International Student Experience

Amit Sarwal
(MBA 2015-2017)
Broadcaster, Writer and Researcher
About Me:

• MBA - Federation University 2015-17
• Founding Convenor - Australia-India Interdisciplinary Research Network (AIIRN)
• Finalist - Victorian Government’s International Education Awards 2016
Academic/Author

• PhD in English Literature from Jawaharlal Nehru University (India)
• Published research in high-ranking international journals
• Author: Short Narratives of South Asian Diaspora (2016/17) and Labels and Locations (2015)
Expert/Broadcaster

• Featured expert: The Conversation, ABC Radio National, Sky News, SBS, Times of India, The Saturday Paper and other Indian community media publications

• Joined SBS Radio Hindi as a Producer in 2016

Source: Study Melbourne - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R8R-P0NjJ2s
Why did I choose Federation University’s MBA program?

- Contribute or lead an Australian university’s India engagement strategy
- Create specialised study tour programs
- Money or Fees
  - a traditional 2 years MBA program – valued back home
- Prompt application paperwork at Federation University
- communication between the partner institute and Federation University played a big role
What did I like most about my program?

• Diversity on campus
  ▪ Majority group: India and China
  ▪ Others: South Asian and East Asian countries

• Lecturers were friendly

• Partner institute strived towards creating clubs
  ▪ Film tickets
  ▪ Cricket
  ▪ Fun/group activities
  ▪ Local sightseeing tours
What kind of resources were available or not available?

- **Available:**
  1. Small library
  2. Computers
  3. Prayer room
  4. Lecturer feedback

- **Lacking:**
  1. Internship opportunity
  2. Job placement
  3. Career counselling
How can partner institutes help international students?

• Interaction/Trust:
  • visit/skype orientation talk by course coordinator

• Working in diverse groups should be encouraged
  • regionalism should be discouraged

• Student support platforms:
  • Language help
  • Academic support
  • Student advisers/mentors
  • On-arrival reception
  • Regular counselling (mental and sexual assault)
• Fair Work:
  • Student placements
  • Unpaid Work or Underpaid work

• Student Services:
  • Consumer Protection
  • Overseas Students Ombudsman
  • Student accommodation
  • Job placement

• Awards:
  • State level international education awards (ex: Victorian International Education Awards - International Student of the Year)

• Student Association:
  • Australian Federation of International Students (AFIS)
  • Council of International Students Australia (CISA)
Thanks