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Report on an Outbound Program in the Field of Nursing



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This report outlines an outbound programme conducted at Hong Kong Polytechnic University in the academic year 2016 after the Faculty of Health and Welfare, Okayama Prefectural University, concluded an academic student exchange agreement with the School of Nursing, Hong Kong Polytechnic University in the academic year 2015. Okayama Prefectural University subsequently endorsed this programme as accredited subjects for graduation.

Background

A survey conducted at the beginning and the end of the year 2016 examined the change in beliefs among first-year Okayama Prefectural University students about learning English after finishing one year of English program conducted on campus. The first-year students were asked to complete a questionnaire with 31 statements in the classroom. A four-point Likert-scale was used to record the students' responses, indicating the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with the statements.

Compared with similar data collected at the beginning of the year, the students'

responses collected at the end of the year indicated a significant difference in response to the statements such as "I'm studying English so that I can understand English lectures and write academic papers" and "I'm studying English just because it's a required subject". According to the in-house survey, students showed a less active inclination toward studying general English, but at the same time expressed a greater wish to study English because of their subject field. As the students became accustomed to college life, their interest in content learning increased, and most of them lost their motivation to learn general English. Thus, it was assumed that their motivation to learn English would be enhanced if they were exposed to field-specific English. The results of the 2016 follow-up survey (Takahashi, Sugimura, Kazahaya) imply that it is essential to introduce a special programme (study-abroad programmes and field-specific lectures or practice sessions) for improving student motivation to learn English, otherwise they may begin to lose interest. This report provides the details of such an outbound programme that focused on nursing English.

Programme

The 2016 Okayama Prefectural University outbound programme was conducted at the School of Nursing, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong. This programme was to serve as a pilot to determine if it would eventually work as a fully accredited program. After on-line

Okayama Prefectural University One-Week Outbound Exchange Programme	
Monday, September 19, 2016	
AM	Lecture 1: Nursing curriculum and nursing education in Hong Kong
	Lecture 2: Introduction to student clinical placement and practice in Hong Kong
	Campus tour
Noon	Lunch meeting with staff members of School of Nursing
PM	Visit 1: Simulation programme on aging
Tuesday, September 20, 2016	
AM	Workshop: Personal protective equipment practice
PM	Lecture 3: The philosophy of traditional Chinese medicine
Wednesday, September 21, 2016	
AM	Visit 2: Hong Kong Museum of History & Hong Kong Science Museum
PM	Visit 3: Nursing homes in Hong Kong
Thursday, September 22, 2016	
AM	Visit 4: Hospitals for convalescent patients
PM	Visit 5: Housing Society Elderly Resources Centre
Friday, September 23, 2016	
AM	Workshop: Introduction to Aromatherapy and Integrative Health Clinic
PM	Evaluation of the exchange programme and sharing session



accommodation and the flight.

Thanks to the exchange agreement with Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Okayama Prefectural University did not have to pay the tuition fees.

Grants from the university: Each student was provided 30,000 yen by the university.

Accommodation: Students stayed at a hotel close to the university.

Chaperones: Two teachers from Okayama Prefectural University (one from general Education and the other from nursing) accompanied the students to determine whether the pilot programme was helpful.

Students' comments

On the final day, the participating students were asked to give a presentation about (1) the Japanese nursing system and (2) what they have learnt and felt during this outbound programme. The audience included the staff of School of Nursing, some nursing students from Hong Kong Polytechnic University, and the chaperones from Okayama Prefectural University. The

discussion was conducted several times, a detailed schedule was constructed and organized by the staff of the School of Nursing, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong. Details of the dates, participants, fees, accommodation, chaperones, and schedule were as follows.

Dates: September 19, 2016 to September 23, 2016.

Participants: One graduate student and two undergraduate students majoring in nursing science.

Fees: Students had to pay for the



students were also requested to complete an evaluation sheet prepared by the School of Nursing, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong. All the participants were satisfied with the programme, particularly because they could comprehend the content of the classes and were fully involved in observation at the sites they visited. They also felt that they needed to increase their language proficiency.

Although they could understand the content, they could not express what they thought or felt in English. One student commented that she got full marks in a written quiz in one class and she was awarded a prize. Although she wanted to say that she had learned the content previously and comprehended the whole, all she could say was just "I'm happy." Afterwards, she mentioned that she was frustrated with her poor English skills and therefore decided to study English harder.

Teachers' Comments

Two teachers audited some lectures and joined in all the visits. The teachers perceived that the students comprehended the content, but that they could not make themselves understood because of poor

productive English skills. This was also confirmed by the students' comments.

Conclusion

In short, the results of this outbound programme indicate that increased opportunities for using all four English skills in actual content-based interactive programs might be beneficial in renewing student motivation to learn English.

Reference

- Takahashi, S., Sugimura, A, & Kazahaya, Y. (2016). *Change in 2016 Okayama Prefectural University first-year students' beliefs in learning English*. OPU Forum, Okayama Prefectural University.