

# Global Learning: Challenges and Opportunities for Public Health Students

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# Talk Outline

1. My own experience
2. International Students studying public health in the US



# I- My Own Experience



# II- International Students Studying Public Health in the US

- Colorado School of Public health, Denver campus
  - 22 Students
    - *China: 5*
    - *India: 4*
    - *Peru, Guatemala, Mexico, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Singapore, and Japan*





# International Students Studying Public Health in the US

- 12/22 are females
- Study Programs
  - 16 Master of Public Health (MPH) students
  - 3 Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) students
  - 2 PhD students
  - 1 Certificate of Public Health student

# International Students Studying Public Health in the US

- 1 Focus group (5/5/2016):
  - 3 MPH students: Japan, China, and Turkey
- One interview (5/11/2016):
  - 1 female student from Nepal

# The Questions

1. Why did you choose to study in the US?
2. Now that you are here, what do you like about studying in the US?
3. Aside from school, what do you like about living in the US?
4. What do you miss about your home country?
5. What would improve your experience in the US?



# “Why did you choose to study in the US?”

- The US is the place to get the best education
- US universities are ranked among the highest in the world
- Because of the educational system and the culture
- “To improve my English”
- More freedom ... More independence
- The American Dream!

# “Now that you are here, what do you like about studying in the US?”

- Ease of communication between faculty and students
- Multiple career choices (42 concentration areas)
- Sharing ideas (whatever they might be) without being judged
- the Teaching style and support
- The small size classes

# “Now that you are here, what do you like about studying in the US?”...*Continued*

- The library
- The diversity of school events (seminars, etc)
- The school encourages diversity
- “I like that here in the US we feel equal”

# “Aside from school, what do you like about living in the US?”

- “The US is a very big country, and you can find whatever you are interested in; parks, beaches, mountains, etc.)
- Freedom
- People here are very friendly and are equal

# “What do you miss about your home country?”

- The food!
- The culture and how close people are
- The walkability
- Customer service
- Work/life balance
- Work/financial security

# “What would improve your experience in the US?”

- More orientation sessions before starting school
- Orientation about life in the US, not just school
- More support: housing and transportation are the obvious ones
- More social events to connect domestic and international students
- Connection with other international students
- The buddy system



# Their Advice to Newcomers...

“Make friends with other international students, they have been there before and can help you!”

First semester is always hard until you adapt to the American system, so, hang in there!

“Try to understand the people, and the culture. People here are very practical, so try to find a middle ground”

# Thank you



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