

Est.  
1841

YORK  
ST JOHN  
UNIVERSITY

O'Dea, Xianghan (2021) Perceptions of Chinese Top-up Students Transitioning through a Regional UK University: A Longitudinal Study Using the U-Curve Model. In: : ICERI002 2021 : International Conference on Education Research and Innovation, December 13-14, 2021, Rome, Italy.

Downloaded from: <https://ray.yorks.ac.uk/id/eprint/5545/>

Research at York St John (RaY) is an institutional repository. It supports the principles of open access by making the research outputs of the University available in digital form. Copyright of the items stored in RaY reside with the authors and/or other copyright owners. Users may access full text items free of charge, and may download a copy for private study or non-commercial research. For further reuse terms, see licence terms governing individual outputs. [Institutional Repository Policy Statement](#)

# RaY

Research at the University of York St John

For more information please contact RaY at [ray@yorks.ac.uk](mailto:ray@yorks.ac.uk)

## Perceptions of Chinese Top-up Students Transitioning through a Regional UK University: A Longitudinal Study Using the U-Curve Model

**Authors :** Xianghan O'Dea

**Abstract :** This article argues an urgent need to better understand the personal experiences of Chinese top-up students studying in the UK since the number of Chinese students taking year-long top-up programmes in the UK has risen rapidly in recent years. This lack of knowledge could potentially have implications for the reputation of some UK institutions and also the attractiveness of the UK higher education sector to future international students. This longitudinal study explored the academic and social experiences of twelve Chinese top-up students in a UK institution in-depth and revealed that the students felt their experiences were influenced significantly by their surrounding contexts at the macro and meso levels, which, however, have been largely overlooked in existing research. This article suggests the importance of improving the communications between the partner institutions in China and the UK, and also providing sufficient pre-departure and after arrival support to Chinese top-up students at the institutional level.

**Keywords :** articulation agreements, Chinese top-up students, top-up programmes, U-curve

**Conference Title :** ICERI002 2021 : International Conference on Education Research and Innovation

**Conference Location :** Rome, Italy

**Conference Dates :** December 13-14, 2021