

The View of University Students on International Exchange Programs - A Case Study of Nanchang University in China

Zhuo Fubao & Arsaythamby Veloo

City University of Malaysia, 41600 Petaling Jaya, Selangor

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Abstract

In the context of contemporary globalization, this research investigates the perspectives of university students participating in foreign exchange programs. The study examines how international interchange and globalization have affected the outlooks and experiences of students at Nanchang University in China. Students' perspectives on international exchange were studied in depth using surveys, experiments, and discussions. The results illustrate the various advantages of international interaction, such as the development of useful skills and the exposure to new points of view. Problems with communication and adjusting to a new culture were recognized but viewed as possibilities in disguise. There was clear evidence of globalization's effect in molding students' perspectives, as it promoted pedagogical variety, international partnerships, and individual growth. Social, cultural, economic, and political obstacles were also investigated. Students' experiences during international exchange are what cause psychological, belief-oriented, and behavioral changes, as explained by the transformative learning paradigm. The study methodology combined an explanatory design with a deductive strategy to provide evidence-based conclusions. In conclusion, this research provides a deeper comprehension of students' perspectives, illuminating the mutually beneficial interaction between international exchange and globalization in molding students' educational paths.

Keywords: International Exchange Programs, Globalisation, University Students, Transformative Learning, Perspectives.

Introduction

Students' perspectives on studying and traveling abroad in the context of contemporary globalization are included in the research report (Huffman et al., 2020). Students' varied perspectives on international interaction highlight its importance as a serious and central issue. Located Province, China, Nanchang University is a top-tier public research institution. It has achieved remarkable success in terms of international interchange and contemporary

globalization, and is thus regarded as a national university in China. Students' perspectives are highly influenced by resources like inertia exchange and other sources of information. The study's overarching goal is to gauge students' perspectives on international exchange at the college level. In this study, the author strives to accomplish all of the outlined goals by using data that is both relevant and reliable. Students' perspectives on the subject against the backdrop of globalization and international students are presented in this research report. As a result, globalization has become increasingly frequent in recent decades, and many contemporary students have a variety of perspectives on the subject of globalized education. Because students' perspectives on this matter vary widely, it is necessary to assess how the foreign exchange program affects its participants. One of China's most prestigious institutions of higher education, Nanchang University is a top pick for those in central China (Li, 2023). College students believe that participating in foreign exchange programs is a great way to broaden one's horizons and get the fundamental skills necessary to succeed in life.

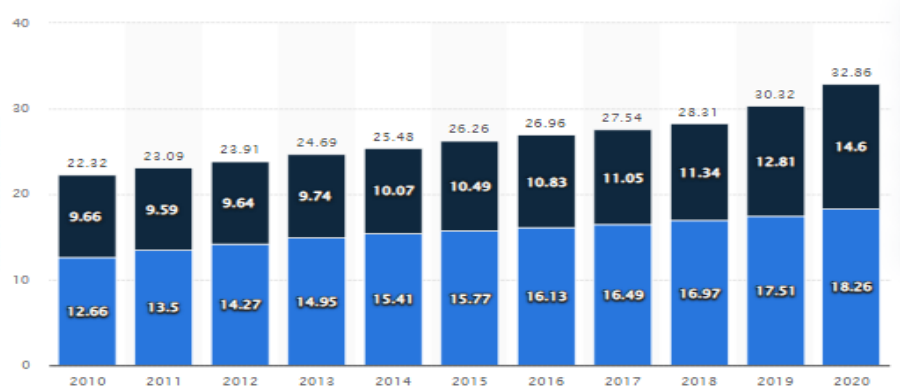


Figure 1: Number of undergraduate students in China

Source: (Statista, 2022)

Therefore, not all students will find the process of international exchange and studying in a new culture to be simple. However, it comes with prohibitive price tags that many people simply cannot afford. Against the backdrop of contemporary globalization and the, students at Nanchang University offer two insightful perspectives: the language barrier and various forms of cultural shock. Also, making new acquaintances is a great way to boost your personal development, which is why participating in an international exchange program is so beneficial. Education variety is important to international students since it prepares them to deal with any challenge they may face (Francom et al., 2021). Students can learn new languages through international exchange programs, which is a great way to help them communicate with people from diverse cultures. In addition, the student exchange approach is widely used in the twenty-first century since it benefits students who are open to living in a new country. Undergraduates at Nanchang University are often eager to continue their educations in nations outside of China. Student exchange programs aim to significantly improve students' access to opportunities that will help them advance in their chosen careers. As a result, a variety of academic settings have gained in popularity in recent years, playing a crucial role in preparing students for careers in the global economy. These critical aspects, which are highly helpful for international students, have a significant impact on how Chinese students at Nanchang University feel about participating in international exchange. As a result, many students might find more and more options or chances to advance their professions with the aid of the student exchange scheme or the international exchange.

