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Life Raft Australia?

CALD Students: increasing numbers at Australian universities over the past 10 years. Many are...
- coming with expectations to succeed;
- coming with dispirit schooling backgrounds;
- coming lacking English as a first language.

CALD STUDENTS often find "making it alone" in the Australian university context - a struggle at best and at worst an impossibility!

Some universities are trying to bridge this gap.

University of Tasmania
Bridging the Gap:
Australian universities are now developing support programs, including those to assist with the demands of academic English.

UTAS provides both individual appointments with senior staff and drop in assistance from trained student mentors.

Academic English difficulties for CALD students:
Practical difficulties understanding a lecture:
- the speed of the talk, the accent and intonation, the peppering of purely Australian colloquial phrases, the complex theoretical terminology.

Extent structure of 1st language diverges from English:
- essay writing is a main form of assessment at Aust unis;
- English essay structure: main point first, then add

1. Acknowledge cultural diversity and divergence from Australian expectations of Academic English.
2. Prepare CALD students for rigors of academic study with entry requirement of IELTS 6-7.
3. Ensure fully adequate ongoing academic writing/study skills support is provided to CALD university students.

Academic English proficiency - CALD university students, as domestic students, for equity reasons, have NO English language requirements!

Recommendations for Success
1. Acknowledge cultural diversity and divergence from Australian expectations of Academic English.
2. Prepare CALD students for rigors of academic study with entry requirement of IELTS 6-7.
3. Ensure fully adequate ongoing academic writing/study skills support is provided to CALD university students.

Assignment questions misunderstood - literally interpreted in strict grammatical form, without understanding the nuances of key words and phrases.

Plagiarism - resulting from lack of writing proficiency + culturally valuing the words of the expert.

ABSTRACT
NO. 1AY0062

UTAS provides both individual appointments with senior staff and drop in assistance from trained student mentors.

International Students studying at Australian universities - entry requirement between IELTS 6 & 7.
Skilled Migrant entry to Australia at least IELTS 6 [minimum for successful workplace communication].

1999-2000
- humanitarian immigrants = 7,267
- migration program immigrants = 52,377
(Hugo, Rudd & Harris, 2001, p.31)

2008-2009
- humanitarian immigrants = 13,507
- migration program immigrants = 171,318
(Australian Government Department of Immigration Services, 2009, p.33)

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CALD = Culturally and linguistically diverse