you changed, yeah, you can describe some for me. Thank you.

Communication skills, I think,

the thing is I feel like for a lot of Chinese international students, they come to study in the UK, not just London, they expect to meet a lot more locals compared to foreigners as well.

But the thing is, I feel like at least what I've been experienced and what my friend has told me,

they say that coming to the UK has not improved their English as well, because the Chinese population

and the Mandarin speaking population here in the UK is just so large. Like our,

like for example, at Imperial, there are so many Chinese students. There is almost no need for you

to speak English unless you are being put in a group of like people in a group of students,

which does not speak English, or when you're communicating with your professors and lecturers,

then you would have to speak English. But otherwise, most of the time, if your friend group is mostly

Mandarin, comes from a Mandarin speaking background, you actually don't have to speak English that much.

So actually coming to the UK has not really improved my English level significantly.

I would say it's the same compared to when I was still back home.

Oh, it's you. Thank you. Yeah, I feel the same about that. Yeah.

Okay. Do you feel more comfortable engaging with students from different cultures now compared to

when you first arrived? I think it has improved a bit because like when I was back home, I didn't

really have a lot of chance to talk to people from like the West, if you, if you understand, I mean,

and if like coming here, I could actually have chances talking to people from much more diverse

cultures. And I think practicing that like that has already become part of my daily life right now,

like I'm no longer worried about communicating with them and having problems. So yeah, it has

improved. I think I've become more comfortable. Yeah. Okay. Thank you. That's very nice.

So in what ways do you think adapting to British culture has impacted your

academic performance or study habits? Hmm. I don't think I don't think the British culture

has really impacted my academic performance because I mentioned previously, drinking culture here is

really quite a thing. And people do party quite a lot, like especially in London. And sometimes

people feel the need to drink and party to so-called like fit into British culture, right? But I don't

feel that I don't feel the pressure to do that maybe because my friends don't really drink and

party as much compared to other students. But I think if I did so-called adapt to that British

culture, it would definitely impact my academic performance because I will be staying up quite

late and drinking a lot, right? And it would definitely, yeah, it would, I would start, I would get like left

behind on my, yeah, it starts skipping lectures and stuff like that. So it would definitely affect

my academic performance in a very bad way. Yeah, but fortunately it has not impacted me.

Yeah. But do you think all those British culture influence British students or how can they manage

party, you know, drinking on the weekends and they don't affect influence their academic

performance? How is that? Maybe they used to or the person who goes to Empowerary College from

Britain is like they have this talent or genius to manage their study. What do you think? Why

they don't affect their academic school by the way they, you know, their culture doing drinking and partying all the time, you know, they spend most of the time having fun. Why

they could, they could manage not if they affect their academic performance?

I think speaking from, since I'm studying at Empower, I think people here do play hard and study hard,

but like you were asking how come since why does the drinking culture and partying culture

not affect the locals? Yeah, because it does affect them to a certain extent. But I feel like

since they've been growing up here for, they've been growing up here for their whole life, right?

I think yes, they are more used to it compared to international students, not saying that the

drinking culture does not affect them. I do have friends that drink quite a lot. I do have

local friends that drink quite a lot and it has impacted their performance and academic performance,

but I think that at Imperial people, even the locals here are also, they don't drink as much,

they don't drink and party as much compared to other units, I would say, because the local

students here, I've met also really hard, they are also really hardworking.

All right, okay, so when you said, well, in fact, you're studying, so I would assume maybe they have

this habit they already used to and that they can drink more than,

some Chinese students, right? They don't get really tired of the next thing, maybe they can

have already still studying. So do you feel this intercultural experience has prepared you

for future academic or professional goals? Yeah, it definitely has improved my chances of getting

a job here in the UK because I get to, I can speak English fluently and I know how to communicate

and work professionally with the locals and people from different backgrounds as well.

Let's say if I was studying back home, I did not decide to study abroad. Most students, I will not

get this intercultural experience compared to studying abroad, so and that would not make me

so-called stand out as a candidate when I'm finding jobs in the future after I graduate.

So this intercultural experience has definitely prepared me for a better and brighter career prospect.

Oh, okay. The last question, is there anything else you would like to share about your experience

as a Chinese student in the UK?

