

EXPLORING THE BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMS: PERSPECTIVES FROM STUDENT TEACHERS

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Abstract

This study explores the perspectives of student teachers from Can Tho University, Vietnam, on the benefits and challenges of engaging in student exchange programs. Utilizing a quantitative research approach, data was collected through a survey instrument consisting of multiple-choice and Likert-scale questions. The survey examined student teachers' perceptions of various advantages, including access to new knowledge, enhanced teaching skills, and valuable support from foreign partners and mentors. Additionally, it investigated challenges related to language differences, cultural norms, and time management. The findings shed light on the experiences of student teachers in exchange programs and reveal that one of the most significant reasons for their participation is the desire to expand their international networks and foster meaningful connections with students from other countries. These insights provide valuable guidance for educational institutions in developing effective strategies and support systems to optimize the participation and satisfaction of student teachers in these programs.

Keywords: international student exchange; exchange programs; internationalization

Biography



Huynh Thi Thuy Diem is a senior lecturer at Can Tho University, Vietnam. She holds a Ph.D. in Science Education from Khon Kaen University, Thailand (2018). Currently, she serves as the Vice Principal of Can Tho University's Practice High School. Her research interests encompass lesson study, career-oriented education, curriculum development, environmental education, and student competency development. Her primary teaching subjects at the university include Teaching Theory of Natural Sciences, Teaching Methods, Curriculum Development, Environmental Education, Career Experience Activities, and Assessment. She has participated in various projects, such as the MH04 project on innovative teaching methods (1996-2004) and the Environmental Education project (2001-2006).

Mai Phuc Thinh is a passionate researcher specializing in education and development studies. He holds the Master of Arts in International Development Studies from Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. With research interests in internationalization, employability, teaching methodology, and equitable education, he aims to enhance educational systems and practices to prepare individuals for successful global careers. He strives to contribute to the field by disseminating knowledge, informing practice, and promoting positive change in education.



Tran Thi Mung is an educational professional with a Master's degree in Educational Management. Currently, she serves as an officer at the School of Education, where her responsibilities include assisting with postgraduate training, and ensuring quality assurance and international collaboration.