

**Today's Chinese Student: Cultural Insights for Better Integration**  
**December 4, 2012 NAFSA Webinar**

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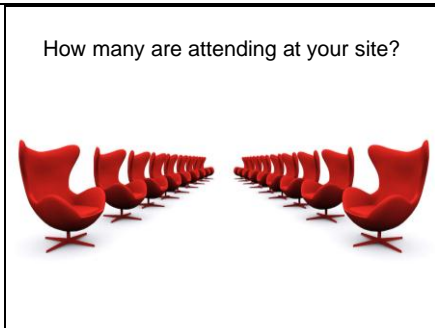
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**NAFSA Webinar Series:**  
**Today's Chinese Student**

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# Today's Chinese Student: Cultural Insights for Better Integration

## December 4, 2012 NAFSA Webinar

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**NAFSA Webinar Series:**  
**Today's Chinese Student**

*Coming Next:*  
**Understanding the U.S. Classroom, April 4, 2013**



**Jeff Lindgren**  
Assistant Director,  
Center for Teaching  
and Learning  
University of Minnesota



**Scott Stevens, PhD**  
Director,  
English Language Institute  
University of Delaware

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**Today's Chinese Student:**  
**Cultural Insights for**  
**Better Integration**

**NAFSA 2012**  
**Webinar Series**  
December 4, 2012  
3 pm Eastern

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**NAFSA Webinar Series:**  
**Today's Chinese Student**



**Peter Briggs**  
Director, Office of  
International Students  
and Scholars  
Michigan State University



**Jayme Harpring, PhD**  
Adjunct Instructor and  
Research Associate  
Florida State University



**Yenbo Wu, PhD**  
Associate Vice President,  
International Programs  
San Francisco State  
University

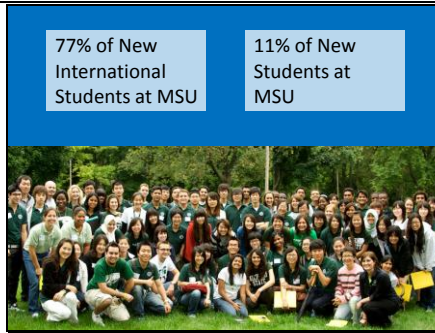
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**Michigan State's Total**  
**Undergraduate Chinese**  
**Enrollment is 2,845**



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**Audience Poll**

Approximately what percentage of your international students are from China?

- A. More than 75%
- B. 50 – 75%
- C. 25 – 50%
- D. 10 – 25%
- E. Less than 10%

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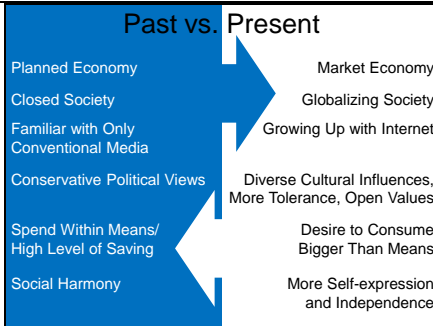
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Market-Driven Economy

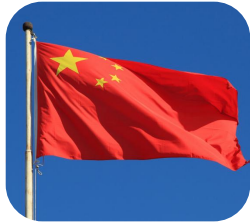
Cultural  
Shift



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New Nationalism

Cultural  
Shift



Slide 19

Changes in Academic Focus

Cultural  
Shift



Slide 20

Media and New Information

Cultural  
Shift



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### Chinese Worldview

- Avoidance of conflict
- Acceptance of hierarchy
- Respect for elders and authority
- Relationship to the group
- Formality, indirectness and the importance of "saving face"

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### Today's Agenda



- Today's Chinese Student
- Intercultural Adjustment and Communication**
- Guiding Principles

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### Intercultural Adjustment

- ✓ Well-being
- ✓ Fitting in
- ✓ Preservation of identity



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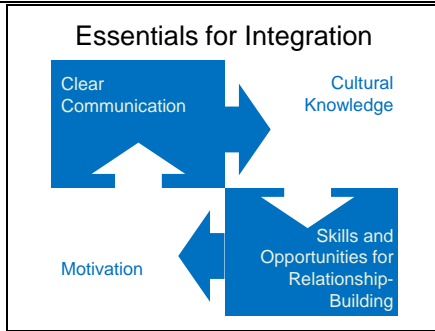


