



Handout

STUDENT AND LECTURER COMMENTS

The below quotations are taken from transcripts of interviews conducted with Chinese students and staff in universities in China, and Chinese students and Australian staff in universities in Australia. The data was collected for the OLT-funded project 'Collaborating for Success' at:

<http://www.murdoch.edu.au/Research-capabilities/Collaborating-For-Success>

Lectures and seminars

1. *'She puts a lot of effort in the seminar and she is confident so ... she attracts a lot of attention from the lecturer and the lecturer is more prepared to help. ... It's not that the lecturer does not want to pay attention to other students but its more that we try to stay away from participating in discussion because of our lack of confidence with speaking.'* (Student)
2. *'I like the way lecturers encourage participation and stories.'* (Student)
3. *'If something is unclear I always have the opportunity to ask a question in class.'* (Student)
4. *'I notice students are willing to participate in class - they are good at creating discussion. It's a good way to learn because sometimes someone will say something that gives you more ideas.'* (Student)
5. *'We don't need to prepare questions, we only need to accept what the teacher taught us.'* (Student)
6. *'Every week we have a presentation topic, right? So students will do the presentation according to that topic and they will refer to the main points in the readings and everything.'* (Student)

7. *'The teachers in the university, they encourage all the students to get involved in the teaching and learning process, and they want us to exchange some ideas about the literature, and also they want us to discuss with them, what we thought of the literature and languages. And of course learning English, you cannot just be sitting there and reading books, you have to speak out.'* (Student)
8. *'We teach in a traditional way: we talk and students listen. ... students seldom give their opinions in class ... they are not used to doing so. Because in our classes, usually once a teacher starts talking, they will talk fifty minutes and leave little time for interaction between the teacher and students. ... It is almost impossible to interact in class. Time is limited and I have to complete my teaching...'* (Lecturer)
9. *'Students are told to ask teachers questions, but that the teachers will not approach them if they don't ask.'* (Lecturer)
10. *'Students will question authority very easily ... so for example, if I'm teaching a class and I say something and in fact I'm wrong, or the way I've said it comes across wrong, then a student will say "Hang on a minute, didn't you just say this which debunks what you've just said."'* (Lecturer)

Ways of studying and reading

11. *'Here ... maybe you can research something by yourself, maybe we will spend a whole afternoon or a whole day in the library to research some books.'* (Student)
12. *'In my major I seldom entered the library to search for something. All I needed to do was just open the book and find the result.'* (Student)
13. *'We have many group work assignments ... and we learn to cooperate with others and how to collect information from other students and how to prepare... So we need to learn how to present and prepare in a group.'* (Student)
14. *'Sometimes the students like me just want the right answers.'* (Student)
15. *'A lot of teachers maybe use chapters or articles in some teaching materials, but without references.'* (Student)

16. *'Students will arrive to start on a masters program with established knowledge of how to structure an essay, write an argument, read dense academic texts, note-take, understand academic integrity.'* (Lecturer)
17. *'I think here we always remember things but it is not like in the previous way. We remember things to apply the knowledge into the practice or into the exam or into the essay. It is another way to remember.'* (Student)
18. *'My old way is just listening, not writing something. ... Before I always had confidence to think; I listen and then I can remember.'* (Student)
19. *'We never can discuss in class, and all we need to do is just remember what teacher told us and remember the concepts, the formulas and then it's okay.'* (Student)

Assessment

20. *'So I was expecting the teacher would tell me what to do, which book to read, which paragraph you should remember to pass the exam, and that's the failure [problem]. After I come here, the teacher tells you "you have to read this, this, this and this, and maybe one of them will be in the exam, maybe not", so sometimes I feel very... confused.'* (Student)
21. *'In most cases the final exam is decisive. As long as we pass 50 percent, we can pass. So, some students never attended even one class and they just reviewed the last few weeks and they also passed.'* (Student)
22. *'No matter what courses they were, the teachers would give us the test contents from which the test questions would be chosen.'* (Student)
23. *'I studied extremely hard to prepare for the national entrance examination for universities. We studied from dawn to late night every day. But when I entered the university, I totally relaxed because there was no more pressure. I remember I had lectures every day but I didn't do any revision. Only in the half month before the examinations would I begin reading textbooks and borrow lecture notes from other students to have a look.'* (Student)
24. *'I really felt a great pressure when I came here. I feel if I do not work hard, I will not finish the assignments at all.'* (Student)

25. Feedback: *'I will point out which part is good and which part still needs improving. I will explain and clarify the common mistakes they made in class. Of course, my comments mostly focus on good examples. Positive comments give students confidence and motivation.'* (Lecturer)
26. Marking: *'I give the excellent ones 95% because I can tell these students have good attitudes to their work as well as their opinions. I give 90% to the ones who spend much time reading references and submit a tidy and neat work but still they lack thinking. 85% means average, and 80% will be given to those with comparatively bad work.'* (Lecturer)
27. *'There are not standard assessment criteria for postgraduate students, and it is mainly left to the discretion of the supervisors'.* (Lecturer)
28. *'If a student does not submit an assignment but scores high in the exam, he or she will be okay.'* (Lecturer)
29. *'I try to stick to the assessment criteria when I mark, I try to be really strict about that.'* (Lecturer)
30. *'I think the big thing is to try and encourage the students to speak up and one of the ways that I do that is that when I give back assignments, early assignments in the semester, it's not just hand out to everybody, it's talk to each person individually so that I can encourage them to come and ask for more help if they want to.'* (Lecturer)

The role of the lecturer/lecturer

31. *'I think an effective teacher should not only teach us knowledge but also teach us how to become a better person. I think if a teacher can give guide in students' life and he also can motivate students to study actively, then he must be an effective teacher.'* (Student)
32. *'I like the teachers who are very passionate about what they teach... they can use simple language or their actions to deliver the knowledge and make their students to willingly accept.'* (Student)
33. *'Teachers should be open and promote free thinking.'* (Student)
34. *'Students must be obedient. And teachers are the centre of the teaching, and the centre of the classroom, they are the authority.'* (Student)