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Student Number(s):

51706300

Student Name(s):  
(In the same  
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numbers above)

Maressa Vasconcelos Correa

Lecturer's Name(s):

Anastasia Ward B.L.

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INTERNAL CONFLICTS - THE CHALLENGES OF LIVING ABROAD FACED  
AMONG FOREIGNERS STUDENTS IN IRELAND

MARESSA VASCONCELOS CORREA

ID 51706300

Dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the requirements for the  
degree of Master of Arts in Dispute Resolution at Independent College Dublin.

Supervisor: Mark Byrne

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## **DECLARATION**

I declare that this dissertation that I have submitted to Independent College Dublin for the award of Master of Arts in Dispute Resolution in the result of my own investigations, except where otherwise stated, where it is clearly acknowledged by references. Furthermore, this work has not been submitted for any other degree.

Maressa Vasconcelos Correa

Student Number: 51706300

Date: 07/04/2022

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## **ABSTRACT**

People are constantly searching to solve conflicts, most part of their life: in the workplace, in the family, and most important - their own internal conflicts. Internal conflicts are those that take place inside the mind of a person, while dealing with a important decision making or solving a moral dilemma. In the other hand, external conflicts are those that take place between a person or group, and are more related on dealing with obstacles faced in order to complete and accomplishment or over situational outcomes. The aim of this research is to have a better understand of the challenges faced among foreign students living in Ireland. This is research is based on a both quantitative and qualitative study which the strategy was survey. The population of this research were 70 students from different nationalities who live or has lived in Ireland for the past 4 years or more. The type of approach is a non-probabilistic and select a voluntary sample.

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## **CHAPTER 1 – INTRODUCTION**

The levels of education in Ireland are primary, secondary, and higher usually known as the tertiary level of education. In the recent era field of education grow rapidly. Due to the increase in the economy since the 1960s, a positive change in the education system is observed. In 2015, student services fees were approximately €3,000 for universities. These fees students have to pay at the time of registration, this cost cover examination, insurance, and other facilities provided by universities. In Ireland, several organizations are involved in maintaining the education department. The education department is controlled by the minister of education which controls the policy, raises funds, and gives direction. Some other significant organizations are the National Qualification Authority of Ireland and the Higher Education Authority. In August 2020, another new department is established to control the funding for the third level of education and also made the policy for it (Khezri, et al, 2021).

In the sixteenth century, primary national funded Educational institutions in Ireland were created by Tudor monarchs. Along with this first printing presses considering under Henry. In 1592, Queen Elizabeth founded the college name was Trinity College Dublin and she allowed the printing of the book in the Irish language for the first time and instruct the establishment of Latin-free schools in each parish. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, students can go to school from the ages of 6 to 16. They have to complete second-level education. The Constitution of Ireland states that parents are not forced to send their children to school and no enforcement on sending their children to the school designated by the government. According to the constitution, parents have the right of home-schooling. In recent years, a higher percentage of foreign students registered in universities of New Zealand, Korea, Spain, Ireland, and Italy. There are many reasons to study in Ireland as it has the world's best education system (Strong et al, 2017).

Foreign students are those students who decide to pursue their tertiary education in a country

other than their homeland and move to another country for study purposes. The definition of international student varies according to the national education system of countries. In Europe, a student exchange program whose name is the Erasmus Programme in which those students participate who belong from the countries which are a part of the European Union. This program permits students to study from the EU in other countries under the agreement of the government. The mobility rate of international students is influenced by several factors. Some of the external factors are immigration and visa policies of countries where the student is going to study, Covid19 also impacts the travelling of international students due to this many students face difficulty and competition among nations to attract more students. The UK is always a prestigious choice due to the presence of the world's best universities for example Cambridge, Oxford, and Harvard. Now universities and schools are globally connected have branches in different countries. Students who have graduated from Irish education institutions have career opportunities in different fields all over the world (Fayzullina, O.R., 2019).

On the westernmost edge of Europe, there is an island known as Ireland. Ireland is the second-largest island on the continent after Great Britain. Ireland is popular due to its friendly people, countryside and fascinating history. The education system of Ireland is among the top seven education systems of the world and it focused on global collaboration and research. The people of Ireland feel proud of their culture and country and welcome the foreigners with open hands. Ireland is a good place to live, it is a safe and tolerant country as it ranks among the world's 20 top safest countries based on peace, human development, and quality of life. These are the reasons students prefer Ireland for tertiary-level education. More than 35,000 international students are studying in Ireland from 161 countries. If a student studying in Ireland, it gives a good start to their career. Ireland ranks highly on the table when it comes to quality of education. There are several leading global companies are present in Ireland which

become the sources of career opportunities. Especially in the field of financial services, food, and agriculture, IT engineering, software development, MedTech, and pharma. The economy of Ireland is growing rapidly in the Euro zone, so it facilitated higher-earning. The main spoken language of Ireland is English. English is the global language of technology and business. Writing and reading skills in English enhance the communication and marketing skills of a student and he can do a job in any big multinational company (Khezri, Razzaghi, and Khezri, 2021).

Besides all the positive aspects of Ireland's education system, many students find it difficult to study in Ireland due to several challenges they have to face during their studying period. The language barrier is one of the biggest challenges for students as a student who comes to Ireland from different countries and not all countries have English as a spoken language. Many times students are unable to understand slang used by locals because of it students feel like an outsider and miss their home country. It seems like an obstacle but the student can overcome this challenge by practising. Another common challenge for a foreign student is currency difference. Knowledge of currency exchange is necessary and sometimes the difference between currency between the countries, students can't afford to study abroad. Another obstacle student has to overcome is day-to-day finance, they have to learn that how to manage their daily expenses. Many students are lucky to avail of a scholarship which decreases the expense of their studies and reduction in financial burden. Some challenges are related to cultural differences. Foreign students have to adjust themselves according to local culture. Many societal conflicts have been raised due to the enhancement of immigration in Ireland for economic development. Social changes occur in Irish society over the past few years. Several conflicts may include problems related to inequality, xenophobia, social-economic, perception of migrants, and racism (Strong et al, 2017).

The main purpose of the study is to figure out the challenges faced by foreign students who choose Ireland for tertiary education. The objectives of this research are:

- To explain what is conflict and how it can be classified?
- To analyse what is the basic difference between internal and external conflict?
- To identify what is the impact of internal and external conflicts on each other?
- To identify how to overcome and minimize the obstacles faced by foreign students in Ireland?

## **CHAPTER 2 – LITERATURE REVIEW**

Conflict can be considered as the disagreement of ideas, values, desires, and motivations. It can be considered as differences between two parties. Conflict can be internal or external or both. Internal conflict is mainly based on psychological struggle. It occurs within the person's mind, this conflict can be due to emotions, fear, mental illness, desires. Internal conflict can be defined as a battle between two forces within the same individual. On the other hand, external conflict can be defined as the battle between an individual and outside forces or factors. External conflict is further divided into three categories which are individual vs individual, individual vs society, and individual vs nature. In-person vs person conflict two individual opposes each other's point of view and disagree with each other, for example in this conflict classic showdown is observed between the protagonist who is the main character of the story and the other one is an antagonist who is waiting for the downfall of the protagonist. In the second type of external conflict, a person is against the whole society. Societal forces include everything from unspoken customs and social mores to the government system. In character vs nature, the individual is threatened by natural forces, these forces can be storms, earthquakes, floods, infectious disease, and other natural phenomenon as nature is a silent opponent to mankind(Hill, 2019).

One of the common examples of internal conflict in literature is Hamlet by William Shakespeare, in which the writer defines how a character fights from his internal demons and thoughts. Same when a student decides to pursue his further studies in other countries, he begins to have several thoughts related to it. Internal conflict plays a major role in taking decisions. The major difference between internal and external conflict is internal conflict is related to the person's own thinking and feelings while the external conflict depends on his surroundings. Manchester University published a paper that recommends that internal conflict is due to the normal characteristic of weal state politics and it suggests that internal

conflict affects international activities which eventually shows the impact on economic development. The reason for internal conflict is usually domestic instead of systematic factors and consists of politically-motivated violence, initially restricted to a single state or nation. They become a threat to the peace of students studying in a foreign country if the political conditions of that country are not stable. Students must be mentally satisfied if they are going to any foreign country for studying. Internal conflicts are when a person's mind asks him not to do something or go somewhere because of expected outcomes. For example, if a student wants to go to Ireland for higher studies but he thinks that he can't afford to study there because of the high difference between the currency of Ireland and his homeland (Khezri, Razzaghi, and Khezri, 2021).

