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Adjustment problems faced by international students in South Africa

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Abstract

The aim of the study was to assess the challenges faced by international students in South Africa. The study was conducted at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. There were 14 international students who participated in the study. Of these, 6 were male and 8 were female. The study was qualitative in nature. An interview schedule was used to interview participants. Thematic content analysis was used to analyse data. The results showed that international students in South Africa faced adjustment challenges relating to: reasons for choosing to study in South Africa, first settling in experiences, financial constraints, registration process, language problems, visa application and immigration laws, cultural differences, diversity, discrimination, academic challenge, homesickness, social support, institutional assistance and how they handled the challenges to cope with the prevailing situation in South Africa. Future studies should thus focus on finding effective ways to improve the adjustment process for international students in South Africa.