

April's Journey (Video)

Focus Group

Time:	2:00p.m – 6:00p.m Wednesday 17 June 2009
Place:	Room 513, Teaching Building, CUFE, China
Participants:	48 students – 2007 intake from classes A, B, C and D
Facilitators:	Gao Cui Ming (Christina), Wang Lu Ying
Method:	Discussing and answering questions while watching the video

Qualitative responses from students

Part 1

Part 1 of the video is about a Chinese student's studying life in VU and the difficulties and ways of studying abroad. It makes me see my shortcomings and set some plans to study English. I should not be afraid of difficulties but challenge myself and be brave; never give up. I should try my best; be self-thinking and self-studying; be independent. "I am not alone".

It teaches me to be patient and work hard. Studying abroad is not as simple as we think. No matter how hard our life is, we should struggle and go through the troubles.

What kind of difficulties might it help you to overcome?

- Language is the first barrier; I am nervous about English.
- There are too many pressures, assignments and too much competition.
- Perhaps I can overcome everything.
- Living alone, studying by myself; loneliness; homesickness; environment and cultural problems.
- I need to think and do by myself; never give up and take care of myself.
- It is a guide for cooperating with other students.

Quiz

Why are these questions here?

- Everybody could meet with these difficulties.
- Language barrier, homesickness.
- As a foreigner, life in a strange country is very difficult.
- Because we have cultural gap and culture diversity.
- We don't adapt to the new environment and don't contact with others.

Part 2

In Part 2 of the video April shares her happiness and we see her change as she becomes accustomed to life during her time studying in Australia. She finds she can handle everything in her new life and “One’s sky is not always rainy”.

At the end “Sunshine is in the sky.” Life will come become beautiful. April has grown up, adjusted to her new life and become more independent. She has no regrets, is happy and enjoys life with her new VU classmates.

The video might help me overcome the language barrier and understand communication and cultural differences. It may help me understand difficulties integrating with others and help us get along with local people. We should work hard and when we come across problems, we shouldn’t give up. We can learn to adjust to a new environment and live in VU.

The video gives me confidence and encouragement to try to learn another culture. It shows me the importance of communication, listening and speaking, self-study, searching information, teamwork and friendship.

We should contact others when we have problems because we can help each other.

Is the video too long?

48 students:

Yes	No	No answer	Just so so
8	25	11	4

April's Journey Face to Face Interview

Time: 8:00a.m - 9:50a.m Monday 22 June 2009
2:00p.m - 3:50p.m Monday 22 June 2009
10:10a.m - 12:00a.m Friday 26 June 2009
2:00p.m - 3:50p.m Friday 26 June 2009

Place: Room 504, 505, 509, Teaching Building, CUFE

Interviewees: 43 – 2007 intakes from class C and D, only 24 watched the videos

Interviewer: Gao Cui Ming (Christina)

Good points

- The video is well produced.
- The beginning is especially good, thunder storm has deep meaning.
- It reflects the student's real life.
- It is very close to student's life.
- I was very happy and excited to see the video.