Domestic

International

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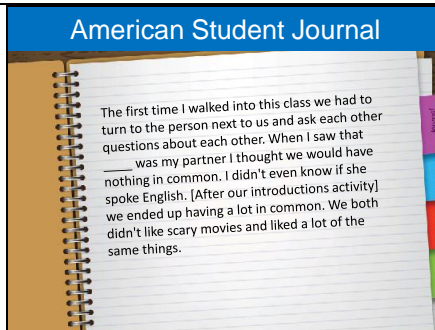
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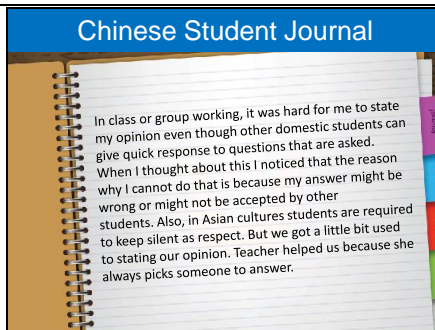
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### Keys to Intercultural Competence



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### Differences in Communication Reflect Cultural Differences

- Avoidance of conflict
- Acceptance of hierarchy
- Respect for elders and authority
- Relationship to the group
- Formality, indirectness and the importance of "saving face"

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### Chinese Student Journal

Asian people value their face and feel ashamed to ask questions. We are high context culture and understand via observation. We value harmony and always to help others to save their face as well. But in US culture they tend to express themselves in a direct way. Why I can express some of my feelings in English but not in Chinese? For example, I cannot say, "I love you" in Chinese to anyone, including Mom and Dad, and even "I like you" is seldom used by myself. But I can easily say these in English.

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### Don't Underestimate Chinese Students' Fears of...

- Prejudice
- Forbidden ideas and experiences
- Psychological betrayal of own country and values



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### Intercultural Communication

**Verbal:**

- Fluency
- Taboo Subjects
- Humor
- Metaphors
- High vs. Low Context

**Nonverbal:**

- Eye Contact
- Physical Distance
- Time
- Gestures/Posture/Touch
- Silence

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### We want a welcoming and inclusive campus for all students.



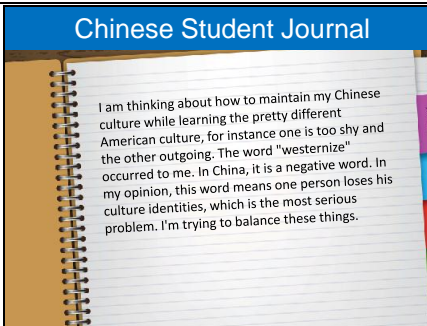
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### Questions to Consider When Advising a Student

- How am I making sense of this interaction?
- How is the student making sense of this interaction?
- What cultural gaps or differences is the student facing?
- What is the best path to answering the student's questions, clearing up confusions, and finding connections?

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### Chinese Student Journal



I am thinking about how to maintain my Chinese culture while learning the pretty different American culture, for instance one is too shy and the other outgoing. The word "westernize" occurred to me. In China, it is a negative word. In my opinion, this word means one person loses his culture identities, which is the most serious problem. I'm trying to balance these things.

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**To Submit a Question...**

- Click on 'General Chat' on the menu bar.
- Type your question in the upper section and then click 'Send.'

*Submitted questions will be answered verbally as time allows.*

**Q & A**

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**Today's Agenda**



- Today's Chinese Student
- Intercultural Communication
- Guiding Principles

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**Who on campus is responsible for the Chinese students?**



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**Everyone! The entire campus needs to own it.**



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We want a welcoming and inclusive campus for all students.



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**Guiding Principle #1**



Begin with  
Leadership  
and Teamwork

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**Guiding Principle #2**



Provide  
Comprehensive  
Student  
Orientation

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**Guiding Principle #3**




Connect  
Students  
to Support  
Services

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Guiding Principle #4



Collaborate with Students

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Guiding Principle #5



Promote and Celebrate Culture and Diversity

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Guiding Principle #6



Connect All Students

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Guiding Principle #7




Support Faculty and Staff

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Guiding Principle #8



Engage with the Community

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Guiding Principle #9



Communicate to Build Trust

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Guiding Principle #10



Be Proactive and Responsive

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teamwork support  
decision strategy  
ethic vision integrity  
**Leadership**  
contribution communication  
motivation influence  
responsibility

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**Peter Briggs**  
Director, Office of  
International Students  
and Scholars  
Michigan State University



**Jayme Harpring, PhD**  
Adjunct Instructor and  
Research Associate  
Florida State University



**Yenbo Wu, PhD**  
Associate Vice President,  
International Programs  
San Francisco State  
University

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