

**COLLEGE AND STUDENT ACTIVITIES AT VARIOUS
COLLEGES IN OXFORD UNIVERSITY: SOME LESSONS
TO UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN MALAYSIA**

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ABSTRACT

This paper attempts to study on various colleges' student activities, via a visiting survey deriving observation through informal interview and questionnaire collection in Oxford University. Field research was conducted in St. Cross College, Christ Church College, Jesus College, Nuffield College, Somerville College and St. Anthony's College during the 15 days visit. With the increasing awareness on the goal of Centre for Students Advancement, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) to develop and produce wholesome graduates physically, spiritually, emotionally and intellectually balanced and are able to master knowledge, we have designed the research framework for the visit according to the objectives set by the university with the theme "Appreciating Similarities, Embracing Differences". From the survey, we analyze what is the best practice among the colleges. The analysis will mainly depend on the outcome of what the administrator, tutor and student perceive towards the college student activities. This paper discusses the college administration from different point of view, illustrates the needs of comparison for betterment from different perspective. A goal of this research was to introduce a more objective methodology focusing on the wellness of the residential college student activities management system as an alternative and more sustainable approach for benchmarking analysis. The main purpose of this program is to produce graduates who will accept lifelong learning and knowledge accumulation, who are able to adapt to the exigencies of life in various contexts through holistic learning, who are competitive as well as marketable both locally and in the internationally. The group consists of 3 bright students. This project is

completely funded and sponsored by the Centre for Students Advancement of UKM.

Keywords: Mobility Outbound, Residential College Student Activities, Comparative Study, student-exchange programme

ABSTRAK

Kertas ini cuba mengkaji pelbagai aktiviti-aktiviti pelajar kolej melalui satu lawatan tinjauan berdasarkan pemerhatian melalui temu duga yang tidak rasmi serta kajian soal selidik di Universiti Oxford. Kajian medan telah dijalankan di St. Cross College, Christ Church College, Jesus College, Nuffield College, Somerville College dan St. Anthony's College semasa 15 hari melawat. Seiring dengan peningkatan kesedaran terhadap matlamat Pusat Perkembangan Pelajar (PPP) UKM iaitu untuk membentuk dan melahirkan graduan yang seimbang dari aspek jasmani, emosi, rohani dan intelek yang dapat menguasai ilmu dan kompetensi generik, suatu rangka kerja penyelidikan untuk lawatan menurut kepada objektif-objektif yang ditetapkan oleh universiti telah dirangka dengan tema "Menghargai Persamaan, Berdakap Perbezaan". Hasil kajian ini akan dapat membantu pihak Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia menambahbaik pengurusan aktiviti pelajar di UKM agar lebih sistematik dan berkesan dengan memberi fokus kepada aktiviti pelajar demi untuk memantapkan lagi pengurusan aktiviti pelajar di UKM agar lebih berkesan dan sistematik. Matlamat project ini adalah untuk membina komuniti yang berintelektual di kalangan mahasiswa/i UKM khususnya penghuni Kolej Ibrahim Yaakub melalui aktiviti penyelidikan di luar negara demi melahirkan graduan global yang berintelektual di UKM. Tujuan utama program ini adalah untuk melahirkan graduan yang boleh menggarap pembelajaran sepanjang hayat melalui program pembudayaan ilmu, dapat mengadaptasi pengalaman kehidupan dalam pelbagai konteks melalui pembelajaran secara menyeluruh dan berdaya saing di pasaran kebangsaan dan antarabangsa. Kumpulan mengandungi 3 pelajar pintar. Projek ini ditaja sepenuhnya oleh PPP, UKM.

Kata kunci: Mobiliti Luar, Aktiviti-aktiviti Pelajar Kolej Kediaman, Kajian Perbandingan, program pertukaran pelajar

INTRODUCTION

Student Mobility Outbound Program

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia is committed to be institution that moves ahead of society and its era in the development of a dynamic, learned and morally strong society. Its target is to emerge as an advanced knowledge centre, equipped with the requisite technology and competitiveness while upholding Bahasa Melayu as the language of knowledge, developing a dynamic society with strong moral fibre, internationalising its image and contributions for the greater good of society while generating technologies beneficial to the society. UKM Educational Goal is to produce graduates with strong leadership qualities who are confident of themselves with a strong sense of national integrity and are ethical and able to engage internationally.

The Student Mobility Outbound program provides opportunities for UKM students to expand their UKM experience with academic or co-curriculum programs and experiences offered outside Malaysia. To support this program, the Chancellor's Foundation provides travel grants to enable students to participate in student-exchange programs and conduct research. It is supervise and in-charged by the Centre for Students Advancement (PPP).