However, the research report also incorporates the perspectives of college students on the subject in the context of globalization. The development of many things is intertwined with the process of globalization, which is why it is so important. One of globalization's most potent tools is the Internet. The telephone is also one of the other two most prominent, eye-catching elements (Zhu, 2019). Therefore, the needs of many businesses drive the widespread adoption of globalization. The impact of globalization on students is significant since it makes it possible for many of them to seek out better educational options in other nations. It's a remarkable historical development that involves a wide range of contemporary products that are immensely useful in everyday life. As a result, it is crucial for students since it equips them with the skills necessary to make use of the information available in the current world. In this way, students can benefit from globalization to address issues that impede their development as individuals and as professionals. As a result, globalization also has varying effects on student exchange programs and other forms of international exchange. Additionally, with the aid of globalization, the educational system is accessible to students from all over the world. It's beneficial for the country's educational system that students from Nanchang University have the option to study overseas. As a result, peace around the world is seen as a crucial support mechanism for keeping the educational system afloat. As a result, many nations are confronted with formidable educational obstacles, with devastating consequences for the students involved. More than that, contemporary globalization has made it possible for some overseas students to get access to exceptional educational opportunities that have prepared them for successful jobs in the international market. Therefore, these kids are better equipped to deal with a wide range of global educational issues if they develop a wide range of meaningful ideas and strong relationships.

When it comes to the original people of other countries, globalization is a unique process that guarantees an outstanding integration. China has a reputation in international trade for excellence and brilliance. Many of the needs of a country's economy that engages in international trade are met by globalization. Furthermore, the country's export of various commercial commodities contributes to the advancement of globalization in the present day. As a result, the inflation rate and the economic success of the specific country China has an impact on the perspective of the students at Nanchang University. Some internal and external elements of a country also affect globalization. In addition, globalization is a hot topic among college students since it provides them with an opportunity to acquire the skills and experiences necessary to launch a successful professional career while studying in a country other than their own. It's the clinching factor that makes global communication and travel possible at all. Moving to a new country to finish your degree in an ethical manner is a terrific option given the growing importance of international marketplaces.

Students at Nanchang University value international interaction and globalization the most (Li et al., 2023). Additionally, with the aid of these two elements, a number of students can successfully complete their studies overseas. The education offered at Nanchang University is renowned, and the institution is ranked 771st worldwide. With the guidance of excellent professors, college students now have access to a wealth of options that can have a profound impact on their professional development. So, improving one's professional prospects is crucial, and it's something that everyone should be thinking about. University students can benefit greatly from participating in international student exchange programs because it provides them with the opportunity to study in a different country. In this age of modern

globalization, Nanchang University has become well-known for its outstanding academic resources and cutting-edge research. Chinese college students appreciate the benefits of cultural interaction, and the government is providing ample funding for their study. Therefore, pupils can discover significant prospects to develop themselves to a satisfactory degree with the aid of these supporting traits. The Chinese government, likewise, is interested in learning how it might assist these youngsters for the sake of their future success. Moreover, foreign internships are one of the most powerful ways to attract students from all around the world. Opportunities for students to enroll in top universities abroad are improving all the time. A student's multifaceted growth, both personally and professionally, benefits from the structured environment of an international university. In addition to these possibilities, foreign exchange programs give college students the freedom to pursue their own interests and pursue their own paths in life. It takes extraordinary skills for a student at Nanchang University to solve multiple types of difficulties in a timely and effective manner, yet finding more opportunities is the key to academic success. Furthermore, modern globalization in the educational system has a significant impact on college students. Therefore, many students can get their questions and concerns answered with the aid of the online system in a set period of time. The Internet is an integral aspect of today's educational infrastructure, and it plays a crucial role in laying the groundwork for a successful professional future. There are multiple types of issues that are detrimental to international trade that are discussed in the research paper, and the context of globalization makes them an influential aspect in the study of this topic. Several social and economic difficulties were brought up by Nanchang University students that are extremely detrimental to building a successful career. Some political difficulties in achieving the necessary goals and objectives in an ethical and sufficient manner are also examined in this study. Therefore, this research paper examined the perspectives of college students on international exchange and the subject of study against the backdrop of globalization by utilizing these highly informative elements and qualities. As a result, a growing number of students are able to further their education abroad, where they can major in the fields that most interest them.

