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# Experiential Learning in Student Integration And Support

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## Abstract

Universities face challenges with integrating international students. Haaga-Helia UAS RDIL project INTEGRA: Low threshold support for Porvoo campus international students seeks to create new practices for student integration. The objective is to create sustainable services to support student integration. The project implements experiential learning in designing and carrying out project activities. The project has created services based on results of benchmarking, and qualitative semi-structured company and student interviews and workshops. Fifteen local companies were interviewed, and the results show the workforce is not multicultural and knowledge of Finnish is vital. The student interviews and workshops reached 58 students and revealed that most help is need in arrival, learning the local practices, and many prefer not to mix with locals. The benchmarking resulted in an internship programme. The objective of the programme was to design and implement activities and support services. The activities arranged were e.g. pop-up hour consultation, information package, communication channel, career events. Also, a networking and career design course was designed and implemented. Porvoo campus has 1200 students of which 15% foreigners. The results of the actions are positive: The communication channel reached 94 followers by November 2025 (50%). There were 51 pop-up consultation contacts. The career events attracted 81 students (45%) and 15 companies. The networking and career design course's NPS score was 8.5 and the feedback 4.3/5. Initiatives created have reached the target audience. The workload of academic advisors has been alleviated. Now, the project is identifying feedforward to establish long lasting support services.

**Keywords:** higher education, foreign degree students, low threshold support, RDIL, university-industry cooperation