Target and Objective

Development of intellectual community among students of UKM especially residents of Ibrahim Yaakub Residential College (KIY) through research activity in overseas alongside producing UKM graduate with global intellectual. Train student as small 'Ambassador' of UKM and Malaysia generally to go overseas, promoting advantages and illustrate student life in universities in Malaysia especially UKM, at the same time encourage overseas students come over and further their education in Malaysia. Strengthening friendship between students UKM and students from universities abroad as per propositioned by Institute of Diplomacy and External Relations Malaysia.

Strengthen students' generic competency skill via research process specifically from the aspect of communicate, globalization, leadership and

lifelong learning to produce high marketability UKM graduates. Create an opportunity for UKM students to share idea and opinion with overseas students on the good and advantages of respective universities. Create an opportunity for students to carry out research with identified key elements that could be considered to be benchmarked and applied in UKM especially in terms of improving students' activity management in UKM.

Significant of Research

Oxford University is one of the best universities in the world and would set to be followed and benchmarked by other universities. This study will be focusing on students' activity management practiced in colleges in Oxford University to be applied in UKM. We looked into the implementation of activities in both varsity and compared them, especially in residential college to further stabilize students' activity management in UKM in order to shape it towards more systematic and effective.

LITERATURE REVIEW

University Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (National University of Malaysia) is recognised as one of the four research universities in Malaysia. Postgraduate programmes are managed by the Centre for Graduate Studies, which was established in 1983. The Centre offers both coursework and research-based programmes on both part time and full time basis. The Centre also collaborates with other national and international institutions of higher learning. The university adapted a collegiate system which was based on Oxford and Cambridge. UKM's goal is to be among the world's leading universities by 2018. It will rise to the challenges of globalization and multiculturalism while reinforcing our role as a national university in promoting nation-building, unity, the national language and national identity (Sharifah, 2008).

Oxford University

Oxford was the first University in the English-speaking world. Oxford's remarkable global appeal continues to grow. Students from more than a hundred and forty countries and territories make up a student population of over twenty thousand. Over a third comes from outside the United Kingdom. But it is not just longevity and global reach that mark Oxford out and give the University its special character. There is also the distinctive college and tutorial system which underpins a culture of close academic supervision and careful personal support for the outstanding students. Oxford colleges and halls of which there are more than forty also help to foster the intense interdisciplinary approach that inspires much of the outstanding research achievement of the University and makes Oxford a leader in so many fields. It is an approach especially suited to confronting many of the hugely complex challenges that face it. That is why it is believed that the greater it can make Oxford, the greater its contribution to the well-being of the world you and I share (Lord Patten, 2010). A good PhD student, he believes, is one with a good degree, bright lively eyes, and the conviction that he or she is going to change the world (Anna, 1996).

Oxford's history has been one progressive adjustment to, and engagement with, emergent forces in society. The nineteenth century saw the university move from its historical base of strength in the Church and the study of history, literature and philosophy, to the spheres of politics, government, and diplomacy and to the professions. The twentieth century has been marked at Oxford by scientific, medical, international and business studies. However, Oxford has yet to take business to its very heart. If it does so, one can foresee the new school exerting great influence with Templeton College becoming what the university chancellor, Lord Jenkins, has called "a modern All Souls with business studies in place of their more traditional learning". (Peter, 1995).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research was carried out through informal interview, questionnaire survey approach and observation:

Informal Interview

A few discussion session with administrator, tutor and student body were carried out in Oxford University according to the pre-arranged appointment set. Focus of discussion is about activities often organize in their both that university and ways of implement and managing activity on how they perceive towards the colleges' student activities. This enable comprehensive collection of ideas from different point of view, illustrates the needs of comparison for betterment from different perspective.

Questionnaire Survey

The research objectives and frame of reference was defined beforehand. The level of measurement of a variable in mathematics and statistics is a classification that was proposed in order to describe the nature of information contained within numbers assigned to objects and, therefore, within the variable. The questionnaire is divided into four (4) sections: student information, student perception on residential students' activity management system and motivating factor. Variables that are measured only nominally are also called categorical variables. The demography variables measured at a nominal level in Section 1 include gender, ethnic, age and how often do the respondents commit their time into revision. It requires a complete sampling frame, which may not be available or feasible to construct for large populations. Even if a complete frame is available, more efficient approaches may be possible if other useful information is available about the units in the population. The target respondent for questionnaire was set for only students in the colleges.

Data Collection

The study was conducted in colleges of Oxford University. Field research was conducted in 17 colleges as per permitted by the colleges administration authority.

The numbers of respondents varies in terms of undergraduate and graduate students due to the nature of the colleges. Some are undergraduate school, while some are graduate school. Generally, more undergraduate responded to our data collection.