Several factors impact the decision of students related to studying in Ireland. Decision-making is considered an internal conflict because a person takes decisions according to his thoughts. According to a study, several students raised common issues they have been faced while living in Ireland as a foreign students. One student complain that his residence was very far from his college due to high rent, students are unable to afford a living place. Form the ethnic minority, another student complain that he was unable to afford basic accommodation and ask from his white classmate for help to rent a place. Figures obtained from Higher Education Authority represent that there were almost 18,220 foreign students enrolled in the universities of Ireland, in the academic year 2014/2015. After closely studying the issues faced by foreign students, the author suggests that the main reason for withdrawing from international studies is poor accommodation and deficiency of funding to international offices at universities and colleges. Things become difficult for students and students subjected to internal conflicts that either they should continue their studies in Ireland or withdraw in between. Further students will never recommend Ireland to others for abroad studies. Another important internal conflict is homesickness. Many students begin to feel

homesick when everything in their surroundings is unfamiliar. They start missing their comforts such as room, family, and friends (Fayzullina, O.R., 2019).

Derrie Murray stated in his studies that one of the major causes of conflict is the domestic problem as he conducted the forum with the Union of Students in Ireland. Several problems have been faced by foreign students, for example, the accommodation cost reaches to the sky of main countries of Ireland which include Galway, Cork, and Dublin. Murray said that one of the biggest misapprehensions is that international students have money to spend. International student belongs to various backgrounds just like Irish student belongs to different backgrounds. He further said that some of the students can afford accommodation along with luxuries but many have problems in even arranging money for basic accommodation. Another reason for internal conflict is many students have faced fraud in Ireland. Researchers explore that Ireland is one of the worst countries in Europe for international students due to incidents of fraud. According to the research of European Commission-funded, approximately 30% of students claimed that they have experienced some sort of fraud during their studies in Ireland. This percentage was highest in Europe. Many students express that costs of accommodation are much higher in Ireland than their expectations. Derrie Murray suggests that the main reason for these challenges due to lack of funding to international offices in universities and colleges. International offices of universities required more funding for providing better services to international students (Borooah, and Knox, 2017).

A forum was conducted by the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) and Irish Council for International Students to listen and understand the experience of international students in Ireland. The main purpose of forums was to identify the significance of providing genuine and regular opportunities for international students to imitate their own experiences. The finding forums are based on the feedback from the foreign students which can be gathered in

several ways for example student surveys. This international student forum helps in improvising the policy development and enhancement in student support services. This forum helps the student to encounter their internal conflict and help them to find its solution by asking for help from the concerned organizations. In the forum, 36 students were appeared from different countries and give them chance to discuss their problems and overall experience of studying in Ireland. The forum was attended by the students from the National College of Ireland, Trinity College Dublin, International School of Business, National University of Ireland Maynooth, Dublin Institute of Technology, and Champlain College. These students studying from undergraduate to Ph.D. level (Engel, and Siczek, 2018).

Internal conflict is related to the person's thinking and his thinking based on the reviews of others. If a student decided to continue his further studies in Ireland, he took advice from someone who studied in Ireland. If he got good reviews, He takes decisions easily but if he got bad reviews it becomes difficult for him to decide whether he should go or not. Conflict depends on the stability of a country and how it deals with its political issues. It depends on the international relations with other countries. External conflicts and internal conflicts are different but link with each other. External conflicts influence and give rise to internal conflicts. One of the external conflicts in Ireland is the increasing costs of everything day by day. It became tough for students to manage their basic expenses. Another reason is a cultural conflict not everyone is ready to adopt another's country's culture. Many students went abroad from Asia but they don't want to leave their cultural and religious values. It takes time to make up a mind for adopting other's cultures and adjusting to a new place. International relations between the home country and host country also impact international studies. If a student's home country's relations with the host country are not good, the visa process for the student becomes difficult and he eventually withdraws the idea of studying abroad (Fayzullina, O.R., 2019).



Ireland has experienced a withdrawal in international studies, which impacts the economy of the country badly. A large amount of economy of any country depends on its international relations and education system. For the progress of any country, it has to resolve the issues which become the basis of this withdrawal. The country has to increase the funding to international offices of colleges and universities. It has to make new policies or improvise the old policies for providing better services to international students. If the experience of international students is good they will further recommend other students to pursue their tertiary studies in Ireland which impacts the economy of the country positively. The organization is responsible for maintaining the department of international education also launching the program of scholarships. Scholarships play an important role in attracting students for studying in Ireland. Scholarships programs reduce the expenses of students and help them to manage their accommodation (Walsh, 2018).

To resolve these conflicts, a conflict resolution program was conducted in the capital cities of Ireland which include Dublin, Amman, and Belfast. The program starts in Dublin then travels to Belfast to speak with leaders to determine the core of issues. Then the group leaves for Amman to figure out the impact of social and cultural factors on the resolution and management of conflict. This program was conducted to enhance the experience of studying in Ireland and help them to resolve internal conflicts. If students are satisfied with their studies and institutes, they show good progress in academics. Ireland also attracts foreign students by giving them job and career opportunities. Job and career development opportunities matter the most if students know that they will have a good career opportunity in Ireland. They will plan their further stay in Ireland even after the completion of their studies. Ireland is one of the growing counties in the field of international education. Although, Covid19 pandemic affect the education system of all the countries Ireland improvises their policies for foreign students according to the situation. Still, Ireland needs to

work on its policies to provide better services to foreign students, so they can overcome their internal conflicts and continue their tertiary education in Ireland. Students from all over the world go to Ireland for higher studies because it has one of the most famous and biggest universities in the world (Engel, and Siczek, 2018).

## **CHAPTER 3 – RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Research philosophy**

Research philosophy can be defined as how the data is collected for any research. Then how will be the data evaluated and used for further research. Research philosophy is divided into four groups, it can be pragmatism, interpretivism, realism and positivism. In this study, research is conducted on the basis of positivism as well as interpretivism. According to positivism society shapes the individual and used quantitative methods for research. On the other hand, interpretivism is based on the qualitative method because it considers that individuals shape society. These are two basic approaches to research methodology (Snyder, 2019). As positivism favour quantitative data analysis, it includes social surveys, official statistics and structured questionnaires, all of which have good representativeness and reliability. Basically positivist wants to conduct research on large scale survey to get a collective overview of society. An interpretivism is a qualitative approach for data collection and analysis, it uses the method based on unstructured questionnaires and interviews with an open-ended question. The main purpose of interpretivism is to get the deep knowledge and point of view of their respondents. Positivism research is objective in nature and based on ‘yes’ or ‘no’ while interpretivism research is subject and based on respondent's words, reviews and thoughts. The survey used in this research has both types of questions (Mohajan, 2018).

### **3.2 Research design**

Research design is defined as the overall strategy on the basis of the researcher planning to complete research. Research design is used to assimilate the several components of the

research in a comprehensible and logical way. Researchers address the research problem effectively by using research design. The type of research design used in the study is based on the research problem. The first step of the research design is to recognise the issues in the study like what are the problems faced by a foreign student in Ireland during the time period of their studies (Pandey, and Pandey, 2021). The second step is that this problem has been chosen due to the downfall of the international education department in Ireland is observed it can be due to multiple reasons and problems faced by students. The third step is based on a critical analysis of related articles to this problem, in this study research questions are what is conflict, how internal and external conflict is different from each other and what are the challenges faced by international students and how it related to internal conflict (Ørngreen, and Levinsen, 2017).

### **3.3 Research method**

It can be defined as the strategies, techniques or processes which are used for the collection of data for analysis to discover novel information or generate a better understanding of a topic. This research is conducted on the basis of an inductive approach. The inductive approach includes finding the framework from observation and evaluating the description related to theories of that pattern. The research method can be qualitative and quantitative and in some cases, it can be both, which is known as mixed methodology (Goldberg et al, 2017). In quantitative data analysis, the data created are always in numerical form and can be analysed by using statistical and mathematical methods, if there is no number in data then research would not be considered quantitative research. In quantitative data analysis surveys can be used with a close-ended question, in the survey of this research some questions are based on quantitative data analysis for example participants' responses as 'yes' or 'no' while

the other questions are based on qualitative data analysis. In qualitative data, there is no numerical data involved. It is usually based on language or words but sometimes pictures and observations can also be used. In qualitative data, reviews of respondents can be taken and evaluated.

### **3.4 Data collection**

In this study, data is collected from a survey that consists of several questions. This research is mainly based on the mixed methodology it means a questionnaire or survey has both types of question qualitative and quantitative. A survey is conducted online and only fill-up by the foreign students of Ireland. Qualitative questions include the time period of foreign students stay in Ireland as well as which course they are studying currently in Ireland (Newman, and Gough, 2020). Then questions in the survey are about their marital and social status, how they manage internal conflicts on daily basis and give them options related to these questions. Lastly, for qualitative data analysis researcher ask two questions at the end of a survey. The researcher ask respondents to give a descriptive answer to these questions, one of them is what are the challenges they have faced in living abroad before the covid 19 pandemic and the other one is what are the outcomes of the Covid 19 pandemic and how it impact the challenges they were facing (Ngozwana, 2018).