Not really. So you don't have anything special you want to say or anything you want to share with

me? Yeah, I like I mentioned the Chinese student population in the UK is quite cute. So I feel like

home sickness does happen. You will miss home, but since the Chinese student population here is

so lush in the UK, you will definitely be able to find friends from home back home and that will

help lessen the reduced home sickness a bit, I feel like. So you wouldn't prefer Chinese students

as your friend rather than local British students, right? Is that what you prefer? Not really. I wouldn't

say I would prefer Chinese students compared to local students. I do have local British friends as

well. I feel like international students here just tend to stick to themselves more, compared to having local friends as their close friends. I feel like it's just, I think it's just

how people tend to find friends from the same background and same culture because they can relate

to each other better. Yeah, because we noticed that Chinese students, international students,

try to be together by themselves and even use a special media apps as other students from other nationalities, right? They all have their own communication skills and resources, everything is different from other nationalities. So, okay, that was the

whole question and was very nice for you to take your time and to participate. Thank you so much,

really appreciate it. Okay, so anything you want to say about? No. No, okay, thank you so much,

right? I will stop recording. Okay, now, that's okay.

Semi-structured Interview 4 transcript

Okay, hi.

Hi.

Thank you for your participation today.

And the purpose of this research is to explore the academic, social and cultural experience

of Chinese international students studying in the UK, right?

And have you read the concept from Iceland to you, right?

Yes.

Okay, the interview will take around 13 to 45 minutes and your response will be kept confidential

and used only for research purpose.

So you are welcome to skip any question or stop the interview at any point.

Okay, don't be afraid to stop any time you want.

Okay, do you have any questions before we begin?

No.

Okay.

So I will start my first question.

Can you briefly introduce yourself, please?

My name is Sean.

I'm currently pursuing a master degree in civil engineering in the UK.

I have been here for a year.

Before coming to the UK, my English proficiency was at LSCOR 6.

I was relatively good at listening and writing, but not so good at reading and speaking.

Okay.

Okay.

What were your initial impressions of the academic environment in the UK compared to

China?

Uh, compared with China, my first impression of the UK academic environment is that it's

more flexible and open.

Domestic class classes focus more on systematic imparting of knowledge, but UK classes emphasize

critical thinking from the start.

For example, lectures encourages a question of use in the textbook, which made me a bit

uncomfortable, always worrying.

I make synchrony.

Okay.

So, thank you.

And what academic challenges have you encountered while you're studying the UK?

For example, how do language and communication play a role in those challenges, you know,

those aspect language and little communications from this aspect, I would say?

Well, the biggest challenge are classroom participation and the AC rating.

In class, many classmates can quickly respond to the lectures questions, but I need more

time to organize my language and often miss the chance to speak.

In terms of AC, the logic requirements for academic rating, such as arguments need to

be supported by literature, are quite different from those in China.

Okay.

So, what social or cultural challenges have you faced since you arrived?

For example, relating to your classmates, lectures, or due to the living.

The main challenge is the sense of distance in daily interaction.

For example, when chatting with my classmates, they talk about going to bars or watching

TV on weekends, and I can't join in.

When communicating with lectures, I'm used to like polite asking for advice in China.

But here, lectures, hope in students can discuss equally.

And sometimes they, under misunderstanding as being too polite.

In daily life, such as keeping distance while I'm queuing and having small chats, when

shopping, I always feel uncomfortable at first.

Okay.

So, do you feel there are differences in classroom expectations or teaching method compared

to China?

The differences are obvious.

Back in China, mainly focusing on listening to lectures, lectures, the class, and the holiday's knowledge through the exercise after the class.

But in UK, class pay more attention to interaction, such as group discussion and class presentations

accounting for a large proportion.

Assignments are mostly open-ended questions.

So there was a Psychology

She SAICS element in Hello's Project in China.

Okay, have you ever experienced the misunderstanding of all four situations due to cultural differences?

If you have, could you share an example?

Once in a group assignment, I finished my part in advance and I said to group number,

they thought I was too eager and I said, we should discuss the framework together first.

Later, I realized they used to brainstorming first, the undividing work.

While I followed the Chinese way of clarifying the division of labor first, then completing

each part separately. Making them think I was unwilling to cooperate, in fact, I just wanted to improve

efficiency.

How have you tried to overcome any academic difficulties you have encountered?

I tried to review the textbook in advance, look up and write down the professional words I don't

understand and focus on listening to those parts in class. For essays, I refer to excellent models

to intimidate the structure and the argumentation method and also ask classmates to check if the

logic is smooth. When I'm afraid to speak in class, I write down my thought in my notebook first,

then gradually try to raise my hand even if I only see one or two sentences.