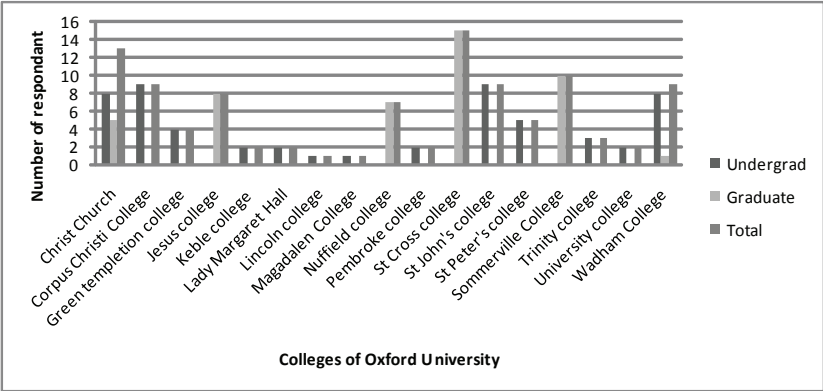


Figure 1: Profile of Respondents – Status (By Colleges)

Observation

Observation was carried out during the visit session to various places in Oxford University such as the residential college halls, meeting rooms, lounges, cafeteria and library. The visiting focused on facilities and management welfare provided to the student for the comparison of both universities.

REPORTS

Interview with Professor Andrew Goudie, Master of St. Cross College

This college is founded in 1965 and occupies a very special site in the heart of the city and the university. It has approximately 340 graduate students at one time, studying for degree of all kinds, a post-graduate college which has students from over 75 countries. At least 70% of the students are international students.

The prominent unique factor about this college is they maintain a founding tradition of sharing social facilities between Fellows, Members and Students. This gives the college a much informal atmosphere and makes it an important community of scholars who forge links across a range of subjects. Professor Andrew Goudie, the Master of the college, elaborate more on this system. The college has a Common Room, Dining Hall, Library and Sporting Facilities. These facilities have no separate high table or Senior Room. This means that everyone is equal. The students can have lunch with the Fellows thus creating a family atmosphere. During the meal times, students can share ideas with the Fellows who are professional in their own disciplinary field to help them in their thesis. This college places a lot of importance on the interaction of the students with the Members and the Fellows.

Professor Andrew is a geographer at the University of Oxford specialising in desert geomorphology, dust storms, weathering and climatic change in the tropics. He has also known for his teaching and best-selling textbooks on human impacts on the environment. He is the author, co-author, editor or co-editor of thirty-nine books and around two hundred papers published in learned journals. He has also received many awards like the Mungo Park Medal by the Royal Scottish Geographical Society in 1991. He has served as a Delegate to Oxford University Press which is a high recognition in this area. He is now currently the Master of St. Cross College but he will retire at the end of this term.

In the interview session with Professor Andrew, he reviewed what makes University of Oxford better than other universities is the emphasis of the collegiate system. Every student has a personal attention for their studies. Tutorials are done in the college and every student has one tutor. It means at any one time, one tutor will have maximum only two students. The Tutors are not Senior Students but are Fellows, Lecturers or Members who are proficient in their own disciplinary field. This will surely help the students to cope with their studies cause is one-on-one attention and the tutors can keep track on the students. Besides that, he add on saying that University of Oxford is a place whereby bright and talented students meet together to exchange ideas thus creating a very good networking opportunity.

The education system in Malaysia is more exams orientated. However in Oxford, they only have exams at the end of the 1st year and Final year. In between, students are assessed through assignments and essays. Students have to write an essay every week and the tutor will mark. The essay is about their progress on their thesis or on any findings. In short, it is a continuous evaluation then just an exam at the end of every term. Professor Andrew believes that an education system should have a combination of both. If based on assessment alone, favouritism will crop in and this will not help the students at all. For exams, students will not learn to think out of the box. The students will not learn to express their thoughts, views and ideas. According to Professor Andrew, students will learn much more when they start to think for their own and not wait to be spoon-fed.

This college has two major activities every year. The first one which is held at the beginning of the year is Fresher's Fair. This fair is for the new students who are pursuing degrees at the University of Oxford. The event runs by the students and lead by the Oxford University Student Union (OUSU). The college and university will not give them any fund so students will raise money on their own. The other major activity of this college is their Annual Ball. The Ball marks the end of the academic term which is held in June. It is an event whereby students will dress smartly and relax after a year of essays, assignments and exam. Again this event is not financially sponsored by the college or university but an admission fee is needed. The students run this activity and are freely to do whatever as long as they go over budget. Professor Andrew said that this Ball helps to boost morale and brings up the college spirit in the students.