For quantitative data analysis closed-end questions have been asked in a survey which includes student's job status, are they able to manage conflicts on daily basis, participants point of view on the impact of external problems and their influence on internal conflicts. What they think about how internal conflict shows its impact externally on daily routine and life. Lastly, for quantitative analysis researcher ask the difference between the internal conflict before and after travelling to Ireland and how the level of internal conflict vary before and after the pandemic covid 19 all the questions based on quantitative analysis can

answer as either yes or no. The quantitative research method considers a more effective way to draw data for analysis (Li, Shamsuddin, and Braga, 2021). Quantitative data is easy to analyse and evaluate, it gives more appropriate outcomes. Surveys permit the researcher to get data about practices, circumstances or views at one point in time through forms or interviews.

The instrument is usually the general term used by the researcher for a device used for measurement. In order to differentiate between instrument and instrumentation. The instrument is a device and instrumentation is considered as a course of action. In order to choose an instrument researcher, figure out its validity and reliability on the basis of time consumption, clear direction, easy access, any problems reported by other researchers related to the instrument. To conduct successful research, it is better to use an already existing instrument which is previously tested several times (Hulland, Baumgartner, and Smith, 2018). The validity of an instrument can be defined as to which extent it can measure the data, what the researcher wants to measure and how he designed his research to perform analysis. It is not possible that the instrument is 100% valid so validity can be measured on the basis of degrees. Validation is considered as the collection and analysing of data to assess the precision of an instrument. The use of surveys allows a person to study additional variables at one time than is classically possible in research or field experiments, while the data can be collected about real-world environments from respondents (Vaske, 2019).

In this research, a survey is used as a data collection tool. Survey research can be referred to as a method in which data is collected from the target population known as a sample. The term 'survey instrument' is defined as the questionnaire which is the prime source of data of respondents. A distinctive set of the survey instrument used during every research. Validity and reliability are considered significant aspects of picking a survey instrument for data collection (Pandey, and Pandey, 2021). According to the reliability, over multiple trials

instrument give same results it means no or little fluctuation in outcomes. According to validity, an instrument should measure for what it is designed to measure it means give logical and study-related outcomes. In this study survey instrument is chosen because the researcher wants to get the feedback of foreign students who are studying in Ireland. The main of this study is the evaluation on the basis of internal conflict which challenges students to have to face in Ireland. That is why some descriptive questions were also included in the survey to identify the problems faced by foreign students (Jones et al, 2018).

Survey research was conducted in this study due to its multiple benefits. Survey require minimum investment. Online surveys are proved to be very economical as compared to paper-based surveys. In online surveys, a large number of the population can participate willingly. The researcher doesn't need to convince respondents to fill the survey as they have to do in paper-based surveys. It is easy to keep the record of online surveys as compared to paper-based surveys and online surveys are easily manageable. Another benefit of surveys is the various source for response collection, surveys can be conducted through a number of mediums (King, and Sondhi, 2018). The survey can be used for both qualitative as well as for quantitative analysis. Respondents find surveys secure and participate in surveys easily and because of it respondents participate in the survey honestly and give honest reviews without any fear of revealing their identity. It is proved by a number of studies that a survey is an economical and effective way of data collection.

### **3.5 Research strategy**

In this study, primary research is used to collect data directly via survey rather than depending on data that was collected previously. Primary research is mainly used to address a specific problem that needs a deep analysis. Primary research is more valid as the data collected is first hand and accurate. Primary research mainly focused on the current problems

or challenges it means the entire purpose of the study is to find out the appropriate solutions, it allows the researcher to go in-depth about the issue. In primary research, the researcher can control the collection and usage of data (Idris, Ion, and Seery, 2019). It depends on the researcher how to use drawn data for best outcomes. Every research is conducted with some purpose, primary research in this study is used to find out challenges faced by specifically international students of Ireland to provide them better services and help them to continue their studies in Ireland easily. This research is conducted to give foreign students better methods for internal conflict resolution. This study also represents the difference between internal and external conflicts.

### **3.6 Inclusion and exclusion criteria**

Investigators have to include a proper protocol in their research related to the study population. Firstly, the researcher has to specify the target population for the accomplishment of proper research. The researcher has to define the inclusion and exclusion criteria for respondents to take part in the study. Inclusion criteria considered as some basic characteristics must be required to participate in this study as in this survey only foreign students of Ireland can participate, who go to Ireland from their home country to pursue their tertiary education (Dowling-Hetherington, 2020). On the other hand, exclusion criteria are contrary to inclusion criteria. It defines as the characters present in the population who fall in inclusion criteria but due to some characteristics it negatively influences the research and decreases its validity and reliability. In this study, the exclusion criteria are defined as the survey only conducted with the current foreign students, if the population of previously passed out foreign students participate in the survey then the old issues will be evaluated from research and the researcher will be unable to identify the current challenges and conflicts. Just defining the inclusion and exclusion criteria is not enough, research also



elaborates the impact of these criteria on the study.

### **3.7 Data analysis**

Data analysis can be defined as the extraction of information or data from a number of sources and then filtering the extracted data in order to relate it with the respective research topic and study design. There is a proper protocol to analyse the results of the survey. First, to conduct an analysis of the survey, the investigator has to understand the four measurement levels. This measurement level defines how survey questions should be measured and which kind of statistical analysis must be performed to get appropriate outcomes (Cronin, et al, 2019). These measurement scales include ordinal scale and nominal scale in this study. The ordinal scale is used to represent the order of values, in this scale quantitative values are used. The nominal scale categorises data without any quantitative value. After analysing the measurement scale of analysis, the researcher surveys the questions that these questions able to answer the research questions. The researcher includes both open-ended and close-ended questions. In close-ended survey questions, respondents give answers to a limited extent of the set. Participants are unable to express their feeling fully because they have to select from already given options by the investigator.

In this study, the answer to the question could be 'yes', 'no', 'may be' or depend on the question given. The researcher asks a number of close-ended questions in this study to get the best data. In an open-ended survey question, the investigator asks the participant to depict their point of view and explain their opinion regarding issues and challenges. In this study, a researcher asked about the level of internal conflict before and after the covid 19 pandemic to students who live in Ireland for higher education. After that researcher first analyse the quantitative data as it is more valuable, it uses statistics to evaluate the conclusion (Ienca et al, 2018). On the other hand, qualitative data seems more interesting and show a deep side of

the topic, the information obtained from qualitative data is subjective and it became a little hard to analyse as every individual give a description on the basis of his experience. Quantitative data is drawn from close-ended questions which are then converted into numeric values for further analysis. Once the data is quantified, it becomes easier for an investigator to compare recent outcomes from previous and analyse is the situation get better from the previous era or become more worst with the passage of time. Quantitative data analysis is the best way to start survey analysis because it further helps in understanding the qualitative data of the survey.

If in this research, 70% of foreign students say that level of their internal conflict varies with studying abroad and pandemic covid19. So the researcher then focused on the surveys of those students whose internal conflict fluctuate. For the significant outcome, it is necessary that the respondents belong to a target audience. Another important aspect of survey analysis is determining that the conclusion drawn from the study is logical. Variable can relate with each other. In this study, the researcher considers the interrelation of internal and external conflicts. How external conflict shows its effects on internal conflict (Ienca et al, 2018). In the next step, a researcher has to compare the outcomes drawn from his data to the data that is collected from previous articles related to this study. The final step consists of representing the survey outcomes and sharing important detail regarding conflict and the on the basis of data, it will be concluded that how a country can take initiative to resolve these conflicts and make international study easy for the foreign students of Ireland.

### **3.8 Ethical consideration**

Any investigator or researcher who collects the data from respondents has an ethical duty to respect the privacy of every respondent. For every type of research ethical manner must be required. A researcher has to take care of two important things firstly participant's right to

confidentiality and the second protection of data. Ethical consideration is formulated at the time of plan evaluation. Ethical consideration includes respondent consent, voluntary participation, no physical and mental harm to anyone, confidentiality, anonymity and only assessing the relevant components. Firstly, the respondent must be aware of the survey they are taking part in, they should know the purpose of the study, how the data is further evaluated and who has the access to this data so the respondent participates in the survey willingly (Theofanidis, and Fountouki, 2018). Secondly, respondents participate in the survey voluntarily, they should not have any type of pressure regarding participation and can withdraw their participation at any time even in the middle of research, researcher must assure them this withdrawal has no negative impact. Thirdly, there is no physical and mental harm to any participant and doesn't hurt anyone's sentiment. Fourthly, the confidentiality of identity is important it means that any information related to the identity of respondents must be hidden and their identity must be excluded from the report or published document. In anonymity the identity of the respondent is hidden from even the research team it is not easy to attain this level of confidentiality. Lastly, assess that component that relates to the study conducted. Not including a large number of population unnecessary, will become the reason for errors in the outcome.

