

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS?

Purpose

1. Learn what the existing research tells us about international students
2. Provide researchers with information about what has been studied concerning international students
3. Identify areas where further research exploration is needed
4. Stimulate practitioners to critically review existing data and utilize it in their work

Why?

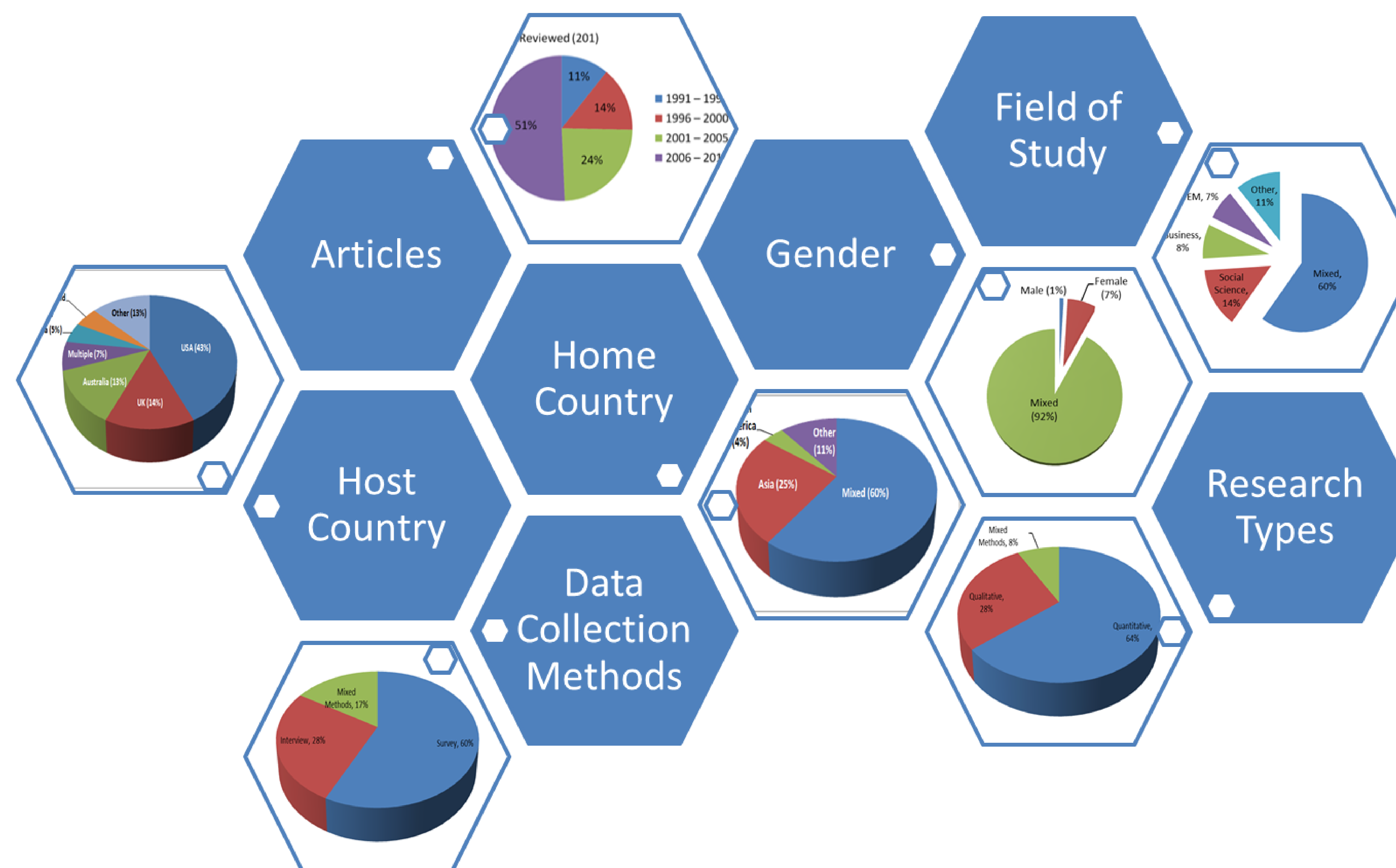
With increasing numbers of international students studying abroad and graduate students and professionals interested in the area seeking research ideas, assessing existing research was seen as important to both practitioners as well as researchers.

Methods

1. Literature review
2. Search procedures
 - Social Sciences Citation Index
 - Search word: "International Students" or "Foreign Students"
 - Language: English
 - Document Type: Article
 - Publication Year: 1991 – current
3. Article selection criteria
 - Empirical studies only
 - Data collected from IS
 - Electronic copies available
3. Results: **623** articles

Themes of Research

Cultural Adjustment & Perspectives	Academic Experiences	Non-Academic Experiences	Health issues	Services	Institutional Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perceptions • Social roles • Culture in general • Adjustment • Intercultural & multicultural issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning • Academic Performance • Research • Mentorship • Language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology uses • Community services • Social network • Miscellaneous 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical health issues • Mental health issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselling services • Career • Services • Needs assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admission • Recruitment • Degree completion • Retention • International education • Curriculum



Mental Health Issues

- Mental health
- Psychological well-being
- Academic stress
- Assertiveness
- Life satisfaction
- Self-esteem
- Acculturation stress
- Personal identity

Implications

1. Lack of research on gender difference and dependents
2. No commonly used surveys
3. Multiple terms for adjustment
4. Recently, greater diversity in subjects' country, topic areas, & specific disciplinary areas found
5. Need for studies on intercultural competencies of IS and impact of cultural differences on student success