Other activities held by this college are seminars, sports and lectures. These lectures are interdisciplinary lectures done by famous speakers or their own lecturers. These lectures are very important because students are not only obtaining ideas but exchange ideas with the speaker and also with each other. As this college has over 70 nationalities it gives a very big internationalisation prospect to the students. The students will have a contact with many other disciplines and can find the common ground between the disciplines. For example, an engineering student may share a certain common idea with a medical student.

Most of the activities are not funded by the college or university, the students usually raise fund for their own activities. However, the college injects a subsidy into the sport clubs and facilities. Sport activities here are placed with high importance therefore the money is used to buy sport equipments. Not only that, the college will also sometimes held a grand dinner for the student if a special speaker or guest visits the college. In addition, the college will hold 2 big dinners. One of the dinners is for the students to meet the Fellows and the other one is a farewell dinner for the graduating students. Besides that, the college gives 50% subsidy to the students for meals only for lunch. Every club and society can run any programme as long as they send a financial report every year. The clubs and societies need to be approved by the university and after that is free to do any activity. The only condition is that the club must have at least one Senior Member to look after the finance.

In conclusion, St. Cross College is a very small, homely community which instills on sharing social facilities amongst the students, members and fellows. This college really lives up to their motto “Ad quattuor Cardines mundi” which means “To the four corners of the Earth”. It is hope that our college back in UKM can work towards the same goals as theirs.

Interview with Sir John Harris, Head Steward and his secretary, Miss Helen of Christ Church College

The Christ Church College occupies a very special site in the heart of the city and the university and is one of the largest colleges. It has approximately 650 graduate students at one time, studying for degree and post-degree of all kinds. The breakdown of students is 450 undergraduates and 200 post-graduates. At least 50% of the post-graduate students are international students.

The researchers were fortunate to have a short little chat with Sir John Harris, Head Steward of the college and his secretary, Miss Helen. The things that make them very proud of Oxford University are the university accepts only high achievers from around the globe; the long and rich history of the university and also the luxurious buildings. They both fully support the ever so effective tutorial system in the college.

Just like other colleges, the Tutors are given accommodation so they stay in the college to be closer with the students. The Tutors in this college are on one-to-one basis. Sometimes, the students may have more than one tutor. The students are given assignments every week and they have to search for the answer by themselves first before the lecturer or tutor teaches them. This means that the students will learn to think for themselves first then to be spoon-fed by the lecturers. Tutors will correct them and then only they will have the lecture to improve. In addition to their tutorial classes, the students will organised a lot of seminars and debates. During these debates, the students can share about their ideas and the tutors will give them space to prove that their ideas are logical and right. For example, a Math student can debate that two plus two may not equals to four with his or her own reasoning and theory. In short, this gives room for students to be creative and think out of the box.

Sir John commented that even though this college has average of 650 students, the students will still bond together. It builds a small community and in this community it builds friendship, loyalty and it will last a lifetime. The graduated students will sometimes come back and help the younger generation and sometimes meet back with their Tutors. It is really like a small town whereby people will eat and live together.

Besides that, the students would not only concentrating on studying but also participating in club activities. The activities are fully funded by the college and the students are free to do what they like as long as they are not over budget. Clubs will have activities like seminars, tours, musicals and sports. The meals are also subsidised for the students by the college. Not only that, the college has its own student union. They are Junior Common Room (JCR) and Graduate Common Room (GCR). Each union has their own representatives and will take care of the student's welfare.

In conclusion, the tutorial system is a very beneficial one. It does not only helps in education but it also helps in building character. It is good that students can learn to think for themselves and not waiting to be told what to do. We also appreciate more now that for our own student union who takes care of our student's welfare.

Interview with Miss Emma-Lucy Pinchbeck, Student Representative of Christi Corpus College

Emma-Lucy Pinchbeck is the President of the Rowing Club, one of the committees in the Junior Common Room board and also actively involved in the Oxford Woman in Politic. She was kind enough to take some time to show us around the college and also explain to us how the college works and also the lifestyle as a student in the University of Oxford.

Christi Corpus is one of the oldest colleges in Oxford as it was established in 1517. In addition, it is one of the smallest colleges in Oxford. The college will only take in the most 80 undergraduates each year so it accommodates 240 undergraduates and 115 graduates. Every student is given full accommodation throughout their study here unlike other college which only offers accommodation to first years. The college also possesses excellent facilities for sport, music and drama. According to Miss Emma-Lucy, the college is proud of its reputation for sustaining academic excellence in a pleasant and tolerant atmosphere.

In her opinion, what gives Oxford University the extra edge is that academic will always comes first. The university is running through collegiate system. The students are handpicked, meaning their students are top scorers back in their own countries. Just like other colleges, this college has roughly 70% international students and this college is one of those who have students from all disciplinary studies. For each disciplinary, the college will only take in 8 students but for classic disciplinary studies will have at most 12 students. This shows that this college place priority on classic disciplinary studies. Because of this, the students can share ideas from different disciplinary thus widening their perspective and getting bigger prospects.