### **3.9 Research limitation**

Every type of research has some kind of restrictions that constrained the study to a limited extent. In this research, a survey is conducted by the researcher. In many studies, an individual survey is not considered because the survey gathers data at a single point in time it means it becomes hard to figure out the changes that occur unless two or more two surveys are conducted at different points in time. If repetition occurs the research become expensive and time consuming all these factors are the reason for the limitation of this research. Some

other limitations are including the insecurity of participants, people don't want to participate in survey due to security points of view related to data, another reason is people don't want to give time and fill the survey, lack of funding is also a reason of limitation as survey are economical mode of data collection but still finance is required for its conduction (Ienca et al, 2018). In some cases, the survey does not serve as a reliable source of data. Survey research is inflexible while the survey is always conducted by the researcher to get the maximum response rate possible but according to some recent research suggests that high return rate on the survey are not much important now and this limit the survey research.

## CHAPTER 4 – PRESENTATION OF THE DATA

### 4.1 Primary Data Collection

People are constantly on the lookout for solutions to problems in their personal and professional lives, as well as in their homes and families. Internal conflicts are those that occur in a person's mind while he or she is debating a significant decision or deciding on a moral issue, such as abortion. External conflicts, on the other hand, are those that have occurred between individuals or groups and are more concerned with dealing with the obstacles that must be overcome in order to achieve a goal or reach a desired conclusion than they are with dealing with the issues that have occurred between individuals or groups (Bjärkefur, 2020).

This study made use of open-ended questions in the form of a Questionnaire to gather information. The vast majority of the information was gathered through Google form questionnaires. As part of a primary data analysis, overseas students from a range of locations throughout Ireland were asked open-ended questions as well as specific answer questions. It was taken into mind what they said. For the purposes of this study, three criteria were used to identify overseas students: students (Lovarelli, 2017)

- (1) A group of students who were born outside Ireland.
- (2) Parents who were not citizens of the Republic of Ireland
- (3) Students who were unable to complete their end state exams in Ireland because of the pandemic

| Category of Foreign Students                 | Total no: 70 Students |
|--|-----------------------|
| Students who were born outside of Ireland.   | 30                    |
| Students whose parents were not Irish        |                       |
| Nationals                                    | 25                    |
| Students who had not taken their final state | 15                    |

school exams in Ireland due to Pandemic

Table 1 - Selected Foreign Exchange Students

The Open Ended Questions, which were voluntarily posed with no limits and were included in the analysis, are mentioned in Appendix A of the report. There have been around 70 selected international students, both living and not living in Ireland. Thirty-one of them are Irish citizens who were born outside the country; 25 are Irish citizens whose parents are Irish citizens; and the remaining fifteen students are Irish citizens who are unable to take their final high school exams from within the country.

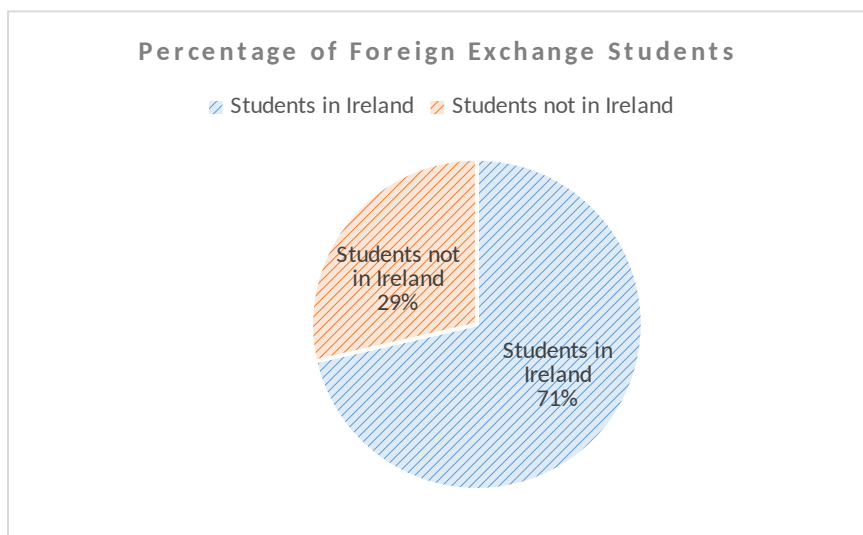
Students in Ireland are subjected to a wide range of internal and external conflicts, and every attempt has been made to include them all in this document.. When asked about the difficulties of studying and living in a foreign country, the exchange students were encouraged to rely on their own experiences as well as the experiences of other exchange students they may have met while studying in Ireland. The criteria that were chosen were chosen as a means of include internal conflict traits that had already been identified in the study and allowing the effect of external conflict to be studied (yes or no, before to and following the pandemic, and so on). Despite the fact that the questions in the Google Survey were centred on these three criteria, they were extremely detailed.

#### **4.1.1 Description of survey analysis**

There appears to be a direct association between the factors stated above and the problems that foreign exchange students from Ireland experience while studying abroad, according to published research and self-reported data. As a result of being questioned about Covid-19's post- and pre-effects, what parts of living in a foreign country do you consider are the most

difficult components of the experience? A Google poll was also produced in advance of the epidemic's onset to ensure that the required protections were put in place before it started. When it came to establishing the outcome of the poll's questions and answers, the researchers totally relied on their own personal experiences and observations (Lin et al., 2018).

According to the findings of the poll, two important conclusions can be derived from this investigation as a result of the results. Within the organization, one of the main challenges was how each element's influence changed in response to the interactions of other components. According to the research, children who have lived outside of Ireland or whose parents are not native Irish speakers appear to be the ones who are most affected by internal and external disagreements within the education system. Individuals who were unable to complete their final exams in Ireland are much more likely to have completed them in another country, according to the data (Maskell et al., 2017). As a result of the fact that they were not present during the pandemic, they were not as vulnerable as others who had been present (Mazhar et al., 2021). Because quantitative information was readily available, it was simple to draw conclusions based on the percentages that had been recorded. Following is a chart that illustrates how the numbers in Pie Chart 1 below make it straightforward to compare recent results with prior eras and assess whether the situation has improved or deteriorate.



## Chart 1 - Percentage of Foreign Exchange Students

Among the 70 students, 50 were those who had previously lived in Ireland and had faced educational challenges, and the remaining were those who, as a result of the pandemic, were unable to take their exams in Ireland. As can be seen in the table above, 29 percent of students were those who had not previously lived in Ireland but had taken exams in their respective home countries. Those that remained were those who happened to be in Ireland at the time of the research. Their comments, which were based on their personal experiences, were heard. The fact that once the data had been quantified with respect to the statistics majored on open ended questions, it had been acknowledged was significant. Later, the discussion centred on the results of the survey, which were derived from responses from international students studying in Ireland at the time. On the one hand, one of the results derived from qualitative analysis was that 1) the impact of external and internal conflict is co-related with the challenges faced by foreign exchange students in Ireland; on the other hand, another of the results derived from qualitative analysis was that 2) the post-covid-19 effects have had an impact on the education of foreign exchange students in Ireland.

## **4.2 Discussion**

### **4.2.1 Effect of external and internal conflict is co-related with the challenged faced by foreigners exchange students in Ireland**

A dramatic shift in social dynamics has taken place in Irish society during the past 2 decades, as the industry has recovered at an unprecedented rate and migration patterns have been reversed. Economic migrants, asylum seekers, and international students have all come to Ireland over this time period, resulting in a significant rise in ethnic diversity in the country's population. International students from countries outside of the European Union are



increasingly coming to Ireland to study full-time and pay their fees, and this diversification is being bolstered by Ireland's growing prominence in the global education mobility sector. Increasing the visibility of universities around the world while also reducing the financial impact of budget cuts is the goal of many university development programmes today (Zheng, 2020). The Irish government has worked to satisfy specific labour shortages in order to meet earnings quality in unison with this growth. The migrant population of international students is typically viewed as an inconspicuous and ephemeral one. Most often, they are positioned as consumers who place a high value on obtaining an education in the West. International students are assumed by governments to be 'the best and the brightest' and a profitable supply of potential skilled labour, making their allegedly unproblematic character obvious (Tomlins et al., 2021).

