



SEAMEO RETRAC, July 13-14, 2023

# Exploring the Benefits and Challenges of International Student Exchange Programs: Perspectives from Student Teachers

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#### **Outline of the Presentation**

Introduction Methods **Findings** 3 **Discussion and Conclusion** 4



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A NEW PARADIGM OF LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT, TEACHING AND LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION: GLOBAL AND LOCAL PERSPECTIVES AND PRACTICES

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#### 1. Introduction

University degrees no longer guarantee employment

Importance of additional employability skills

Need for internationalization in Vietnamese higher education

Benefits of international student exchange programs







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#### 1. Introduction

#### **Research Questions**



How do Can Tho University student teachers benefit from international student exchange programs?

What challenges do international exchange student teachers face?





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#### 2. Methods

#### **Participants**

• 56 student teachers from Can Tho University

# Data Collection

• Survey questionnaire

#### Data Analysis

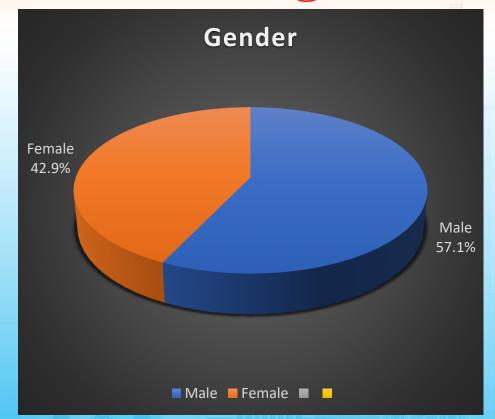
• Descriptive and inferential statistics using SPSS







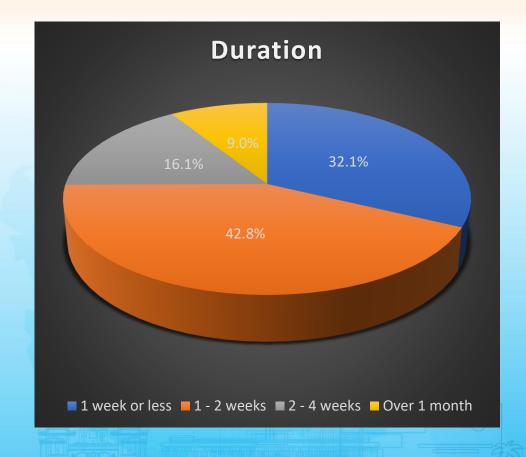
#### 3. Findings



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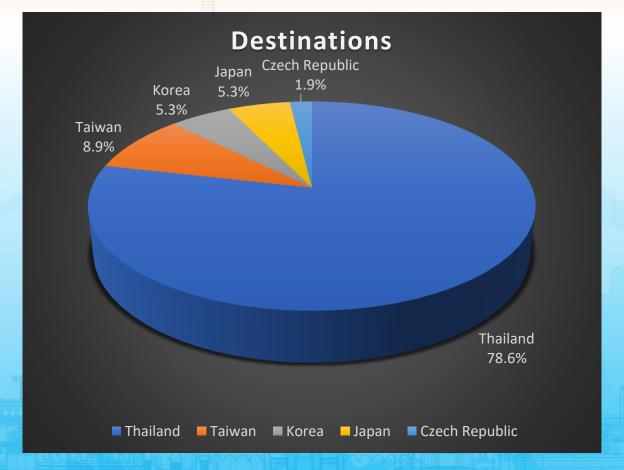
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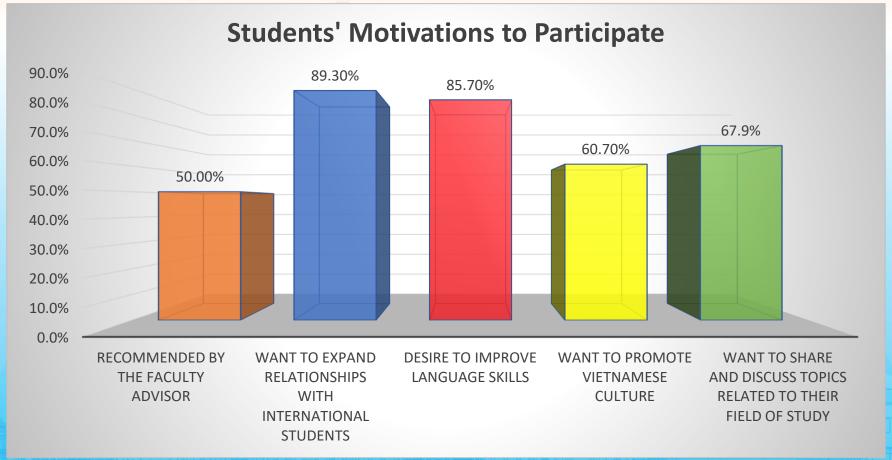
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Perceived Benefits of Exchange Programs				
Categories	Mean	SD	Ranking	
1. Cultural immersion and understanding	4.00	1.186	5	
2. International friendship building	4.00	1.217	5	
3. Acquisition of independent living skills	4.21	1.258	1	
4. Global perspective development	4.21	1.287	1	
5. Improved critical thinking abilities	4.14	1.239	2	
6. Easy adaptation to new environments	3.79	1.258	8	





Perceived Benefits of Exchange Programs				
Categories	Mean	SD	Ranking	
7. Acquisition of valuable future work skills	3.93	1.215	6	
8. English language skills acquisition/ progression	4.07	1.215	3	
9. Teamwork skills enhancement	4.00	1.217	5	
10. Opportunities for self-evaluation	4.04	1.232	4	
11. Growth in maturity and confidence	3.89	1.227	7	
12. Integration into a multicultural environment	4.04	1.232	4	
13. Preparedness to become a global citizen	3.89	1.227	7	





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Challenges Faced by Students				
Categories	Percentage			
1. Language barrier	67.9%			
2. Weather conditions	32.1%			
3. Cultural customs and traditions	17.9%			
4. Working methods	21.4%			
5. Working hours	25.0%			
6. Food	25.0%			
7. Accommodation	10.7%			
8. Workload	14.3%			



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Challenges Faced by Students				
Categories	Percentage			
9. Lack of expertise in teaching or working	75.0%			
10. Lack of new knowledge abroad	21.4%			
11. Insufficient teaching skills	25.0%			
12. Inadequate curriculum content	67.9%			
13. Lack of interaction between teachers and students in class	14.3%			
14. Lack of skills for laboratory work	28.6%			
15. Inadequate lesson planning	75.0%			
16. Limited interaction between teachers and students in class	89.3%			





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#### 4. Discussion

#### Benefits: Align with previous research

• Cultural exchange, personal growth, professional development, expanded network

#### **Challenges: New findings**

• First-time experience abroad, the context of student teachers, teaching challenges, new educational systems





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#### 4. Implications and Recommendations

Importance of addressing challenges and leveraging benefits

Strategies for language support and cultural adaptation

**Enhancing teaching and curriculum content** 

Promoting interaction and skill development



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#### 5. Conclusion

Summary of key findings

Significance of the study for international education and teacher training

Closing remarks and potential for future research



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Student teachers of School of Education, Can Tho University, joined the Sea Teacher Project hosted by Valaya Alongkorn Rajabhat (Thailand) in 2019



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