Just like other colleges, the tutorial system applied in the college. The Tutors are also given accommodation so they stay in the college to be closer with the students. The Tutors are on one-to-one basis or at most one-to-three students. The education system here is very different. The students are given assignments every week and they have to find out on their own first without any lectures. After that, they will submit to their Tutors and the Tutors will correct them and then only they will have the lecture to improve. In short, there is no fixed structure for the education

system. From here, we concluded that the students will learn to think for themselves and not to be spoon-fed. An average workload for a student here is 3 free essays, 2 essays exam-based and 2 commentary essays. According to Miss Emma-Lucy, students here will ask seniors or go to the library to finish their assignments. Due to peer pressure, students set very high bars for themselves and not the university. Even with so many assignments, plagiarism is unlikely to happen because each Tutor has only three students so it is very noticeable. However, students are willing to share because they cultivate the sense of trust.

As a student, just studying alone will not be healthy so likewise the college does let the student to run activities. The activities are fully funded by the college and the students are free to do what they like as long as they do not overspend. The food and accommodation is subsidised for the students. Every Friday evening, they will hold a Formal Ball which each student can bring 2 guests but it's with limited seats. This Ball is a huge dinner amongst students, Fellows, Tutors and Headmaster. The college here has a very systematic and democratic student body. Unlike other universities, the college has their own student union. They are Junior Common Room (JCR), Middle Common Room (MCR) and Senior Common Room (SCR). Each union has their own representatives and will take care of the student's welfare.

Other activities run by this college are the Tortoise Fair and The Challenge. These two activities are held every year. The Tortoise Fair is an event whereby colleges who have their mascot tortoise will come together and compete. The tortoise is out in a round vegetable patch and who's ever tortoise that comes out from the vegetable patch first will win. The challenge is a sports competition amongst Christi Corpus College of Oxford with Christi Corpus College of Cambridge. It is a one day event whereby students compete in various sports like soccer, cricket and rowing.

In conclusion, we hope we could bring the Tutor system back to UKM. It would be nice to have a one-to-one system so the students have more personal attention. Besides that, having intervarsity competition will help students to widen their prospects.

Interview with Dr Alexandria, Senior Tutor of Jesus College

This infamous Jesus College, is one of the smallest college, has approximately 530 students at one time, studying for degree of all kinds. This is a graduate and post-graduate college which has students from various parts of the world. The college has a few accommodations site but the main building can only accommodate 100 out of 340 undergraduates and 70 out of 190 graduates. The other two sites are not really far from the main building but all the students are fully accommodated throughout their time of studies. Not only that, there are bus services and students mostly use bicycles as mode of transport.

Senior Tutor, Dr Alexandria, is a History graduate. She did her post graduate studies in early-modern British History at Oxford University. On completing her doctorate in 2005 she lectured at Keble College, Oxford, before moving to St Peter's College, Oxford, to be the Deputy Registrar. She was then appointed as Research Facilitator in the Humanities Division and subsequently as Senior Development Officer for Humanities. She joined Jesus College in May 2009 to take up the full-time position of Senior Tutor, which also incorporates the roles of Tutor for Admissions and Tutor for Graduates.

Oxford University clearly emphasizes on the tutorial system. Dr Alexandria is in charge of many things. She has to run the academics, admissions and appoint tutors. She also has to plan and review the policies and strategies of the college. The chosen tutors are usually excellent in their fields and also very committed to teaching. However, students who apply to Oxford University have to undergo a grueling process of assessment test and interviews. Basically, the students will look for independent thinkers, who are proactive and creative. These are the students that will get a spot in this university.

One interesting finding about this college is their fully funded not only by the university but also by the alumni. The students can apply for scholarships or grants. The bursary will give 20% of the students of low income these scholarships. Besides that, the college rewards to students who perform well in their academic. Not only that, the college sets aside funds for students to apply a holiday grant. The reason for this grant is that students who go abroad can learn different cultures and widen their perspective. Just like other colleges, the meals are subsidised for students.

A student's life here is also very interesting. We are amazed at the fact that each undergraduate student only undergoes two exams in their university life, once in their first year and the other one at their final year. The students here are assessed mostly on their project work or essays. This helps the students to think and develop intellectually.

The students run their own activities. This college focuses more on art activities and aids them financially. Every year, they will hold an art festival featuring the student's artwork and talents. This festival is open to all including the public. Jesus College has a very active non-religious choir. The choir has competed in many competitions around the world. The college also offers sport facilities like squash courts, rugby fields and many more. Just like some of the colleges, the student union is split into two. They are Junior Common Room (JCR) and Graduate Common Room (GCR). Each union has their own representatives and will take care of their student's welfare. The welfare support given by the college is highly commendable. In conclusion, the welfare support given by the college is highly commendable.