In recent years, European countries have become increasingly worried about restricting the flow of non-EU immigrants. Discourses on immigration, as well as governmental responses, have increasingly focused on issues of socio-economic disparity, racism, xenophobia, and conceptions of migrants and minorities leading "parallel lives." A sense of failure has engulfed European states like the United Kingdom, Holland and France in recent times in the face of rising populism and the continuous marginalisation of immigrants and their descendants by these states' policies. Migration patterns were dramatically altered by economic growth in the 1990s, when Ireland became the last EU country to become a net importer in 1996; it had previously been known for its high emigration rates. The rising wealth of the 1990s was a watershed era where new minorities became increasingly evident in Irish society, even if Ireland had not been completely homogeneous up until that point in time. Diversity in Ireland has undergone a dramatic shift in demographic characteristics. Until recently, the majority of Ireland's population was made up of British people, however that has since changed. Additionally, there was a 47% increase in the number of non-EU

students coming to Ireland between 2003 and 2005. There has been an increase in Irish society's diversity. In comparison to its neighbouring countries, Ireland has seen a dramatic shift in its post-war migration and integration policies in a short period of time. So integration strategy has typically centred on protecting the rights of Irish expatriates and encouraging them to return to the country of their birth (Clarke et al., 2018).

There has been a recent increase in the number of highly skilled migrants arriving to Ireland, including international students, notably full-time, non-EU students. It has been recognised that the internationalisation of Irish institutions of higher learning (HEIs) is a possible avenue for economic recovery, which contributes significantly to university revenue but also to the overall economy as a whole. The government subsidises Irish students' tuition, but they must pay an annual registration fee of about €3098 to offset the subsidy. Tuition prices for overseas students can range from €9,740 for a Liberal arts degree to €45,840 for a medical degree, depending on the institution and the curriculum (O'Connor, 2018). In recent years, Asia has been a key growth driver and student recruiting for Irish universities. Increasing the number of international students, notably from China and India, has been a primary goal of internationalisation plans. Ireland's government recognises the strategic importance of increasing the number of international students enrolled in Irish higher education institutions. Katherine Mitchell calls this approach "strategic cosmopolitanism," where variety is used as a tool to stay competitive globally at the price of "creating the accepting, multicultural self." This view is in accord with Mitchell's. As a result, they've come under fire for potentially undermining other potential gains from globalisation by furthering the commodity of education (Bell et al., 2017).

#### **4.2.2 International students of Ireland with perspective to universities**

The neoliberal image of 2012 has it that colleges and universities have issued a number of

initiatives that promise to construct environmentally friendly campuses that would, while remaining pluralistic and multicultural in nature, will also preserve the Irish natural community campus. Students' movements in Ireland will benefit from such initiatives, which will be particularly beneficial. In addition, internationalisation of students is frequently utilized as a marketing tool to portray a university as a multicultural and inclusive institution that is diverse and internationally recognised. Such institutions operate as a conduit through which ordinary students or local students can connect with international students and gain intercultural abilities, which will help to enhance the development and growth of the economy. Given the current situation, Irish culture is increasingly being recognised as a heterogeneous society on a far larger scale.

The university indicated in this example is considered to be a strategic goal-oriented institution, with the purpose of increasing the proportion of international students from 12 percent to 18 percent over the following few years. Students from the United States, China, and India are more predictable, as are the markets that get a large number of students from those countries. However, not just from these regions, but also from other regions of Latin America and students from all over the world, ensuring that the country's economy continues to grow at a quick pace. Additionally, the faculty of arts and social sciences has made a concerted effort to more than double the number of international undergraduate students from the United States and Japan as a strategic behaviour. Because they are well-known to be future PHD students, and it is via this that the Irish will contribute to their educational endeavours. International students are more than likely to benefit from full-free education in Germany, as is the case with the faculty of social sciences and engineering, some of which have already begun preparing. Or at the very least to undergraduate students from Eastern Europe, as well as from non-EU countries like as Brazil. The medical and pharmacy schools have also contributed, although they are operating on their own and with their own sense of

identity, rather than collaborating with other institutions or faculties. This action demonstrates that there is a lack of coordination among those working to build Irish as a multi-cultural college in the development of the campus.

#### **4.2.3 Policies and support from universities**

When it comes to university policies and assistance, they have, in some ways, failed to recognise the contribution that must be generated by universities in order to promote social inclusion among both domestic and international exchange students. Despite the fact that overseas students have made an important and significant contribution to Irish society, they are not the only ones. Taking into consideration their housing, which is acknowledged to be a critical component of multi-cultural learning, it is essential that they be linked so that their students can enable communication between nationals and international students. The experiences of such students have demonstrated how international students are subjected to barriers and are regarded as vulnerable when it comes to ensuring that they have access to their rights and the necessary accommodations (Longhurst et al., 2020). Even though PBSA methods are complicated and distinctive when it comes to management and as a strategy, they have struggled to adapt to changing circumstances. This has demonstrated that Irish campuses are distinct from other campuses in Ireland as well as from other campuses around the world. The customization of overseas students is being built by PBSA, which has almost contributed to the growth of the Irish market as a marketing technique, it can be seen. However, when it comes to sharing residences, there are restrictions that can be noticed in universities, and the nationals are not able to view such a gesture (Horgan et al., 2018).

For example, in a five-bedroom apartment, they might have two Irish students, two continental European students, or one or two students from the other side of the United States living together. In order for them to be able to socialise and understand that their college is

committed to creating a welcoming and varied campus environment for them (Phùng, 2021). Accommodating one another can contribute to the development of the multi-cultural objective of Irish society, which is, at the end of the day, one of the goals that can help to settle both internal and external disputes. A few more policies should be implemented with government assistance, and these efforts should be coordinated with prior initiatives to aid in the establishment of a multi-cultural society (McCully, 2017).

#### **4.2.4 External problems can directly influence internal conflicts**

The study under consideration has been involving the two major types of conflicts which include internal and external conflicts. The study has been designed to cater the internal conflicts associated as the challenges that are observed by the foreign students studying under Ireland. Based on the various information and significant data collected from the study recipients who were the students, it can be stated that the internal conflicts were more in number as compared to the external factors which caused the external conflicts. The internal and external conflicts can be understood well for assessing the challenges within the education sector thus based on the various literatures conducted, it can be stated that the internal conflicts are considered as issues risen from the political, social, economic, ideological, cultural, racial, reason, civil, independence, religious, ethnics, and forceful elements. On the other hand, the external issues or conflicts are identified as the conflicts arising due to outside force, struggle, and antagonism. It involves the driving of an action towards a forward plot. A character maybe struggling against one another in an external conflict. According to the studies, it has been stated that the external issues have direct impacting relation towards the internal conflicts as in case of the foreign students, the factors which were disturbed internally were caused by the changes in an external environment with the external element of security implemented due to the sudden influx of pandemic. The

situations created by the pandemic has been evaluated as the most effecting external issue influencing the internal conflicts of the foreign students drastically.

According to the conducted survey for the foreign students by the researchers, it was observed and found that the majority of the students indicated the pandemic as an external conflict causing the disturbance within the internal challenges and issues present within the education sector. The situations of pandemic were observed as the major reasons impacting the internal conflicts present within the students as most of the foreign students studying in the regions of Ireland faced various issues such as imposing of lockdowns, travel restrictions, and strict policies related to travel and immigration which caused the student to suffer a lot in the hard times. Also, it was found evident that the externally causing problems are prudently impacting the internal conflicts as the situation of pandemic caused the foreign students to be moved due to unavailability of resources as most of the governments of various countries have policies that they will not protect or provide resources as similar as the local people receive facilitations and other benefits.

Further, the survey utilized for collecting data mentioned another reason which was stating the impact of external problems influencing the internal conflicts and these include the inappropriate measures and initiatives taken by the education management and other information management sectors to provide effective assistance and support towards the foreign students studying in education sector of Ireland. The management of such sectors were unable to cope effectively with the situation observed by the international students as most of the foreign students were not allowed some sort of concessions on fees and other services or items and were not offered concessions on the housing as well as it was highlighted by every individual student that the tenure of the pandemic caused majority of the students to pay more amount on housing and meals as the inflation in Ireland was observed to be increasing with the scarcity of resources in almost every sector of the country. The

effective management plan was still observed lacking by the education sector to cope the foreign exchange students who were studying in their regions by providing them some amount of assistance so that they could be living and catering their expenses well. The education ministry has not framed the plan according to the strategy which must be implemented and the students were observed in bulk facing the internal issues or challenges which lead them to survive in very rough situation like lending of the money from the friends or known relatives present within Ireland. Most of the students observed facing issues of cost of living as they were unable to pay their rent due to sudden increase in prices on almost all accessories.