Problem Statement

The East Chinese province of Jiangxi is home to Nanchang University (Wu et al., 2022). Jiangxi province is a perfect example of a rural environment with a wide variety of anomalies. The province has several issues in the areas of society, economy, psychology, education, and health. University students' perspectives on the province's instability and challenges have broadened. The students at Nanchang University have spoken out against the issues being brought to light. The economic and cultural illnesses have spread worldwide (Fearnley, 2020). Rather from having the good effects that were predicted, negative aspects of globalization have become the talk of the town. University students have identified and analyzed issues that have since grown in complexity and scope. The mixtures discussed here have colored the reasons for the celebration and opened the pores for all to see.

Higher education in China has advanced quickly due in large part to globalization. Tensions arise when local domestic student bodies and overseas students from all over the world are suddenly thrown together (Stewart & Lowenthal, 2022). As universities throughout the world recognize the need of giving their students exposure to different cultures, the study of international exchange programs has become a hot topic in the field of higher education. There is, however, a wealth of information to be gleaned from the accounts of students who

have taken part in such programs, especially in the setting of Chinese higher education institutions.

This research was motivated by the identification of various gaps in the current literature on international exchange programs. In the first place, although there is a growing corpus of data on the advantages of international exchange programs, much of this study has concentrated on the viewpoints of students from Western countries. Research done in China is scarce, and what little there is focuses mostly on the perspectives of Chinese students studying abroad rather than those of foreigners studying in the country (Yang et al., 2021). Second, most studies of foreign exchange programs have concentrated on the positive effects on students' academic and professional lives, such as learning a new language, finding a job, and doing well in school. While these advantages are significant, they do not include everything a student could learn or gain from participating in an overseas exchange program. Increased self-confidence, better communication skills, and a stronger sense of global citizenship are all examples of social and personal benefits that may be equally valuable to students.

Third, while some study has been done on the factors that influence students' decisions to participate in international exchange programs, the majority of this study has concentrated on demographic and socioeconomic characteristics including gender, ethnicity, and family income. More studies examining the influence of institutional elements on student participation in international exchange programs, including program design, support services, and intercultural training, are needed (Paras et al., 2019). Fourth, surveys and statistical analysis have dominated the study on foreign exchange programs so far. While these techniques are helpful for producing massive amounts of data and seeing trends, they fall short when it comes to capturing the nuance and depth of individual experiences. There should be more studies that look at the ways in which personal, societal, and institutional elements impact the experiences of individual students. To fill these voids, this research focuses on the perspectives of students at Nanchang University in China, who have participated in international exchange programs.

Research Objectives

1. To determine the impact of program design in shaping students' decisions to participate in international exchange programs.
2. To determine the impact of support services in shaping students' decisions to participate in international exchange programs.
3. To determine the impact of intercultural training in shaping students' decisions to participate in international exchange programs.

Significance of Study

This study holds significant implications for academia, policy makers, and educational institutions by shedding light on the crucial nexus between international exchange programs and globalisation in the context of Nanchang University in China. The insights garnered from this research offer valuable guidance for refining program designs and support services related to international exchanges. Understanding the factors that influence students' decisions to participate in such programs can aid universities in tailoring their offerings to better meet students' needs and expectations. By identifying the impact of intercultural

training and its role in shaping students' perspectives, institutions can enhance the effectiveness of their preparatory efforts.

Moreover, this study contributes to the broader discourse on the effects of globalisation on higher education. As institutions increasingly prioritize global perspectives and intercultural competencies, the findings of this research offer a deeper understanding of the multifaceted benefits of international exchange beyond academic and career-related gains. The exploration of personal and social benefits, such as increased self-confidence and global citizenship, contributes to a holistic understanding of student experiences. Policy makers can draw from the insights of this study to inform decisions regarding educational policies and internationalization strategies. By recognizing the challenges students face, such as socio-cultural and economic barriers, policy makers can develop targeted interventions to mitigate these obstacles and promote inclusivity. Furthermore, understanding the interplay between globalisation, local context, and educational experiences can guide efforts to create a balanced educational environment that fosters both international exposure and cultural sensitivity.