Interview with Miss Stephanie, Academic Staff of Nuffield College

Nuffield is a graduate college of the University of Oxford specialising in Social Sciences, particularly Economics, Politics, and Sociology. It aims to provide a stimulating research-orientated environment for postgraduate students (about 75 in number) and faculty (approximately 60 academic fellows of the College). Nuffield College, which was founded in 1937, is located at the centre of Oxford.

About a third of Nuffield's fellows hold appointments at the University of Oxford as lecturers, readers or professors. The College also houses a number of young scholars who hold distinguished awards, such as British Academy post-doctoral fellowships, some senior research fellows and a group of research active emeritus & honorary fellows.

The College has been - and continues to be - the source of some of the major research developments in social science. These include the British Election Studies and the major programme of research on Social Mobility in Britain. It was the birthplace of the "Oxford School" of Industrial Relations; it pioneered the development of cost benefit

analysis for developing countries; and it has made a major contribution to the methodology of econometrics.

Most of the College's graduate students are interested in Economics, Politics or Sociology. The College also encourages interdisciplinary research which crosses the boundaries of these subjects and sometimes admits students who are interested in neighbouring disciplines such as recent social, political and economic history, social and medical statistics, medical sociology, international relations, social policy, American studies, Commonwealth history, social geography and European studies.

The activities of the College are largely funded by the College's endowment and money rose to support research projects. It receives no direct block grant from the government or from the University of Oxford. The College's financial independence means that it has a high degree of autonomy which is rare amongst social science institutions.

The College is governed under its Statutes by its academics and is led by the Warden. Today, it is very grateful for our team to have a short but meaningful conversation with one of the administration staff of Nuffield College, Miss Stephanie. She has given us a lot of information in the perspective of an academic administration staff. The most highlight of activities in Nuffield College will be the feast, ball, parties to welcome new students and students who are leaving Oxford University upon the completion of their course.

Miss Stephanie personally feels that the personal touch between the communities in Nuffield College is compulsory and wonderful. This is because the tiny community eases the effective communication in every individual of Nuffield College. In addition, the research fellows play an important role in giving guidance and advice to the students of Oxford University too. The research fellows will monitor the progression of the performance of their juniors from time to time by checking the essay with the title given to them. The nature interaction is a must in every task and assignment to be carried out throughout the learning process.

Again, these short conversations remind us that communication is important in order to produce a productive and creative community in a learning institute without taking races, religions and colour skin into consideration.

Interview with Miss Jane, Admission Staff of Somerville College

Somerville is a college for women and men. It was founded, as Somerville Hall, in 1879 to provide an opportunity for women, who at that date were excluded from membership of the University, to enter higher education in Oxford. The founders' insistence that students should not be subjected to religious tests or obligations distinguished Somerville from its Anglican counterpart, Lady Margaret Hall, and set the ethos of cultural diversity which has characterised the College till today.

Accommodation for the first twelve students was found in Walton House, which remains the administrative core of the college. For the next forty years the history of women in Oxford was one of steady infiltration, as they gradually secured admission first to lectures, then to examinations. During this period Somerville took the lead in a number of important respects. In 1894 it became the first of the five women's halls of residence to adopt the title of "college". It was the first of them to appoint its own teaching staff, the first to set an entrance examination, and the first to build a library. With the establishment in 1903 of the Mary Somerville Research Fellowship it was the first to offer women in Oxford opportunities for research.

According to Miss Jane, Somerville College's sense of identity has been fostered and perpetuated by a long and distinguished line of writers: uniquely among the colleges of Oxford and Cambridge. The truth is it has been credited with a "School of Novelists". The controversial decision to admit men was taken in 1992. As a mixed college, Somerville continues to take pride in its pioneering history, its traditions of academic excellence and public service, its scientific reputation, and its literary heritage, seeking to maintain and reinterpret for the commitment to the principle of equality of opportunity in education.

A student's academic work is their priority, and the personal academic guidance and support them to receive at Oxford is second to none. The students must meet the academic standards set in order to maintain their membership of the College. One or more College tutors will organise and oversee the students' academic work. The students are expected to work to the best of their ability, to attend all academic appointments, and to produce all required written work

punctually. Failure to do so will be reported to the College's Education Committee, which meets twice a term.

Students may encounter difficulties which affect their studies, and there are many people in college who can provide help and support. While their tutors will often be the best people to talk to in the first instance, they are also welcome to talk in confidence to the Senior Tutor, Norma MacManaway.

