

Developing a Counseling Model Based on the Lived Experiences of International Students Studying in Iran

Ahmad. Rahimi¹, Kiumars. Farahbakhsh^{2*}, Mohammad. Asgari³, Hossein. Salimi Bajestani⁴

¹ PhD Student, Department of Counseling, Allameh Tabataba'i University, Tehran, Iran

² Associate Professor, Department of Counseling, Allameh Tabataba'i University, Tehran, Iran

³ Associate Professor, Department of Measurement and Evaluation, Allameh Tabataba'i University, Tehran, Iran

⁴ Former Associate Professor, Department of Counseling, Allameh Tabataba'i University, Tehran, Iran

* Corresponding author email address: farahbakkah@atu.ac.ir

Editor

Stefano Vinaccia^{id}
Profesor de psicología Universidad
del SINU, Montería, Colombia
Vinalpi47@hotmail.com

Reviewers

Reviewer 1: Sara Nejatifar^{id}
Department of Psychology and Education of People with Special Needs, Faculty of
Educational Sciences and Psychology, University of Isfahan, Isfahan, Iran.
Email: s.nejatifar@edu.ui.ac.ir
Reviewer 2: Kamdin. Parsakia^{id}
Department of Psychology and Counseling, KMAN Research Institute, Richmond
Hill, Ontario, Canada. Email: kamdinarsakia@kmanresce.ca

1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The statement "international students have significant positive impacts academically, economically, and socially" is broad. Please provide specific examples or data to substantiate these impacts, referencing relevant studies beyond Mbous et al. (2024).

The discussion on students' perceptions of service performance could benefit from a theoretical framework. Consider integrating models such as SERVQUAL to deepen the analysis.

The section on acculturation stress is well-articulated, but it would be enhanced by including recent studies post-2020 to capture the latest findings in this area.

. Explain how these experts were chosen and their relevance to the study's focus on international students.

The use of Lawshe's table is appropriate, but include the actual CVR and CVI scores for each item to demonstrate the validity process comprehensively.

The alignment of findings with previous studies is good. However, discuss any discrepancies or unique findings that emerged from your study compared to existing literature.

The challenges related to language proficiency and lack of academic resources are well-documented. Suggest specific strategies or interventions that universities can implement to mitigate these issues.

The discussion on cultural differences is thorough. However, include more on the role of peer mentoring programs in facilitating cultural adaptation among international students.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The citation of Mbous et al. (2024) appears to be a future publication. Please verify the accuracy and availability of this reference to ensure the credibility of your claims.

The increase in international student enrollment from 2 million in 2000 to 4 million in 2016 is significant. However, more recent data should be included to reflect trends up to the knowledge cutoff in October 2023.

The rationale for choosing phenomenology is clear, but please elaborate on how this approach specifically addresses the research questions. Include a brief discussion on alternative methodologies considered.

The description of data collection methods mentions open-ended questions and in-depth interviews. Please provide sample questions or an interview guide in the appendix to enhance transparency.

The validation process mentions 10 psychologists, but it lacks detail on their selection

The financial burdens on international students are highlighted effectively. Incorporate a comparison of scholarship opportunities across different host countries to provide a broader perspective.

The difficulties in visa processes are mentioned. Provide more detail on specific administrative barriers and propose potential policy changes that could alleviate these issues.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.