#### **4.2.5 Post covid-19 effects has affected the education of foreign exchange students in Ireland.**

The different kinds of external factors have influenced the course of student's foreign exchange programs but the most severe of all the influences is of the recent pandemic disease Covid-19 which is in some way or the other connected with the multiple different kinds of environmental factors that can actually be resolved with the help of different measures. The students of foreign exchange programs have faced quite some issues and these all have been catered in a limited amount of time. The values that are conducted with the help of work analysis are usually meant to be resolved in the scenarios that would be catered with the help of different scenarios. These students have seen changes happening because of the different procedures when students are asked to work from home and conduct all the academic life related activities at home with the help of those who are in some way or the other connected with online studies. These online studies might appear to be appealing from the distance, but in reality as per the statements of many expert researchers, these kinds of online studies have devalued the education standard and has made students qualify quite easily, which is not

considered to be a healthy form of quality education (Clarke, et al, 2018).

The covid-19 issues created a lockdown kind of scenario which was of course not something easy to implement but at the same time the different kinds of people have resolved matters in the light of values that are quite easier to implement. The work related activities that can quite smartly handle the issues while being conducted through homes do not actually resolve matters of all kinds in a same way. The different values that are meant to be conducted with the help of practical applications cannot be quite easily resolved and the matters can be tackled with the help of practical applications that would be in some way or the other be related with different kinds of work techniques that can resolve the matters with the help of those who are actually considering matters in different values. The values of the workplace that are related with different kinds of home based activities can all be resolved with the help of precautionary measures that are simply about taking the matters in the same way as usual except that there is social distancing involved and the different kinds of people who are considered to be a part of these activities would all be resolved (Fitzgerald, et al, 2020).

The values that are in some way or the other connected with the quality of education all have to be conducted in the light of different values and these would have to be conducted in ways that people would actually see matters getting out of hand. Wherever quality of education is compromised, the career of students is ruined in different words. The different activities that can be conducted with the help of different workplace values would all have to resolved in a way that quality and standard of education should not be compromised or else the future of the students would be at stake (Whitaker, 2017).

#### **4.2.6 Internal conflicts have increased after the outbreak of COVID-19**

It is quite true that the internal feuds and conflicts of the firms have increased because of the different values that occur and these all have to be resolved in ways that different people



would actually see reduction in the increasing rates of conflicts. The different conflicts occur at different times and these are mostly related to tasks that are not quite easily understood by the different people of the organization. There can be conflicts in different parts of the organization and these all would be resolved in the process of different organizations and would be conducted with the help of step-by-step assessments that can be resolved quite easily. The past studies have proved that internal conflicts have existed since the inception of corporate industries and these would all be resolved in the light of values that can be quite easily resolved. Conflicts that are quite easier to resolve in groups and teams cannot be resolved if separations are created as were created by the pandemic covid-19 (Dowling, et al, 2020).

The values that are compromised because of the changes in a workplace often leave a stain that is never meant to be resolved in the future or if it does, it takes a lot of time because the damage has been done. The damages that are done because of these are all resolved and can be resolved if an immediate action is taken immediately. The different kinds of workplace activities that are meant to be resolved can be conducted with the help of different values. The internal conflicts arise in an organization wherever there are different kinds of communication barriers that can actually disrupt the flow of proper information. The occurrence of covid'19's spread is quite a severe one and it has been observed practically that the changing modes of communication can ruin things in ways that people would actually find their careers on the path to destruction (Whitaker, 2017).

#### **4.2.7 Factors faced by foreign exchange students (pre and post Covid-19)**

It has come to personal observations that the different factors have influenced the values related to quality of education of these different exchange programs. The different kinds of values that need be taken care of specially are usually related to how the observations related

to different kinds of working attitudes that would be related to different kinds of attitudes that would in the long term be connected with future reputation of the exchange program. The exchange programs would get to see that different kinds of values would be resolved in the scenarios of different occasions. The multiple factors that can be in some way or the other be connected with values can only be resolved with the help of different values that would in the long run be considered as the values connected with different kinds of ethical issues. The factors that have influenced different people in different ways would actually become a hindrance in the success of people who are moving ahead in the path of their bright careers. It has been proved through public experiences that people have found matters getting resolved in ways that people would not be able to see a bright career path ahead of them (Fitzgerald, et al, 2020).

The different values that occur because of the hindrances can be resolved with the help of those who have personally observed all of these very closely. The results have proved that several factors related to different kinds of values have been resolved in a limited amount of time and these all can be conducted with the help of those and these are meant to be resolved only if different factors are closely analyzed. The internal conflicts are a little easier to resolve but since the communication gaps have made their way in between, hence we get to this conclusion that the different kinds of solutions are proposed after this. The different observations can be conducted and most of them have been quite recently found and all of them are related to results and performances of the students which have found to be surprisingly poor and have destroyed their expectations in ways that the student exchange programs have suffered defamation (Clarke, et al, 2018).

## **CHAPTER 5 – DISCUSSION**

### **5.1 Introduction**

The dissertation under consideration is all about involving the effective tools and methods to assess the major conflicts present within the foreign exchange students studying in Ireland. Based on the evident studies under consideration, it can be stated that there are two types of conflicts present within any environment and these include internal and external conflicts. A conflict is very common especially in a workplace and foreign schools where the foreign students face various forms of complexities due to the differences in opinions, beliefs, culture, and other attributes. The considered case is mentioned with regards to the foreign students studying in the regions of Ireland and their respective attitudes and behaviour has been assessed based on the system of feedbacks collected from them in the form of a survey. The international students have been observed from various regions of Ireland for conducting the research based on the qualitative design approach which was done through conducting a survey analysis of considered participants who were selected for the design strategy.

The study highlighted four major objectives under which the study analyzed the conflicts present among the foreign students in Ireland and these objectives were assessed considering as the major pillars of this study were based on the elected objectives, the study involved a deep analysis on the basis of qualitative approach. The results found based on these objectives were all referenced and were based on the reviews of the students provided in the survey for further analysis.

These major objectives include the major differences between the external and internal conflicts, eminence of conflicts within the foreign students, impacts associated with each type of conflict on one another, and provision of effective measures for the eradication of conflicts present within the international students of Ireland. Based on various studies, there are various conflicts present within the foreign students as they have to face various scenarios in

a new place.

Secondly, the concluding section will be assessing the internal and external conflicts present within the foreign students of Ireland due to the major issue which has been observed and is related to the pandemic which has caused various destructions in almost every sector. Therefore, the impact of the pandemic will also be discussed within the limitation section of the chapter as this is the major topic for concern which has made a significant increase in the conflicts more as compared to the past environment conflicts observed. The chapter will be discussed in such a way that the readers will be focusing on the main elements present within the overall study by assessing the key points mentioned within the sub-headings of the chapter. The conclusion is designed in addressing the major attributes found from the consideration of key data collected from the students through the qualitative survey form which has been addressed in-depth as a summative assessment along with the discussion about the overall research conducted. The study has been also concluded comprising of the future research areas, obtained limitations, the contribution of the study and necessary recommendations along with ethics approval for continuing the study in future prospects as well.

## **5.2 Summary of Findings**

The data collected for this study involving the challenges faced by the foreign exchange students in Ireland was done through the utilization of the surveying technique approach which involved the data collection from a designed survey which was focusing on the primary approach to collect the necessary information. The utilized approach for surveying was considered as the most appropriate approach as it was designed to make the students elaborate on the major issues that arose while studying in Ireland. The students were observed participating more frequently based on the structure of the questions present within

the survey. The survey was designed in the form of open-ended questions which were assumed effective for making the students participate more. The findings have illustrated that the internal conflicts gradually increase more after the situation of the pandemic as the situation of a pandemic caused the students to face multiple issues such as facilities, accommodation, immigration etc. Also, the study assessed the factors within the education sector present among the students by comparing the situations before and after the pandemic. The approach for comparison was highlighted effective and the researchers have stated it very sounding as by doing the comparison of the pre and post-pandemic situation the researchers assessed the major effects produced by the pandemic for making the relevant concluding statements regarding what are the eminence and impacts of the observed internal complications which restricted the foreign students for continuing further with same energy and motivation.

Also, the study highlighted some of the major issues faced by the students as well as the education sectors during the time of Covid which was essential to analyze the internal conflicts present within the students struggling hard to survive in the education sector.

Concerning the results obtained from the surveying approach, the researchers mentioned that there were very scarce practising of policies and support which has to be done by the education sector but not done properly. Despite the present fact that the international students have contributed a lot to making education better in Ireland, the education policies were not up to the mark for the international students as the students were having no necessary facilitations with respect to the coping strategy for dealing with the pandemic effectively.