Teaching in Somerville College may differ which take the form of tutorials, classes, seminars, lectures, practicals, and labs, depending on respective course. Attendance at tutorials and most other teaching sessions is compulsory. Tutorial system is a good finding and a good aspect needed by their homeland university.

Interview with Miss Noa, Lecturer of St. Anthony's College

St Anthony's College is the most international of the seven all-graduate colleges of the university. This college specializes in international relations, economics, politics and history of Europe, Russia and the former Soviet states, Latin America, the Middle East, Africa and South East Asia. According to Miss Noa from Middle East who just completed her post-degree and is now lecturing in Oxford University, this college accommodates 400 students from over 67 countries. 80% of the students have languages other than English as their first language. Due to this, a very lively and rich cosmopolitan cultural environment is developed.

Even with such a diverse culture, St Anthony's College manage to create a warm family feeling, fostered by a communal dining hall and active sport clubs for rowing, cricket and football. The college also has an active Drama Club, European Film Society, College Choir and also their own News Press Club. The student's interests are represented by an elected body which is known as the Graduate Common Room (GCR). In addition, the college also has a student bar, which hosts an Open Mic Night once a term with live performances and musical arts. It also organizes several international events and other cultural gatherings.

Miss Noa feels that the system is effective for a graduate student and not for an undergraduate student. Her reason is that an undergraduate system may feel intimidated by the tutor because of the one-to-one system. She said that if they are more students under one

tutor, favouritism may occur. For an undergraduate she said it is good to be exposed to more ideas and opinions so lecturing style would be better. However, on that note she said that for a graduate student it is good to learn how to think out of the box. Therefore the tutorial system is beneficial to them. But she ended saying that this depends on the student’s personality. If they are able to adapt, then the tutorial system is a good system.

DATA ANALYSIS

Oxford University Academic College Visit Summary

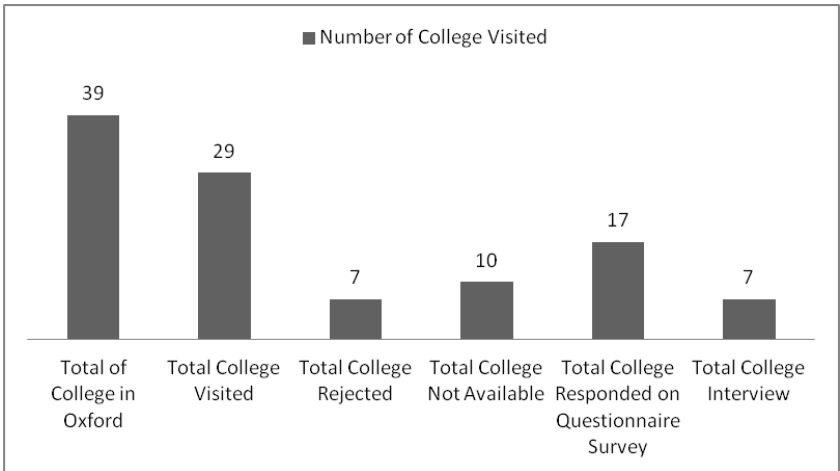


Figure 2: Oxford University Academic College visit Summary

Out of 39 colleges in Oxford, we manage to officially visit 29 of them with a welcome note by the administration authority (Fig 2). There are 7 colleges have rejected our appeal to visit due to their examination schedules are very hectic. Among them, 10 colleges were not available for us to visit during our stay in Oxford. A numbers of 17 colleges have given positive respond on the questionnaire distribution and collection approval. The data collection was done in the colleges’ compound such as garden, administration office and other public areas. A total number

of 7 colleges responded on the informal interview request and has given good hospitality during the interview session being done.

Frequent of Daily Revision Survey

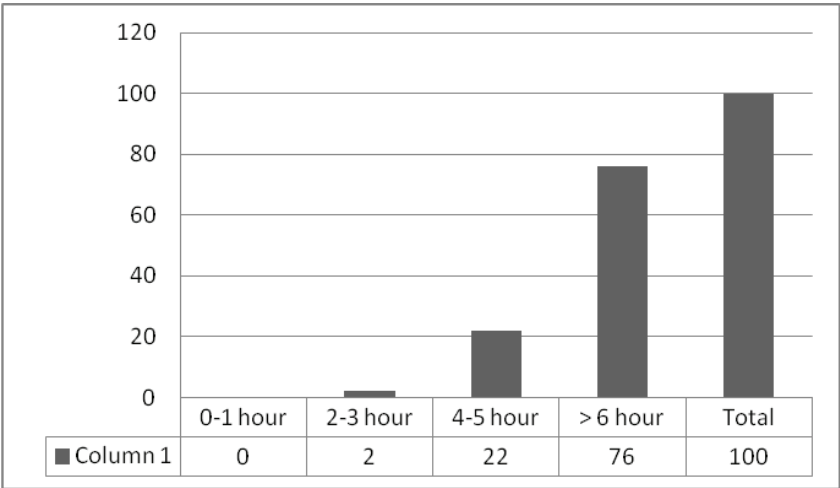


Figure 3: Profile of respondents-
Frequent of Revision (Overall)