Literature Review

The word "globalization" derives from the word "global," which denotes an open network of communication. After Columbus's journey, countries were more interconnected, hastening the progress of globalization and contributing to its effects (Mandal, 2021). The term "globalization" refers to the increased connectivity and integration of economies and societies around the world as a result of international trade and technological exchange. The effects of globalization are not limited to the economic sphere. People's economic conditions, cultural norms, educational opportunities, and occupational or developmental progress all contribute to the social structure. Globalization has both beneficial and bad consequences on all of these facets of social life. However, globalization's benefits are greater, and the globe is increasingly leaning in that direction now that people can more easily communicate, collaborate, and pool their knowledge and resources. The age of rapid progress has begun, and globalization is the catalyst.

The developing and underprivileged countries are also gaining benefits from globalization, not just the developed or first world ones. In addition to the rapid pace at which underdeveloped countries are developing with the help of globalization; this progress is also sustainable (Sarbu et al., 2021). Through the dissemination of information and the dissemination of technical progress, globalization greatly contributes to the growth of intellect and the nourishment of knowledge. Since the world is now interconnected through globalization, any technological progress made in a developing country has the potential to benefit everyone. Nowadays, education is also influenced by globalization. Teachers, like their students, are more mobile as a result of globalization of the educational system. Because of globalization, educators all around the world now use the same tools and share the same information, which has helped provide some much-needed structure to the improvement of educational opportunities everywhere.

As a result of globalization, students are exposed to a wider variety of perspectives and cultures in the classroom, and countries are able to improve their collective intelligence by taking advantage of new opportunities to share knowledge and best practices across borders.

Higher education has become increasingly global as a result of the consolidation and amalgamation of similar educational practices and knowledge across national boundaries, the expansion of educational opportunities, and the enhancement of human capital around the world. Globalization is a complex system that takes a long time to acquire yet has far-reaching consequences (Onyeaka et al., 2021). The only way for human beings to make a positive contribution to globalization is if they are given the chance, training, education, and ideals that are compatible with and rightfully prioritize their own basic interests. The concept of globalization is a relatively recent one, but it is nevertheless widely understood and taught in schools and universities around the world. Many studies have examined the effects of globalization on the world of higher learning and identified its primary causes. Specifically, it entails operating outside of any prescribed borders or time constraints, whether national or otherwise. Below, we'll explore the many ways in which globalization has altered the landscape of higher learning.

1) The impact of globalization on the quality of higher education is positive. As a result of globalization, when a nation sees the best system of higher education in action, it strives to implement it within its own borders, and it also keeps up with the latest advances in education to ensure that its own system of higher learning is as effective as possible. If one nation's educational system proves effective, others will follow after in an effort to improve their own (Alam et al., 2020). If a governing body in charge of education can establish a curriculum for higher education that is both effective and well-structured, other countries will likely adopt it in an effort to improve their own educational standards. Globalization is essential to the success of this procedure.

2) The rapid and effective implementation of hybrid classrooms and online courses can be attributed to the spread of globalization (Sumandiyar et al., 2021). These two pedagogical approaches have been widely embraced by governments around the world to provide higher education. E-learning and blended learning are most beneficial to students because they increase their exposure to worldwide study materials and global educators, both of which improve the breadth and depth of their education. They can connect with students all around the world to have in-depth discussions on any topic they choose. By sharing their experiences and insights, students and faculty at higher education institutions may improve the blended learning approach.

3) One of the most significant effects of globalization has been the dissemination of cutting-edge practices and policies in higher education to countries all over the world. Improvements in technology also facilitate student-to-student and student-to-instructor knowledge sharing across international boundaries (JAIN, 2020). Higher education institutions can leverage the power of technology to communicate with their students and teachers all around the world, helping to keep the standard of education consistent on a global scale. Students all throughout the world benefit from the technical uniformity since they have the same base of knowledge to bring into the workforce.

