

# Experience of Chinese Students at Rutgers University

- Understanding Challenges and Creating Effective Academic Support

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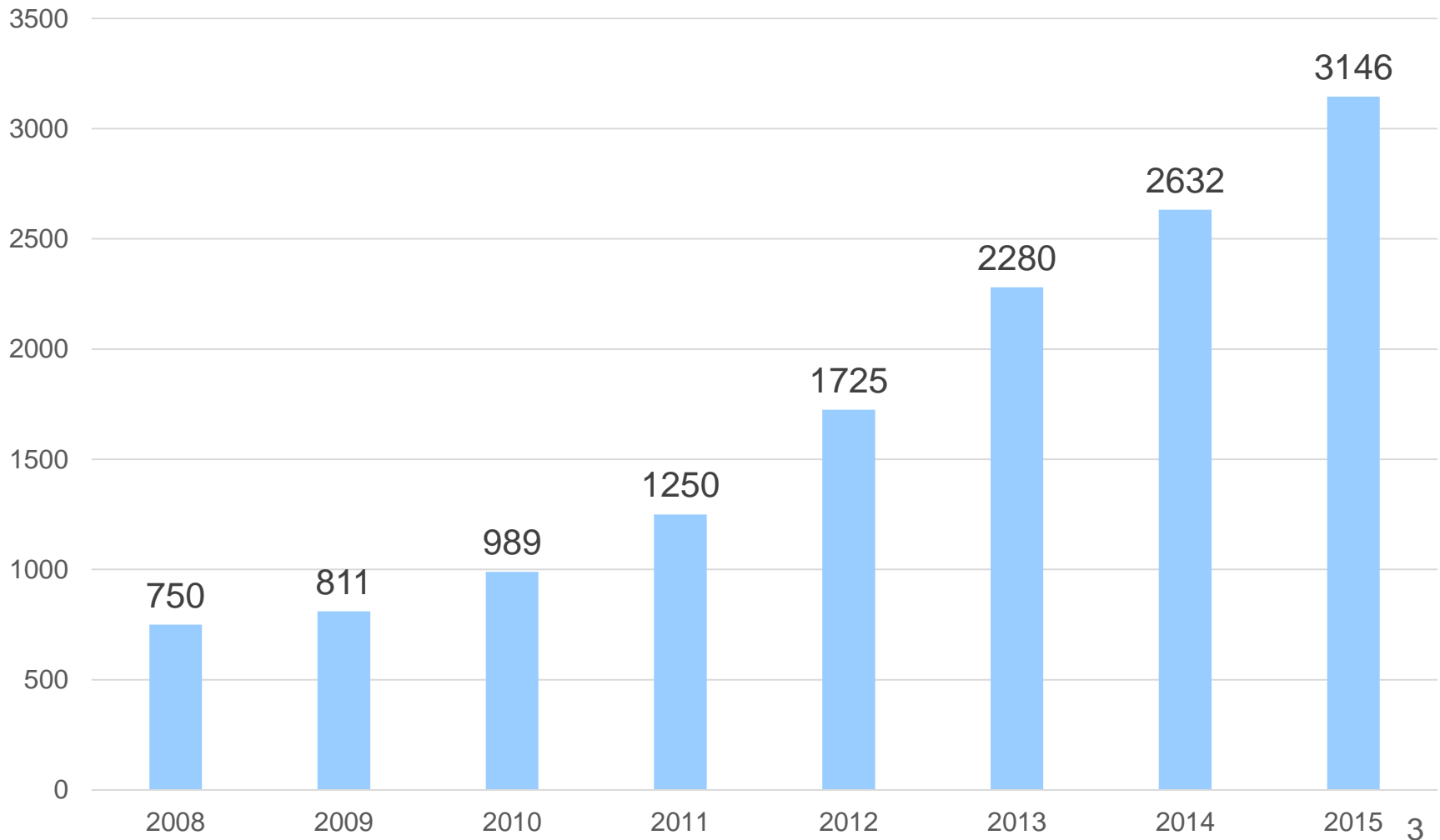
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# Overview of Rutgers China Engagement

- B.A. and M.A.T in Chinese, Graduate Certificate in Asian Studies – Department of Asian Languages and Cultures
- 60+ MOUs with Chinese institutions
- 3,700 Chinese students, and 500 visiting scholars at Rutgers
- Rutgers China Office
- Rutgers Confucius Institute
- Active research collaborations with Chinese colleagues
- Huamin Research Center
- Rutgers Center for Chinese Studies

## Total Chinese Students at Rutgers (by fall registration)



## **Rutgers University – New Brunswick Chinese Students Survey**

April, 2016

A 60-question survey was emailed to Chinese students, covering the following topics:

- ❖ Demographic information
- ❖ Academic experience in & outside of class
- ❖ Multicultural experience
- ❖ Career experience
- ❖ Other issues

Out of 1,007 responses, 792 are completed. The response pool mainly includes 388 undergraduate students, 240 graduate master's students, and 164 graduate doctorate students.