Okay, what resources are supported theories like language support,

center or academic workshop or peer support? How are you used?

I used to go to a place called the Academic Writing Center or the Language Support course.

Teachers at the Writing Center have me analyze the logic problem of the essay and sentence by sentence, which was very helpful. The language course taught daily communication

skills but were not helpful for the academic English, just for daily basis. I joined the peer group

like the other tiny students group communicating with the experience that's in here. I feel much

more relaxed while talking to them. Okay, well I'm getting more experiences.

Okay, do you also collaborate to also study with other international or local students?

I have a team up with two local students, one Irish, the other one is Scottish.

They are quite active in thinking. For example, they are discussing cases when they show their perspective such as consumers, psychologists and the message learned that civil engineering

and the fluid mechanics, which make me learn more from them on the complexity. However, sometimes they speak too fast. I can't keep it up with the discussion,

which makes me a bit uncomfortable and anxious.

Later we got great, which makes me more slowly, it got better gradually.

So do you think that this interaction helps you with your study, right?

Yes, yes, yes I do. It helps me a lot. Every time you feel you get better, maybe at first meeting or two, you can only speak like two or three sentences and discuss

about five or six minutes and then as the meeting goes on, you get better and better.

Okay, have you developed any personal strategies to manage your own workload or improve your

academic English? I use some methods to make a task list,

to start the assessment by urgent and important to avoid procrastination for proving academic

English. I read an industry report such as relevant articles in civil engineering area every day

who accumulate professional expression, use the other method to practice and listening,

speaking, my terminologies. Okay, so over time, how do you think your experience in the UK has

influenced your identity or the way you think?

Can you repeat the question please? So during all the studying time, how do you think your

experience in the UK has influenced your identity or the way you think?

The biggest change is being more independent. I used to be following the arguments of teachers

and parents, but now I have to solve the problem by myself by encouraging them and gradually

learn that responsible for myself. In terms of thinking, I no longer think that the views of

authorities are necessarily correct. I will analyze different positions more rationally.

For example, looking at the difference between Chinese and Western cultures. I used to think

it was black and white, but now I understand each has their own rationality.

Okay, yeah. Sorry to interrupt. You finished that question?

Yes, yes. Okay, sorry.

Have your communication skills changed since you arrived in what we

see? It has improved. Obviously at first, I was afraid of speaking because I worried about

making grammar mistakes, but now I'm more confident. I can express my opinions clearly in group discussions

and even take an initiative to ask lectures questions after class.

I also learned some communication skills such as using body language and facial expression

to make the communication more smooth. Okay, do you feel more comfortable engaging with students

from different cultures now compared to when you first arrived? Yes, yes, I do. I do feel more comfortable.

I remember at first, I was worried about not having common topics with students from different

cultures. But after getting along with them, I found that we can talk about studies, obvious and life experiences. I have also learned to respect the cultural differences and understand

that different way of doing things are just due to different culture background.

Okay. Okay. What do you think adapting to British culture has impacted your academic performance or

study happened? British culture has made me more proactive in learning. For example, in the UK,

students have encouraged to explore knowledge independently. So I have developed a habit of reading a lot

of extra material to expand my horizons. In chromosome study habits, I used to rely on

each of the range study plans, but now I can manage my time reasonably. A range study and

rest according to my own situation. That's a big difference

from the way I did it in China. Okay. Do you feel this intercultural experience has prepared you

for your future academic or professional goals?

I think so. Yes. This cross-culture experience has improved my communication skills and ability

to adapt new environments, which are important for future academic research or work.

It also makes me understand different cultures and ways of thinking, which helps me better

cooperate with people from different backgrounds in the future.

Is there anything else you would like to share about your experience as Chinese students in the UK?

I think that's all I can share. Oh, you don't have anything else to share?

That's all for today. All right. Okay. Thank you very much for your time.

And it was very good interview. Thank you. Okay. Thank you for having me.

Semi-structured Interview 5 transcript

Thank you for your participation.

The purpose of this research is to explore the academic, social and cultural experience

of Chinese international students studying in the UK and the interview will take around

30-45 minutes.

And have you read the concept from Isentre, you will respond, will be capable of confidential

and use only for research purpose.

You are welcome to skip any question or you can stop the interview at any point.

You wish to stop.

So, do you have any questions before I begin?

I'm good for now.

Okay, thank you.