4) The higher education sector reaped the greatest rewards from globalization (Hsieh, 2020). If a respected school decides to open a campus in a poor or underdeveloped nation, its students will have a better chance of being accepted to and networking with the school's most prominent faculty members. In such nations, students can pursue higher education

without having to travel far or to a foreign country. They have easy access to these resources and are given the opportunity to network with prominent academics and researchers. Students at this illustrious institution have access to an excellent curriculum, comprehensive reading lists, and a large library. Because of this exceptional school, students' IQs soar to new heights, and the gap between the developed and developing worlds disappears. In terms of globalization, all classrooms seem pretty much the same. As a result of globalization, teachers can now travel with the contacts of illustrious professors and study in prestigious institutions around the world. Global seminars hosted by colleges aid students in gaining perspective on the state of education around the world and gaining familiarity with pressing international concerns. As a result, the educational infrastructure of developing countries is being bolstered, and the gap between rich and poor countries in terms of educational attainment is being closed.

Theoretical Framework

Student exchange programs based on the principle of transformative learning are advocated for. It has a mental component as well as a belief system and a set of associated behaviors. It's the kind of expanded awareness that allows a person to inquire inwardly about the assumptions, attitudes, and perspectives that inform their own subjective experiences. Those undergoing a metamorphosis are said to rethink all they know to be true and rewire their assumptions to fit their new worldview. According to this perspective, education is the process by which an individual cultivates qualities such as compassion, cooperation, independence, and drive. An individual can benefit greatly from transformative learning in order to achieve their professional goals.

The following is the principle behind transformative learning:

- 1) It helps a person answer the problem more quickly, as one's level of experience is quite important in this regard.
- 2) Second, the student's habitual perspective on management and coordination with others undergoes a dramatic shift as a result of the transformative learning experience.
- 3) Because it has previously absorbed so many cultures, its experience allows an individual acquire blends and be one of them, allowing for faster adaptation to the culture of the workplace.
- 4) Students are better able to sustain self-control as a result of the reorganization that occurs as a result of the transformative learning process.
- 5) Transformative education fosters originality, which in turn enhances transferable skills useful in a wide range of contexts.

Personal development and professional success both benefit from transformative education. Learning activities and lessons from one's own life experience puts an emphasis on the transformative nature of education. Real-world experiences are crucial for acquiring knowledge. Because the concepts and dimensions are already familiar, a person with experience may quickly and easily overcome situational hurdles.

Beginning in 1978, Jack Mezirow developed the theoretical foundations for what would become the core components of his transformative learning framework. According to Jack Mezirow's theory, the use of old methods can impede the smooth and successful ways of studying, therefore new patterns of education develop new styles.

Conceptual Framework

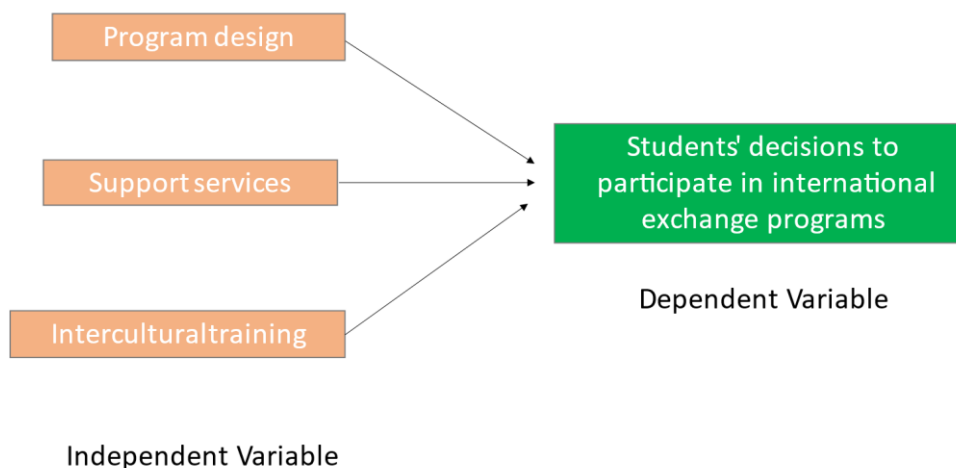


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

Source: Self-developed

Methodology

This study will use an explanatory research design in order to better understand the consequences of globalization on students. This method aids the researcher in exploring the current effects of globalization on students and generating hypotheses. Using this layout, the researcher can pinpoint knowledge gaps, quantify alternative procedures, and increase their overall comprehension. Understanding rather than making assumptions drives the study questions that direct data gathering and analysis. Numbers from experiments, surveys, and user experiences are incorporated into the layout. When examining behaviors and viewpoints, explanatory research is especially helpful when probing links between inherently uncontrollable variables.