## Highlights of Survey Results – Pre-Arrival Information

- Among the services known before enrolling in Rutgers, only 35.7% of undergraduates, 34.6% of graduates, and 15.1% of PhD students know some information about the medical insurance.
- Only 27.5% of undergraduates, 31.3% of graduates, and 37.6% of PhD students are familiar with the insurance benefits.
- Approximately 2/3 of all students think the International Student Orientation is very useful.
- Only 19.5% of undergraduates, 9.9% of graduates, and 12.2% of PhD students were picked up by Rutgers staff.
- Ranking & Location are the top reasons for undergraduates and graduates to choose Rutgers; Location & Research program are the top reasons for PhD students to choose Rutgers.

## Highlights of Survey Results – Academic Experience

- Only 2.1% of undergraduates and 4.6% of graduates students received a scholarship.
- Approximately 70% of all students NOT always communicate well with classmates.
- More than 65% of all students NOT always communicate well with their professors.
- Most students are very confident in their English proficiency.
- Many students expressed their confusions and dissatisfaction towards the writing courses. They believe that the writing course system is too much overloaded for international students whose native language is not English. They think those courses take too much of their time and significantly distract them from their major courses. Some students indicated that international students and domestic students should not take the writing courses together.

## Highlights of Survey Results – Cultural Experience

- Many students find it is difficult to make friends other than Chinese students.
- Most students are NOT actively involved in club activities.
- Overall 40% of students have no preference of roommate, 40% of them prefer to have a Chinese roommate, and 20% of them prefer to have a domestic roommate.

## Highlights of Survey Results – Living Experience

- Approximately 30% of all students are NOT satisfied with dining hall services, and the major reason is the lack of diversity of food.
- The main issue for all students to live off campus is to find a suitable place.
- Most students are interested in learning some laws and visa information.
- 85% of undergraduates and 73% of graduates do NOT have an on-campus job; more than 50% of PhD students have an on-campus job because most of them work as a teaching assistant.



## Highlights of Survey Results – Career Experience

- Most students do NOT have an internship opportunity.
- Most students believe that legal restrictions, lack of experience, and poor interview and communicating skills hinder them to find a job/internship.
- Most students do NOT have many chances to talk to professionals.
- Only 18% of undergraduates, 16% of graduates and 17% of PhD students found the career fair was useful.
- 75% of undergraduates, 91% of graduates and 87% of PhD students expect to work in the U.S. after graduation.

# Rutgers International Academic Support Initiative

**Goal:** Institute a cohesive structure to provide effective academic support for international students

## **Gradual Approach**

Phase I: RU-NB undergraduate international students (2016-18)

Phase II: all RU undergraduate international students (2018-2020)

Phase III (IV): RU-NB/all RU graduate international students  
(2018/19 – 2020/21)

# International Academic Support Initiative

## Phase I Steps:

- (1) examine and identify the unique challenges facing international students for academic success
- (2) identify the available sources of academic support for international students already in existence
- (3) coordinate with academic service providers around campus to align their support efforts to meet the needs of international students
- (4) engage existing programs and, where needed, new ones, such that international students can more completely and rapidly integrate into the general student body

# International Academic Support Initiative

## Progress

- (1) Survey on all intl students done – 2015
- (2) Survey on Chinese students – 2016
- (3) Info gathering with key stakeholders almost completed
- (4) Initial funding from RU-NB Chancellor's Office for
  - Office of International Academic Support
  - Assistant Dean for International Academic Support
  - Three international career specialist positions under University Career Services

# International Academic Support Initiative

## Proposed Programs for Phase I:

- ❖ First-Year Acculturation Seminars for Intl Students
- ❖ Workshops on Finding Campus Jobs and Internships for Intl Students
- ❖ Intl Internship and Job Placement Services
- ❖ Head-Start Summer Program for Pre-Admitted Intl Students
- ❖ Intl Learning Center/Writing Program
- ❖ Leadership Development Programs for Intl Students
- ❖ Intl Student Speakers Series
- ❖ Intl Counseling and Psychological Services

Questions?

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