

Encouraging International Students to Embrace Research and Creative Activity

Introduction

Research and creative activity can provide quality student experiences. However, research can be a challenge for many international students because of differences in higher education between the United States and other countries.

International students, like home students, should have a research portfolio that represents a variety of scholarly and creative work. This poster offers suggestions for faculty to plan their research outcomes and help international students improve their understanding of research.

Challenges

For international students

Google vs. databases: While most students use both technologies to gather information, international students rely on Google and might not understand the importance of scholarly literature found in databases.

Terminology/Concepts: Research terms might not be familiar to many international students.

Theories: A lack in research skills could lead to difficulties in understanding and applying theories.

Scientific/Academic: International students might want to pursue ideas that have practical implications for situations in their home countries, rather than scientific or academic exploration.

Suggestions

When designing research assignments and projects

- Define research.
- Think beyond the “term paper” (e.g., poster presentation).
- Consider assigning two or three small research assignments.
- Have students apply theories often to their experiences.
- Encourage students to think of themselves as consultants offering their views.
- See if a research project could coincide with something significant/important/relevant in your field.
- Collaborate with another course.
- Encourage the student to use a classroom assignment as a building block for the thesis or dissertation.
- Encourage students to consult with a librarian.
- Direct students toward a variety of library resources – print, electronic, multimedia.
- Suggest specific databases or other library resources by name.
- Discuss what constitutes plagiarism and the consequences you will take.
- Embed a research guide in the LMS.
- Break the research assignment into manageable parts.
- Explain how research will be evaluated.

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