Yeah, my first question is, can you briefly introduce yourself, please?

Okay.

So, I'm currently studying Master of Business in UK and I finished my undergraduate back

in China.

And I have studied English for like already over 15 years, I think for now.

And after I finish my master degree, I'm hoping to find a job in UK.

Okay.

And what were your initial impressions of the academic environment in the UK compared to

China?

I would say it's quite different for undergraduate and postgraduate.

As I've already told you, I studied my bachelor in China.

So it's really different from for the master degrees and my bachelor degree.

Since most of the studies and my academic experience back in China, we always had lectures.

And we have to took so many tests and exams once we finished one lecture.

And but for the master degree, for my degree, most of my assignments are not related to exams.

It's all the paperwork.

So we had so many ratings and we had to rate like for different materials.

And once we have to finish the lecture, we need to like write 3000 to 5000 paperwork.

And for the last of the lecture, and we had we really have the big paperwork.

And as I know for the for the end of the master degree, we have to write a dissertation like

20,000 words at us.

And that's the different so test for the background for the undergraduate in China, but for the master degree, we have most like reading a lot.

And besides that, I would say the professors is also different for China and UK.

So Chinese professors, they always just give the lectures and then they kind of finish the lectures after the class.

But in UK, you have a lot of interactions with the lectures.

We have like a one-on-one talking with the lectures after we have the class.

And they would give like a more what we say like a design or like a personal advice or

suggestions to the students.

So that's probably two of my points for your question.

Okay, I see.

What academic challenges have you encountered while you study in the UK?

Maybe relating to language and communication, if this play a role in those challenges?

Okay, so we definitely have so many challenges as overseas students studying in UK.

But I would say the most challenges, one of the most challenges is still the language.

No matter how long we have been studying English back in China, we kind of still regard this

as the second language for us.

We are not so familiar with like spoken English, like so many, like a pure English tutorial

or a reading materials.

And it's quite especially really difficult at the beginning for us to do the same assignment

compared with the local students.

And I always kind of spend I think like one and double time for the same assignment.

And so we have to spend more time on that.

And for the others, Chinese students are more a more shy or more what we say like a bit.

A bit what we say that like do not good at talking with the others or like they are a bit afraid of talking to others.

So we do not want others think our English is not as good as we are.

Or like we so because of the communication is less for English speaking, we may have

less content or have less communication opportunities when we talk with the professors

of talk with the classmates.

And we more like a kid to ourselves.

And especially for like overseas studies, I think that's not a very good point.

We need to share more information or talk more with the others.

Okay, do you think the problem with you being silent because you are afraid of making mistakes?

Yes, yes, so that's the main reason for my point.

So what social or cultural challenges have you faced since arriving?

For example, relating to classmates, lecture or day to day living.

So for social and cultural challenges, I would say it's not as difficult as I thought before I departed.

Things I find out people are really nice and they kind of because we are overseas or we

are international students, they are more open to us.

They encourage us to do more interactions with them.

But for ourselves internally, I think maybe as Chinese students, like most Chinese students

personalities, we do not open enough.

We are a bit afraid to talk on the public or especially when maybe on the class, you see your classmates.

Like when the local students talk really fast and really like fluently in English.

And even though you have something to say, you still want to keep it to yourself because

you don't want others to misunderstand you because that's because the language is your

second language, not your mother tongue.

So basically you think in the Muslim Chinese students, they will shine.

Their Chinese stopped them from expressing themselves freely.

But then from my personal experience, since we have Indian students, we have like, I

remembered, so Indian students, they are really open and they really like talk to them.

But compared to them, we are really very silent on the class.

So do you feel there are differences in classroom expectations of teaching methods compared to China?

Yeah, definitely.

I think there are some differences about that.

One thing I find out for Chinese classrooms, the lectures, but for everything I would say

for the afterwards is compared with undergraduate and postgraduate because I only had my undergraduate

background in China.

So in the class, Chinese teachers just keep talking.

They seldom ask questions to the students.

And all the content they taught are concept, like what's the meaning of something and what's

the difference between AP and say?

And so they gave you a basic concept of some knowledge or for some area.

But for my master degrees, I find out the lectures always ask questions, ask so many questions.

And they just gave you a point and you have to start from this point to find some material,

find some reading materials and find your own opinion about the concept.

And you have to write a paper or do a presentation on the second class and show your opinion

and what the background reading could support your opinion.

So that's the difference I find out.