The population of this study consists of 297 students from Nanchang University who were selected at random. This method guarantees impartiality and reduces the potential for prejudice during data collecting. Researchers can improve the reliability and validity of their findings by collecting primary data through in-person interviews, focus groups, and other face-to-face activities. The quantitative nature of the study is supported by the use of graphical analysis to effectively convey the obtained data. The study employs a logical method along with positive philosophical analysis to facilitate perspective-driven reasoning. Logical and statistical analysis are used to verify data, and the results are presented in an open and honest manner. The effects of globalization and international exchange on undergraduates at Nanchang University are the focal points of this research. Cooperation, kindness, and mutual regard are emphasized throughout the study, leading to trustworthy information gathering. The concept puts an emphasis on being genuine and staying free from other influences.

Graphical tools help in quantitative data analysis by providing an accurate depiction of data patterns and correlations. Taking this tack makes it easier to make sense of survey and interaction data. With the help of statistical analysis, the researcher presents a well-supported and credible perspective on the topic at hand. The research successfully delves into the intricacy of the topic and provides its findings in an open and accessible manner thanks to this all-encompassing methodology.

Results

Findings from this study shed subtle light on the perspectives of college students at Nanchang University in China, on international exchange programs and their connection to globalization. Comprehensive data analysis has revealed a number of critical findings that illuminate the complex ways in which international exchange affects students' views, choices, and experiences within the broader framework of globalization. The elements that affect students' decisions to enroll in international exchange programs are summarized in Table 1. The importance of program structure, student services, and intercultural education in molding students' preferences is highlighted. Students' openness to participating in international exchange appears to be positively influenced by the presence of well-structured programs, strong support networks, and excellent intercultural training.

Factors	Influence on Participation
Program Design	Positive
Support Services	Positive
Intercultural Training	Positive

The study also finds several positive results for students who take part in overseas exchanges. The results highlight the importance of personal and social gains in addition to academic and career-related benefits, such as increased language fluency and employability. Increased confidence, better communication abilities, and a more global perspective are just a few of the benefits. These results demonstrate the transformative potential of international engagement beyond the narrow confines of the classroom.

The report also delves into the difficulties that students have while on exchange abroad. The importance of socio-cultural and economic issues as barriers was highlighted, highlighting the necessity for specific support measures to guarantee access and inclusion. Moreover, the study emphasizes the junction of globalization and education, demonstrating that globalization not only promotes international exchange but also exposes students to different points of view, which in turn helps them become more flexible and culturally aware.

As a whole, these results stress the need of educational institutions adopting a holistic strategy for foreign exchange programs, one that incorporates efficient program design, all-encompassing support services, and intercultural instruction. This method combats the difficulties of globalization and cultural differences while providing students with a wide range of academic, personal, and social benefits. In the end, these findings aid universities in their pursuit of making meaningful and welcoming foreign exchange programs available to students from all backgrounds and cultures.

Discussion and Conclusion

Against the backdrop of globalization, this study provides a thorough examination of the perspectives of students at Nanchang University on international exchange programs. Key insights have arisen from a careful analysis of data, illuminating the complex relationship between international trade and globalization as a whole. Students' decisions to participate in foreign exchange can be greatly influenced by program design, support services, and intercultural training. All of these elements work together to create a setting where kids feel safe enough to try new things and grow as people.

The findings also show that while there are clear academic and professional benefits to participating in international exchange programs, participants also benefit greatly from the opportunities to develop personally and socially. These programs have far-reaching effects, including boosting students' confidence and helping them become better communicators while also expanding their worldview. In addition to enhancing their education, participants in international exchange programs develop skills in areas such as adaptability and cultural consciousness.

However, the report also recognizes the difficulties students may face when seeking foreign experience. Disparities in socioeconomic status and cultural background surfaced as obstacles, highlighting the need to implement inclusive support measures. The results demonstrate the mutual benefits of globalization and education by demonstrating how international exchange programs can facilitate growth in intercultural competence and flexibility in the classroom.

This research is helpful for universities who want to maximize the benefits of foreign exchange programs within the broader context of globalization's effect on higher education. Universities can ensure that the benefits of globalization and international exchange are available to all students by stressing a holistic strategy that addresses the different requirements of students and provides complete support. This research adds to the continuing discussion about the changing nature of higher education by arguing for the need of providing students with opportunities for growth that transcend traditional classroom boundaries

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