Lastly, by considering all the shreds of evidence obtained from the findings it was concluded by the researchers that the students belonging from the home countries other than Europe and whose parents or family members were belonging from other regions were observed as the most suffering individuals as compared to the local individuals, who were only observed

affected slightly. Therefore, it can be stated that the foreign exchange students were much likely to be affected most by the external and internal factor disagreements within the system of education of Ireland. The data illustrated that the foreign students who were unable to take their exams within the regions of Ireland were observed giving their exams mostly in other partners or neighbouring countries.

### **5.3 Contribution of Study**

The study under analysis has been only subjected to assess the types of conflicts present within the foreign exchange students studying in Ireland and focusing the objectives and research designs for collecting the information from the concerned participants, it can be stated that the study has utilized the most effective research designs for making the study prudent and transparent. This is because the study has involved the methodology of primary qualitative which involved the collection of data from the live participants' through research questionnaires or surveys rather than secondary sources which include the collection of data from past and relevant studies having similar findings. The study has been found effective so far but with some major limitations which are discussed in depth in the below section but it has been contributed towards the best understanding for the readers as it has been involved in taking approvals for conducting such research which is primary and is based on the collection of data from the students, which are not allowed by the majority of the schools and universities dealing the foreign students.

The researchers conducting the study have been observed solving the major conflicts by directly assessing the views of the foreign exchange students studying within Ireland which can be observed as the easiest cost-effective, and reliable method for collecting the data through direct means and is also contributed towards the time efficiency as it has saved the time for gathering the useful data from the surveys rather than the past relevant studies or

through secondary approaches.

The study under consideration involving the exchange students has also a major significance over the students studying in other countries where the foreign students are not catered properly or not treated effectively in terms of their personal conflicts and other major issues or disputes related to ethnicity, culture, religion, or any other aspect. Also, the study parameters have been observed helpful in assessing the major reasons behind the conflicts with transparency as the research was conducted through surveys having questions designed in such a way that could be used for analyzing the reasons related to major disputes within the culture of Ireland. The contribution of the concerned study has been found effective till now as most of the readers have assessed its significance for dealing the issues specific to the international studies facing issues in different countries and this study can be further utilized for addressing the current and future scenarios with respect to the education as the things and the horrific situation observed currently related to the lockdowns have caused many adverse effects towards the students studying internationally.

The contribution of the results obtained from the study can further be utilized to address the upcoming issues related to pandemics and other sorts of complications. The study design and the objectives are observed clearly focusing the major issues with depth and all the findings have been observed making all the necessary issues identified as the developed questions and objectives have structured the research well and have been observed effectively assessing the conflicts and other types of conflicts present within the students studying in foreign countries which can be modified by most of the studies for considering the strength of their education systems in their respective countries.

#### **5.4 Limitations of the study**

The limitation is considered as the limiting factors which are the key restricting elements

present that tends to constraint the studies. Based on the considered study involving the challenges and complications faced by the foreign students of Ireland, there have major limitation elements which are observed by the study under consideration and these limitations are addressed in depth based on the evidence and key data collected from the concerned participants who responded to the series of questions asked by the researchers. Based on the findings of the study researchers, it has been found that there were many limitations observed within the phase of analysis related to the assessment of challenges observed by the young and energetic students studying in Ireland based on various aspects.

The most major limiting factor which was observed by the researchers during the phase of analysis was the threat of repetition. It has been assumed that the repetition might cause the study to become time consuming and expensive. Also, the other aspects which were found limiting the study up to a particular length were the level of insecurities present within the student participants as based on various observations, it has been observed that the participants mostly do not like to participate in a survey due to the security issues related to their personal data or information. The participants also do not like to give their views on the surveys as most of them think that this method is outdated and is very time consuming for taking the important piece of data from themselves.

Most importantly, the study also faced some issues related to the management of finances as the funding is also observed as the major issue in most of the studies while collecting and analyzing the key data. Thus, this study also faced a lack of finances or fundings for the analysis as most of the surveys are present in economical modes of collecting the data for which the finances are required for its successful implementation. In the case of this study involving the challenges observed by foreign students and other research studies conducted, it has been highlighted that the surveys utilized for collecting the necessary data are not the most reliable method for the collection of data. The research involving the surveys are



considered as inflexible as the surveys usually used by the design researchers to conduct maximum response rates possible but based on the researches, it has been stated that the high return rates through surveys are not much eminent as it involves limiting of research associated with the survey. Therefore, the utilization of the surveying technique is found to be the most major limiting factor that could be modified for making the research minimally limited for future prospective studies.

### **5.5 Recommendations**

Most of the topics have already been covered and the research, in particular, is quite enough as plenty of information can be found. Whoever needs to study or conduct a survey on different kinds of student exchange related programs especially in Ireland, will see that the discussion on the topic is quite a sufficient one. However, there are always some recommendations that can actually resolve the matters in the light of different values which shall be conducted in different ways that students would benefit from the topic as a whole. The different kinds of work-based scenarios that involve research to be conducted in ways that different people would understand the gaps related to the research. The recommendations regarding the topics would be related to how different students who are involved in conflicts would have to tackle the issues related to different kinds of obstacles that come in their way. The different values that are slowly becoming a part of student's exchange programs are meant to be conducted in the perspective of making matters difficult for students on their own. The different kinds of future values that usually become a part of our everyday values are meant to be conducted with the help of treatments that can actually resolve all of these conflicts in Ireland. The foreign students who leave their home countries and have travelled quite far to gain education and struggle for their careers actually see things happening in ways that their designed goals and different ambitions would be compromised in ways that

people would actually not be able to proceed ahead. These issues can be resolved in ways that different foreigners would have to communicate their issues and problems to higher-level authorities who have pieces of evidence for stuff like this. If the students can make a strong case out of how the conflicts are arising and some seniors are making matters difficult for students of different standards, then the issues would be resolved with the passage of time.

The different issues that arise during the entire process of the exchange program's initiation usually occur when different kinds of work-related activities are not taken seriously by the different people who are hired to manage all kinds of conflicts and feuds that arise in the process. The values that are compromised can be considered in ways that different people would retract away from these special programs and the defamation of such exchange programs would naturally occur. The different kinds of values that are meant to be conducted in the scenario that is in some way or the other related to different forms of work-related activities. The values that are meant to be conducted in different forms are usually in touch with the supreme authorities and these matters can be minimized only if people in top positions are provided with those complaints. Not just complaints are presented before them but also strict and severe actions are taken against these complaints.

The students however should also see and keep a firm eye on what kind of foreign exchange students program they are applying for. These students should not apply blindly to any programs that are a part of advertisements found on different social media platforms. Most of the researchers have stated that the reason why such issues usually arise is that students normally do not have proper information regarding the proper exchange programs that must be applied on and they do what they are usually asked for. As a future recommendation to the problem in hand, as per the agreement of most researchers, the students should apply only the reliable and well-reputed exchange programs if they want to stay away from internal as well as external conflicts.

## **5.6 Future research directions**

Like every other research, this research has also left some unattended topics and these are mostly related to different kinds of research-based activities that would be different in methodologies in some way. The primary research has been conducted apparently but for future research on the same topic, I would recommend that different kinds of approaches should be implemented. The research should be a detailed one and it must be done on a secondary approach because it is one of the most recommended if one wants to analyze the different kinds of work-based issues. The different values are meant to be conducted with the help of past records regarding what were the opinions of different writers over the course of many years. When the second method is implemented for data collection, the differences of opinions and the consensus of researchers is gathered and compiled in one form which makes it quite easier for the different students to carry on research further.

The unexplored topics regarding what kind of research has been conducted in the past and what kind of work-based scenarios can be considered and worked upon in different values. The different matters that can be conducted in the light of different values would all be resolved with the passage of time if unexplored internal issues regarding the student exchange programs would be conducted. The topic in itself has a vast scope and it can be quite easily resolved if different values are meant to be resolved in the light of issues that can actually be reconsidered. There might be some research found on the different issues of this topic, but not enough. The different kinds of values that must be resolved in the light of current trends can be worked upon and instead of a quantitative approach, a qualitative one must be applied.

In future research on a similar topic, the different values can be catered to in a limited amount of time. The different variables along with different sub-dimensions can be selected and these

would all be related to the multiple kinds of values that are quite sharper. The same variables can also be used but different dimensions can be catered for these activities and all of these would demand work that is in some way or the other affiliated related and relevant to the topic discussing conflicts and feuds that arise in different forms. The work-based activities can actually provide recommendations in ways that researchers would actually find solutions. The different kinds of activities that are meant to be conducted in different scenarios can actually resolve the matters in the light of issues that are in one way or the other connected with the values of this subject. The issues that arose several times ago would all be related to different kinds of conflicts within the boundaries of the student exchange program and these made problems quite relevant with others. The research that has been conducted for the past years can be resolved with the help of different values and the gaps can be found in the different past papers.