So have you ever experienced misunderstanding or awkward situation due to cultural difference?

I actually can't remember what I said.

I can only say, since language is not our mother tongue, I definitely misused some of the words in the past.

But the local people, they can understand what I said or what I mean.

But at the first, they don't want me to be awkward, so they didn't point it out.

And after that, after we were more familiar and they actually point out, I should use this

other than that.

Oh, they're very tolerant and it's very nice.

Yeah, okay.

How have you tried to overcome any significant difficulties you encountered?

So the academic difficulties for me during my master degrees is too much reading.

I believe you probably have encountered it now.

So reading so many people, like in short time, I find so stressed and really difficult.

I would not say I find some way to encounter it.

But once you read it more and more, you probably improve your efficient in reading in English.

And that's why I think I would say I passed my first year academic, all the academic lectures.

Okay. So what resources or support service, for example, language support center or

academic workshop, prepare a support, have you used?

So one thing, the first, the main service I would say is my professor.

Since master degree, we have to find our professor to finish the second year.

And my professor really gives a lot of support.

And also for the first year, all the professors in different lectures, they support a lot on the international students since we are not so good at it.

And they are really nice and how to say patient to point out the problems, the questions we

have. And I can still remember one of my people in the lecture. My professor, what was it like, my professor used like the red colors and pointed all the mistakes in my paper.

And during the one on one with my professor, he explained patiently about the mistakes I made

on the paper. And for other support, I may say, like all the classmates on my master degree,

during my master grade, we helped each other, no matter for the like a language, academic part,

but also for the emotional and personal part.

But do you often collaborate or study with other international or local students?

How do these interactions help with your study?

We actually had like a group work for the first year of my master.

So we have to like work together with other one or two students.

I can like simply say or find out the way of their thinking.

Like during the whole process, we finished our like a no-matrix presentation or paperwork.

So let's see the question again.

Yeah, so during our group work,

it's more like a freedom. We don't need to feel like a shy or something.

You know, we kind of talk a bit more than on the class. And that's I find actually more efficient

or like what I can improve more because I got the chance to interact with others.

You developed any personal strategies to manage your workload or improve your academic English?

Personal strategy.

I for example, maybe you make a note or if you make some special strategies like how to help

you to manage your workloads. For example, if you have a diary to write on or some kind of strategy,

do you own personal strategy? Personal strategies, I do not regard it as that high level like a

strategy thing. But I may say like I keep a track of what I have done or like the plan for the

future. Like because we always have the one-on-one with professors, we have to

show the progress we have made and we have to find some like questions to ask to do the next

progress. And so you need you definitely need to keep the track of your paperwork because we have

the whole year to do one thing and it's very easy to get lost and maybe you do some other

things and you will find the time has passed and you do not have enough time to do your work. So

for this situation, we need to plan quite well on what to do the way you think.

It's a bit difficult to explain. So you have time schedule. It's very important.

Yeah. So over time, I think your experience in the U.P. has influenced your identity or the way you

think. Yeah, of course. So overseas studies definitely influenced the way of my thinking a lot.

So before I went abroad, so the way we live, the way we learn, it's always you know you listen to

others, the teachers say one thing and you get that and you just need to repeat and and maybe just like simply feel it on the exam and you do not have too much own thinking. But once you study in UK or other countries, you know, you have to develop the

critical thinking like through all the way. And that's the I think that's the most important thing or

the accomplishments we could get from the overseas studies.

So have your communication skills changed since you arrived or in what way?

Yeah. So at the beginning, or for me myself, I can still remember that on the first day I arrived,

I could hardly put a full sentence in English. And because of the problem of my spoken English,

I am afraid to talk to others or I just not brave enough to speak English in the public. But once

you know, we get more familiar with where we are more good at using the language. I and also I think

for the atmosphere, for the academic atmosphere, nobody actually cares what your opinion is.

You know, they respect everyone. And for all the reasons I mentioned, I kind of, you know,

more comfortable of talking to others in English and on public.

Oh, so do you feel more comfortable engaging with students from different countries or compare

to when you first arrived? I think you answered this question.

So we move on to the four things, right? So in what ways do you think adapting to British

culture has impacted your academic performance or study habits?

Yes, in what ways? I need to find some specific example.

Just to say anything you want, really, what's not.