Frequent of revision differ on a big range as per analyzed. Figure 3 above clearly elucidate the hours of revision committed by the student according to daily practice. It was 76% students responded that their revision hour per day is more than six hours. While 22% says that they spent four to five hours daily for their academic work. There is only 2% student feedback on the two to three hours option. This phenomenon is acceptable.

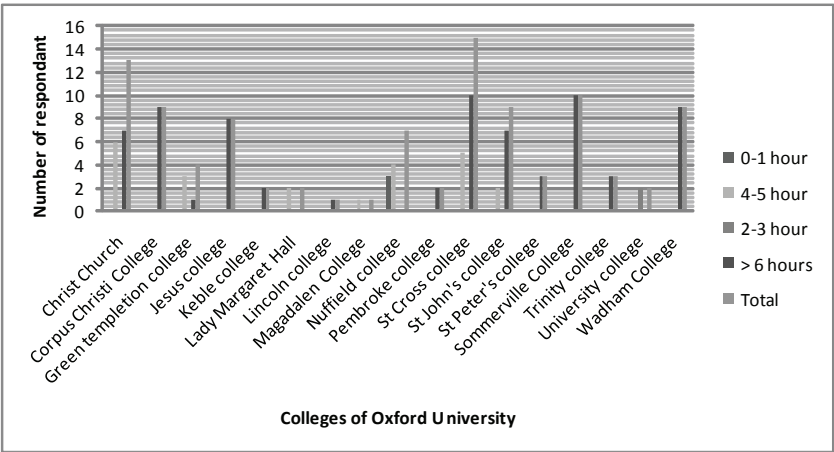


Figure 4: Profile of Respondents – Frequent of Revision (By College)

Figure 4 shows the portion of time commitment for academic work daily for Oxford Students that most student pays big portion of their time more than six hours on academic work every day. It is due to peer pressure, the students set very high bar for themselves and not the university.

CONCLUSION

One thing that really amazing is the collegiate system in Oxford University. Most lectures and all the tutorials are done in the college. Though some students have to go to their faculties but most of their knowledge is obtained in college. The tutorial system is a very effective way to create an all-rounded student. The tutorial on one-to-one basis gives more personal attention to the students and helps them to develop intellectually. Besides that, the time management skill of the students was well arranged. The students did not only have to cope academically but also in their club activities. The students are free to express ideas themselves and are free to do any activities as long as they have the budget.

There are some similarities between Oxford University and UKM. The first thing is the College fellowship system. Almost all colleges in both universities are holding this system where junior students can seek advice and guidance from their fellows at anytime. This is because it is human nature that we will feel helpless when we face difficulties and challenges in studies and hence the best person to speak to will be our fellows who are daring and more well experienced.

Second is the nature interaction. Every year, college will held variety kinds of activities with the main motive to enhance the interaction between the staff, students and college members. Besides, these activities also inculcate students' leadership skills. This fulfilled the objectives of the university to produce an intellectual community which embrace soft skills together with a good academic achievement. The reason is mainly because a proper planning is needed in order to hold a programme. Ranging from the date and venue of programme till the treasure part requires effort and teamwork from members to ensure the smoothness of programme.

Throughout this research, it is concluded that time management is really important in a studies' life. The students shall divide their leisure and studies time properly. As a student, academic work is our priority, and the personal academic guidance and support receive is essential. It is also our responsibility to ensure the college is able to take pride in its pioneering history, its traditions of academic excellence and public service, its scientific reputation, and its literary heritage, seeking to maintain and commitment to the principle of equality of opportunity in education in UKM.

DIRECTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

The researchers fully recommend that this mobility program should be continue over the years because it really can widen and open up our minds. The researchers came to oxford thinking that the students will be so busy studying and not having any life but they were wrong. Student's life in Oxford is similar to ours back home but their time management skills are better! The university created a very nice environment to study and play, so the students not only work hard but they also play hard.

Further research direction should be set at the colleges' tutorial system to be benchmark for the betterment of homegrown university, looking into the bigger perspective for inter-varsities education development.

SCOPE AND LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The setting selected for conducting this research was focus only on colleges of Oxford University. The selected clusters were not completely covered due to constrained time and budget. Some college could not cooperate in terms of questionnaire and interview due to hectic education schedule and examination period.

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