

DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

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ABSTRACT

This exploratory study is concerned with the acculturation of foreign students at De La Salle University. It tries to determine the students' acculturation process with respect to their preparations, perceptions, expectations, adjustment difficulties, peer group influence and plans after graduation. Subsequently, the study explored the conformity of the process to the acculturation model of Adler.

The study utilized non-probability sampling, specifically, purposive sampling. There were 30 subjects, 15 of which were Filipino-Americans, while the remaining 15 were nationals of other countries. They were chosen regardless of age, sex, nationality, and course. An interview schedule was utilized to gather data. Answers to the open ended questions were categorized after which frequencies were obtained.

The results showed that a majority of the students perceived the country to be a tropical island paradise. Most of their expectations which were similar to their perceptions were not met. The major difficulties encountered by these selected foreign students were the lack of knowledge of Tagalog, health & food, loneliness & homesickness, making friends, and difference in lifestyles. The Filipino-American and western students encountered more problems than those students from the Asian region especially concerning differences in lifestyles. Their Filipino friends played a significant role in their adjustment process. Basically, all have adopted, in some ways, some Filipino values such as hospitality and friendliness. After graduation, most intend to leave the country. Either to go back to their home countries or go to another country. In the conceptual framework, they have gone through the process as explained by Adler though there is a slight modification wherein they skipped the alienation stage and immediately went to the acceptance stage.

