

THE LIVED EXPERIENCE OF ASIAN INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
IN ONLINE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Meeaeng Ko Park

Dr. Gail Fitzgerald, Dissertation Supervisor

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to develop an inductive, comprehensive understanding of Asian international students' lived experience in online learning environments. A descriptive phenomenological method was used and ten Asian international students described the experiences that stood out for them in online learning environments.

Phenomenological analysis revealed seven themes emerged. *Language barrier* reflects how the participants' language barrier shaped their experience. *Relationships/interactions* reflects how the relationships/interactions with teachers and classmates affected their learning in an online learning environment. *Influence of cultural background* reflects how the participants' cultural background affected their learning. *Benefits from online learning environment* conveys how online learning environments were of advantage to the participants. *Downside of online learning environment* categorizes the disadvantages and frustration the participants perceived regarding the online learning environment. *Teachers in online learning environments* reflects how the participants perceived roles and qualities of teachers in online learning environments. *Suggestions* conveys the participants' suggestions to enhance the online learning environment based on their own experience.