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Lärosäte: BTH

Presentationsform: Presentation 30 minuter

Analyzing the Impact of Differences in Academic Cultures on the Learning Experiences of Overseas Master's Students

Problem: As teachers at Blekinge Institute of Technology (BTH), we sometimes observe that students from overseas partner universities experience difficulties in participating with learning and assessment activities on the courses we teach. We hypothesise that a significant cause is the difference in academic cultures between the students' home universities and BTH.

Intended Outcomes: Our objective is to understand the challenges and barriers to effective learning faced by overseas students from partner universities as a result of differences in academic culture.

Method: The context of the research work is overseas students from partner universities in China and India taking the Master's in Software Engineering program at BTH. The study was conducted as a series of focus group interviews with students enrolled in this program. The resulting discussions were analysed using constructive grounded theory to identify the main challenges and barriers experienced by the students during their first months at BTH.

Relevance: Guidance, supported by empirical evidence, as to the nature of the differences which would help our program in developing resources to help students and teachers to be better prepared to accommodate differences in academic culture at course, program, and school-levels.