Has impact my academic performance of study habits? So because we are now studying,
like they post graduate in English or in British culture or the country,
so we firstly, we need to think and we need to write in English. And it's not like before we think
or we write in Chinese. So it's the biggest difference. And for the English thinking,
it's already so different from Chinese. We learned the academic way of writing
and I do not, I haven't, you know, thinking about your question, like, what is a British
culture in that? But for my experience, I would just say English, speaking English,
writing
already changed everything. Yeah, the logic of the and the languages different from
Chinese,
so do you feel this intercultural experience has prepared you for future,
for further academic or professional goals? Yes, so it's actually influenced me or
I think it influenced every international students.
Like, I have this word in Chinese, but I don't know how to say in Chinese. Are you
English?
Yes, so you think it changed you steadily.
So, okay, that's no problem. Okay, is there anything else you would like to share
about your
experience as a Chinese student in the UK? I made it.
I had one thing. So, we think we are studying in a foreign country. We need to do
more
interactions with the local or with the other nationalities. Otherwise, it's no different
from
studying in China. Yes, that's true. Okay, thank you. Thank you very much for your
time and your
participation. And this was very nice interview. Thank you. Thank you very much.
Thank you, Linda. Okay, I'll stop the recording now. Okay.

Semi-structured Interview 6 transcript

Hi, thank you for your participation.

The purpose of this research is to explore the academic social and cultural experience

of Chinese international students studying in the UK.

The interval will take around 13-5 minutes and your response will be kept confidential

and use only for research purpose.

And you are welcome to skip any question or stop the interview at any point.

So do you have any question before we begin?

No, no, that's fine.

Okay, thank you.

Okay, first question.

Can you briefly introduce yourself, please?

Yeah, I'm a PhD student in computerization and Manchester Metropolitan University.

And I just finished my PhD.

So I studied from 2021 and it's just finished a lot.

So I submitted my thesis and my programme and my defence.

So everything is fine.

Yeah, what were your initial impressions of the academic environment in the UK compared

to China?

The increasing academic environment between the UK and China is quite different.

And they gave me very surprise because China studies different and they give you some guidelines

from the book.

But here is the more independent you do in research and you're thinking by yourself and

then we make the group of disgusting.

And it's not that everything can be from book and it is they study from like a disgusting

like a group of meeting.

That's very different in China when I was studying in China.

So it's quite different.

Is they independent and thinking and you come in your ideas, get your ideas and then

from a disgusting group?

Yeah.

Okay, thank you.

What academic challenges have you encountered while studying the UK?

How do language and communication play a role in those challenges?

The academic challenges here in the UK is the first language in the UK because when we

study in China, in the language is most like you.

We can read and we can listen but sometimes we can talk too much.

And so the communication between the English people and our tutor and the supervisor sometimes

even though English classmates is very difficult sometimes.

This is the challenge for.

The second challenge is that because we are doing the research and the PhD in the level

and that we needed not for reading from the paper which the research published and also

we needed to attend the conference in different research area.

So this is the challenge for the English in the first stage.

Okay.

So what social or cultural challenges have you faced since arriving?

For example, if anything relating to your classmates, lecture or day to day living?

This is okay because we are PhD so we don't have that too much actually.

So we can be and discuss with the tutor and most because we had a communication before

when we apply the PhD so we have some ideas with the already agreed with the tutors.

So we don't have too much challenges and the culture since.

And so day to day to day and the negative is okay.

And it's not too much because in China it's currently developed very quickly.

Like going to the supermarket and get by everything.

It's okay.

And the classmates we are discussing.

Yeah, that's fine.

Yeah.

Okay.

Do you feel there are differences in classroom expectations or teaching methods compared

to China?

Yeah, this is mentioned before because we are discussing in a group.

Like we have a different group so we are discussing the ideas and even we have had paper

reading each week.

And that's very friendly.

And it's a little bit different in China.

And I think here is the more encouraging you talk to the group of people.

Show your ideas, show your findings.

And it's very open.

Even you are wrong sometimes.

But the people will give you a different like a planning and they encourage you.

So this is what I learned from here.

Yeah.

Okay.

Thank you.

And whereas have you ever experienced misunderstandings or current situations due to cultural differences?

This, yeah, sometimes because they are classmates coming from a different area.

And they are heavily different.

And like how to say that is like they are talking is different.

Sometimes they have an embarrassing way.

If like we don't understand what they are talking about.

So this is the level.

But during the time we get a low each other more and more.

So it's the better and better.

So that's, yeah.