### **5.7 Ethical considerations**

There are plenty of ethical values that one must consider while conducting research of any kind and these must all be related to different values that are in some way or the other connected with different values that are related to different kinds of activities. The values that are meant to be resolved with the help of the ethics code are always accepted in the academic world and they are given special preference. The different values that can actually be resolved with the help of matters related to different kinds of issues would all be related to ethical boundaries that students and even expert researchers do not care about.

The research is meant to be conducted with the help of different ethical values and these all can be conducted with the help of guidance that would be relevant in some way or the other with the different kinds of activities that are quite relevant (Groarke, et al, 2019).

The ethical values can be about being completely honest while conducting research because

one must consider the reality that if researchers of different kinds are conducting a detailed study on a particular topic then the research would be further studied in future and whatever content that was originally generated would be considered to be a true one. Therefore, all the researchers are morally obliged to be very honest while conducting particular research and they must understand the value of being acknowledged by different future researchers who actually depend on their research. The research can be conducted with utmost fabrication and falsehood and at the same time, it can be resolved with the help of values that are quite easier to implement with honesty and truthfulness. The different issues that arise in the process of conducting research can force one to fabricate information, but ethical values expect us to be honest no matter what (Marron, et al, 2018).

Apart from this, the privacy and confidentiality of those participants who are helping us in conducting particular research can also be very conducted with the help of values that are quite easier to implement with the help of some guidance. The different values that would be considered as the moral values of keeping the personal information of the different applicants in a way that people would actually find matters getting resolved in scenarios that would be slightly easier to implement with the help of matters that can actually relate to matters with the different kinds of values that people do not accept getting shared or published without their permissions.

There can be many different kinds of applicants who do not like sharing their personal and historical data as it might be inappropriate, so a smart researcher should consider all such values and they must also consider these with the help of those aspects that can actually resolve with the help of multiple perspectives (Zhang, et al, 2018).

The issues that arise in the procedure of permission acceptance from institutes and organizations are often ignored and kept aside by new coming researchers. They must analyze that these matters are not supposed to be underestimated and these can actually be

done with the help of different values that can actually resolve the issue as a whole. At times, institutes do not grant permissions nor do they allow such experiments or surveys to be conducted inside their grounds unless the researchers belong to some higher-level organizations. If the researchers and students have a back of some highly reputed firm that can be held responsible then the permissions regarding experiments and other similar stuff might be quite easily given but this is not the case everywhere. Students, however, try and escape these formalities and conduct their projects which is unethical and it can never lead to accurate results (Dowling, 2020).

## CONCLUSION

To summarize it all up, the research has been conducted with the help of primary qualitative technique which was meant to be conducted with the help of instruments and surveys. A detailed discussion on the different fields of student exchange programs of Ireland was conducted but these were all conducted with the help of values that are mostly related to the internal and external conflicts that arise within a limited amount of time. These activities can be quite easily resolved with the help of values that would in one way or another resolve matters related to different kinds of obstacles that students have to face.

The opinions of past researchers as well as our own opinions based on what we have observed and seen in experiments were all conducted in the light of values that were quite easier to resolve. The mixed approach was considered to an extent that both opinions that were generated were presented quite clearly before the different kinds of people who were actually considering reading both the perspectives and then decide after reading both. The overall scenario of the entire research discussed the different values of research and these were all related to the conflicts that arise during times of student exchange program initial procedures.

The dissertation has been structured to discuss the major issues and challenges present within the foreign students studying in the regions of Ireland. The foreign students studying in Ireland are those students who have observed decisions in their tertiary education in a country other than their home country and have moved to Ireland for the purpose of studying. The definition for a foreign student refers to being different with respect to the various national education systems of the nations. In Europe, the students in exchange programs are also studied by various studies like the students within the sector of education of Ireland.

The major differences can be observed as both regions are observed dealing with their own complications associated with the foreign students. On the analysis of the parameters under

consideration, it has been observed that the most challenges faced by the student studying in Ireland were due to the horrific situations of the COVID pandemic which caused a severe effect on their studies. The factors which were the main issues were reportedly the immigration policies and the conduction of classes as the severe situations due to pandemic caused the students to be taking online classes rather than taking the classes on campus, which slightly reduced the interest in education among the international students as they were observed facing multiple issues related to their travelling and staying who went to Ireland a few days before the uprising of the pandemic.

The external and internal conflicts were the two parameters under which the study involved the analysis of the challenges faced by the foreigners or foreign students in recent times of the pandemic, the major external conflicts involved the travel bans, lockdowns, and policies across the border. The country faced severe situations of lockdown which initially caused the closures of all the sectors including the education sector of Ireland causing major challenges towards the foreign students as the students were not having permanent homes in the areas as compared to local students who were provided by all the facilities from the government. The government was only responsible to protect and provide the facilities to only the local students as they were the citizens of the country while based on the surveys, it was observed that the international students were observed complaining about the fundings and other scholarships to be provided into the outbreak times.

The international students were not facilitated by the cost-effective rooms and other items which eventually caused them to think about moving towards their home country again. The design of the surveys was made for addressing the issues and providing the solution focusing on the education system and contacting the relevant individuals within the education sectors for making the appropriate arrangements for the international students as it was about the popularity and key value for the administration to provide useful facilitations towards the



students for making a sounding appearance in the world and encouraging more number of students to come to Ireland for studying in every major.

## **REFLECTION**

This dissertation was, with no doubt, the most challenge work of the whole course. There were so many obstacles and the language was for sure one of the most difficult ones. It challenged me in every way.

Living in Dublin as an exchange student is not at all easy in any way, we faced problems and stress daily in our lives here. Missing family, friends and being alone in a different country, with a different culture made me realize how strong and focused I can be, but also made me appreciate more all my loved ones back in Brazil and everything I had there.

I can't even count how many times I thought about giving up and how many hours of therapy I had to deal with all of this and to get through it to finally get my Master's degree certification, which is something I have never imagined I would be able to do, especially in another country.

The decision of the theme for my dissertation could not be anything other than this one. It was a very tough 2 years which I don't even know how I made it. Definitely the 2 most difficult years of my whole life.

Despite all the difficulty, I enjoyed and learnt a lot during this period, and now I can say I made it and feel proud of myself for that. It helped me to grow up as a person and to have a better understanding of how to deal with my own internal conflicts and how to not let any external problem interfere with my personal life. It taught me how to give more importance to my mental health first, in order to get all the other areas of my life stable.

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## **APPENDIX – QUESTIONNAIRE**

Internal Conflicts - The challenges of living abroad faced among foreign exchange students in Ireland.”

People are constantly searching to solve conflicts, most part of their life: in the workplace, in the family, and most important - their own internal conflicts. Internal conflicts are those that take place inside the mind of a person, while dealing with a important decision making or solving a moral dilemma. In the other hand, external conflicts are those that take place between a person or group, and are more related on dealing with obstacles faced in order to complete and accomplishment or over situational outcomes.

The purpose of this Survey is entirely academic and its objective is a better understand of the challenges faced among foreign students living in Ireland.

This Survey is completely voluntary and anonymous - no personal information will be required.

All the participant must be over 18 years old.

All the answers will be sent to a link at Google form and it will be protected by password.

If there is any concern or doubts regarding to this research, feel free to contact the researcher Maressa Vasconcelos Correa through the email: [mvc\\_mari@hotmail.com](mailto:mvc_mari@hotmail.com)

By answering this Survey you're consenting to the use of the data collected for academic purpose, and stating that you've agreed with the terms mentioned above.

What is your nationality?

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For how long have you been in Ireland?

- Less than 1 year
- Between 1 and 3 years
- More than 3 years

What are you studying at the moment?

- English Course
- Undergraduate Degree
- Postgraduate or Master's Degree

Are you working at the moment?

- Yes
- No

What is your civil status or current living situation?

- Married and living only with my husband/wife
- Married and sharing a place with more people
- Single and living by myself
- Single but living with my partner
- Single and sharing a place with more people

Do you consider yourself able to manage daily conflicts around you?

- Yes, I can manage them very well
- Sometimes, it depends on the situation
- No, I try to avoid them as much as I can

What about your internal conflicts - are able to manage them?

- Yes, I'm able to manage them by myself
- I'm not able to manage them without professional help
- I don't have any internal conflict

Do you think external problems can directly influence internal conflicts?

- Yes, definitely
- Maybe
- No, I believe they are not related to each other

Did you feel like your internal conflicts have increased after moving to Ireland?

- Yes
- No

Did you feel like your internal conflicts have increased after the outbreak of COVID-19?

- Yes
- No

What are the factor(s) you consider to be more challenging about living abroad? (before the pandemic).

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What about during/after the outbreak of COVID-19 - did the challenges changed? (if so, describe what changed).

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