And if you want to say some examples, very difficult because, and wonderful my friends,

they are coming from Bangladesh and they started and because they are muslim and they

are going to play sometimes.

But sometimes I always this disturb him.

And because they are they are needed quite a space.

And the university I don't know what they are doing.

So I always agree, of course, you know, about what are you doing.

So it's like embarrassing sometimes.

No, okay.

Yeah.

Yeah.

But I know now so they are they need each each of the nine times and need some break.

And they're going to do some praying.

Yeah.

So they are going to have some space about themselves.

Okay.

Yeah.

Yeah.

Yeah.

Yeah.

Yeah.

Yeah.

Yeah.

Yeah.

Yeah.

Okay.

And how you how you how you trying to overcome any technical difficulties you have encountered.

I I I I'm not sure because of this.

This is a very good question because the when we faced the the challenges in our research

and then we we needed to like I needed to try my best and then try to solve my problem

and then by myself and then I discussed with my tutors with with my supervisors and they gave some more idea about my supervisor always encouraging myself and you have to you

have to get your problem sort about by yourself.

So so I what am I going to do?

I'm going to put much more time and looking for some colleague and my classmates to to

discuss and each other try to solve the research questions in the method.

How are we going to improve our method and the thing we get a we get to the answer.

So this is like you needed to discuss with with your clinic because we are in the same

research area and they have maybe more ideas than me.

So they are thinking about different ways.

So this is what I would always looking for discussing my classmates and my clinic to find

a way to solve the problem.

Okay.

So what resources or support service like language support center or academic workshop

support have you used?

Yeah, yeah, because we have the doctor service community and they had they each each about

three to two or three months or each sometimes each month they they gave us the updating

what we need for and do we need some help and also we have the doctor and the service

community talking each week.

We have the PhD discussing each week.

So they gave us the support.

So what do we need help for?

So and it's not only not only is research and there's then some living problem or something

else a problem you're faced.

So they always give us support.

So yeah, very helpful our doctor service community.

Yeah.

Okay.

Do you often collaborate or study with other international or local students?

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

We had we had the collaboration between the university and the hospital and then they

they gave us the support and they gave us the NACNA data and we discussed what is the

need.

So this is the direct collaboration between our research and the clinical sites.

Yeah, it's very helpful for us and to validation our results.

Oh, okay.

Yeah.

Have you developed any personal strategies to manage your workload or improve your academic

English?

The personal strategy.

So for example, how you manage your workload?

Some people if they have their own agenda or they make a schedule like daily routine

or something, just maybe you have your personal strategies, you know, how to manage your

work.

Yeah.

Yeah.

This is NACNA.

When we started our PhD and then we had our arms and our objectives.

So we created our NACNA chat, NACNA chat diary and to manage our schedule.

And then we had a time prime table and to manage our research stable by step.

And the first the stable, what do we like it?

We're first semester, what do we need to achieve?

And the second is the semester, what do we need to achieve?

And the five or five a year, what do we need to achieve?

So we have the time table to manage that.

So we make a plan and to check whether we finish this, what the objectives.

So and also in our doctor services, the community, they have the system to manage and NACNA,

your first year reports, a second year report and a five year report, we need to write and finish an upload in our system.

Yeah.

Okay.

Over time, how do you think your experience in the UK has influenced your identity or

the way you think?

What is what is this identity?

Sometimes influence your identity, like you identify yourself as Chinese international students or just who you are, you know, sometimes those experiences, if Rachel, you, for example,

some people were uptight before they come to study overseas and then they become open-minded

or sometimes they feel how to, they can be more tolerant with other people's opinion, for example, right?

So do you think you influence your identity or the way you think is having influence on

that?

This I think is what I said before, is something like a Yin Yin UK and between China and China

the culture and then the academic study is a little different.

And when I feel it is coming a little bit independent rather than going to realize something,

the one way study.

So when we're doing research, we need to do by ourselves.

We need to think more by ourselves and looking for some from a pastor and like a research

method.

So this is something dependent as far as I'm going to realize something.

Yeah.

Okay.

So if I want to ask you anything further, like if you identify yourself as a traditional Chinese student, for example, right?

After you have studied in the UK, would you identify yourself as not quite a traditional

Chinese student?

Yeah.

For example, the way you act in your classes, maybe you have more critical thinking and

you prefer to do more group work rather than spoonful by the teacher.

So do you think that this influence on you?

You identify yourself as a Westernized Chinese or what would you say about that?

Yeah.

I think this is a little bit more clear about this question.

Yeah.

Yeah.

So the identity, I can say in the past few years, you hear study and I can feel a little bit more about and more close to like a young people, a young students rather than a Chinese students.

So like you learned a lot from the young people, and from the tutors.

So yeah.

Yeah.

Okay.

Have your communication skills changed since you arrived in what we've changed your communication

skills?

Communication is what do you say details about communication skills?

Is it that you're writing, reading, English, you're talking about?

Yeah.

Just the English aspect, like how you can communicate skills like sometimes, most of

Chinese students I know, they are very passive communicator.

Like they were shy.

So yeah, they tried to be silenced.

And the teacher have to ask questions.

All the, they think ask, grazing questions in the class is not polite.

They think they should respect the teacher, right?

And so the community, each kid's skills might change since you have come.

What do we like?

Maybe you, you try to communicate more frequently with the people or you know.

Yeah.

That's right.

And this is something like most of the Chinese students is the shy.

They are, they don't like to like encourage yourself to move, like to answer the questions

or when you, you know, class meeting or group meeting and you, you fail just to say that

in a corner.

Yeah.

You don't tend to read questions about the teacher because they feel you don't challenge

the teacher's equipment, right?

Yeah.

But, but the, my, my study and because we are more focused on the research and the PhD.

And then we, when we discuss the way we always, I always to question if we, if right or not

understand.

So you, if you don't have a, even you have a different opinion or you have a different idea or you do have a different method.

And I always to like to, to tell and to discuss with the group.

Okay.

So you're trying to express yourself now.

It's not a say that, but because, because if you don't talk, nobody knows what you are

doing.

Yeah.

Yeah.

There are a lot, there are a lot to give you more ideas and you, because you are, you are doing by your own.

So you need to show what you find in whether your research is good or not, whether you

should listen, method is, is, is, is one of the looks like, what is the result?

Say it is.

Yeah.

Yeah.

So then they can know, they can know whether you are right.

So this is more like a, maybe this PhD and the research is, is a little bit different

in a, you know, you know, you know, class in other class, you know, undergraduate or

human master.

Yeah.

Yeah.

Yeah.

Yeah.

Yeah.

Very different.

Okay.

So do you feel more comfortable engaging with students from different cultures now compared

to when you first arrived?

Yeah.

Yeah.

Yeah.

So it's very comfortable and then when they first arrived to here.

So yeah.

Okay.

So in what ways do you think adapting to British culture has impacted your academic performance

or study habits?

Uh, this, I don't know how to say this one because, because the, the things like, my studies, the research is, is, yeah, I mentioned it before is, is different as that.

Yeah.

Yeah.

Then they undergrad or the master, we are, we're most of the manager by yourself, whatever

it is, the timing and, and then the research plan, whatever it is.

And it's totally changing to me before I come, you know, in China and the, the, the in China, I don't have any time schedules.

I don't, I don't like to, to do something by myself.

And then I don't think it too much since for here is, is like when you do the session, you have to manage your time, study by yourself.

And then everything you have to do by yourself.

And then afterwards, and then you always, and they gave you a show to, to do the presentation

and to show the people what is your finding?

What is the contribution you're going to make?

Yeah.

Okay.

In what ways do you think, sorry, I did ask that.

Do you feel this intercultural experience has prepared you for, for future academic or professional goals?

Yeah.

Yeah.

This is, this is the, when you finish the PhD research and there's a going to give you

more confidence and then you're going to encourage you and to explore different areas

like a different country and then, and then like, like because you are, you are, you are

going to the conference and you show yourself, you have a more collaboration and know more

people's.

So yeah, that's, that's very useful.

Okay.

So is there anything else you would like to share about your experience as a Chinese

student in the UK?

The experience I had to share is like you, you know, you can, the students, maybe probably

you, you needed to like change a little bit, the study method, your time schedule and you

don't be shy and you always needed to talk to other people.

And they, they are, they, they, they different, they have the people have a different ideas

or thinking that have a good things you can learn from them.

So and, and they're always going to join a group meeting.

And if you can practice talking to, to more to the people to more, then you can learn more

and then you can increase your ideas and then you can, and a simple way so you can

practice your imagination.

Yeah.

And so yes, this is very good to you, join the community as well.

So.

Okay.

And thank you very much.

Right.

And yeah, very, very helpful friend.

Thank you so much.

So.

Yeah, no problem.

I think I need to both finish that.