



Considerations for Cultural and Social Spaces in University Library

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This paper explores my thoughts on a research project, how social and cultural conditions play a major role in students' life, and influence the social and cultural practices of the university library usage at Auckland University of Technology (AUT) Manukau Campus. This research will examine the students' use of the library and the study space in and around the campus.



Abstract

The diagram features a light beige background with a decorative header at the top consisting of wavy bands in shades of red, olive green, and grey. On the left side, two circles are stacked vertically: a blue circle on top and a green circle on the bottom. Both circles have a thin white border. To the right of these two circles is a light blue arrow pointing towards a single orange circle on the right. The orange circle also has a thin white border. The text inside the circles is in a black serif font.

Student's
Social and
cultural
practices

Library
practices
& support



Academic
Success

City Campus



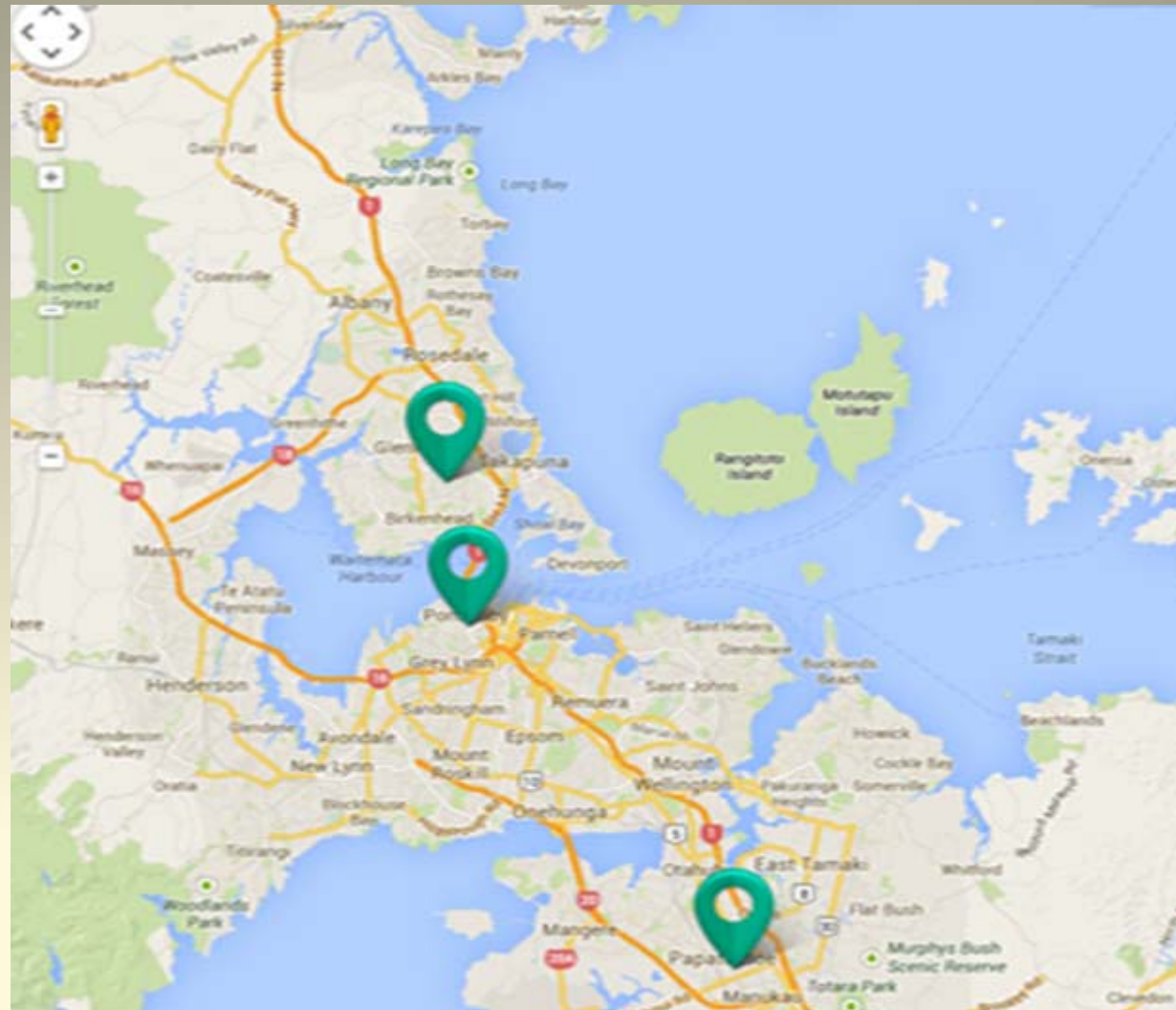
North Shore



Millenium Campus



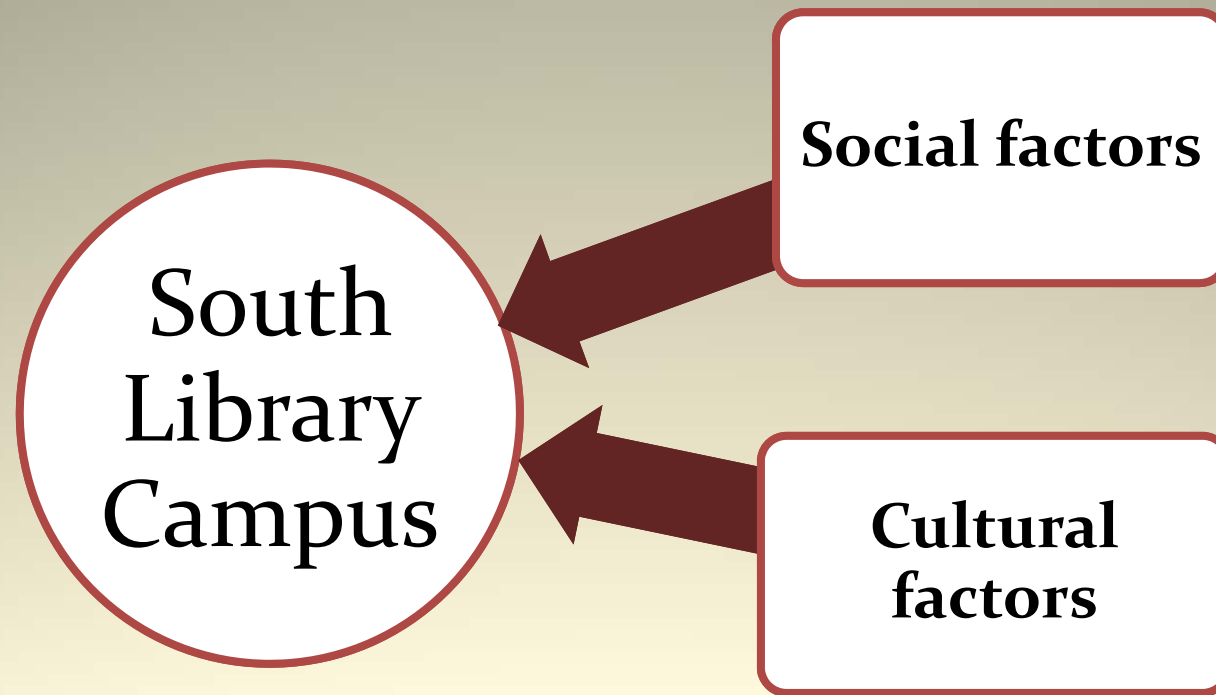
South Campus

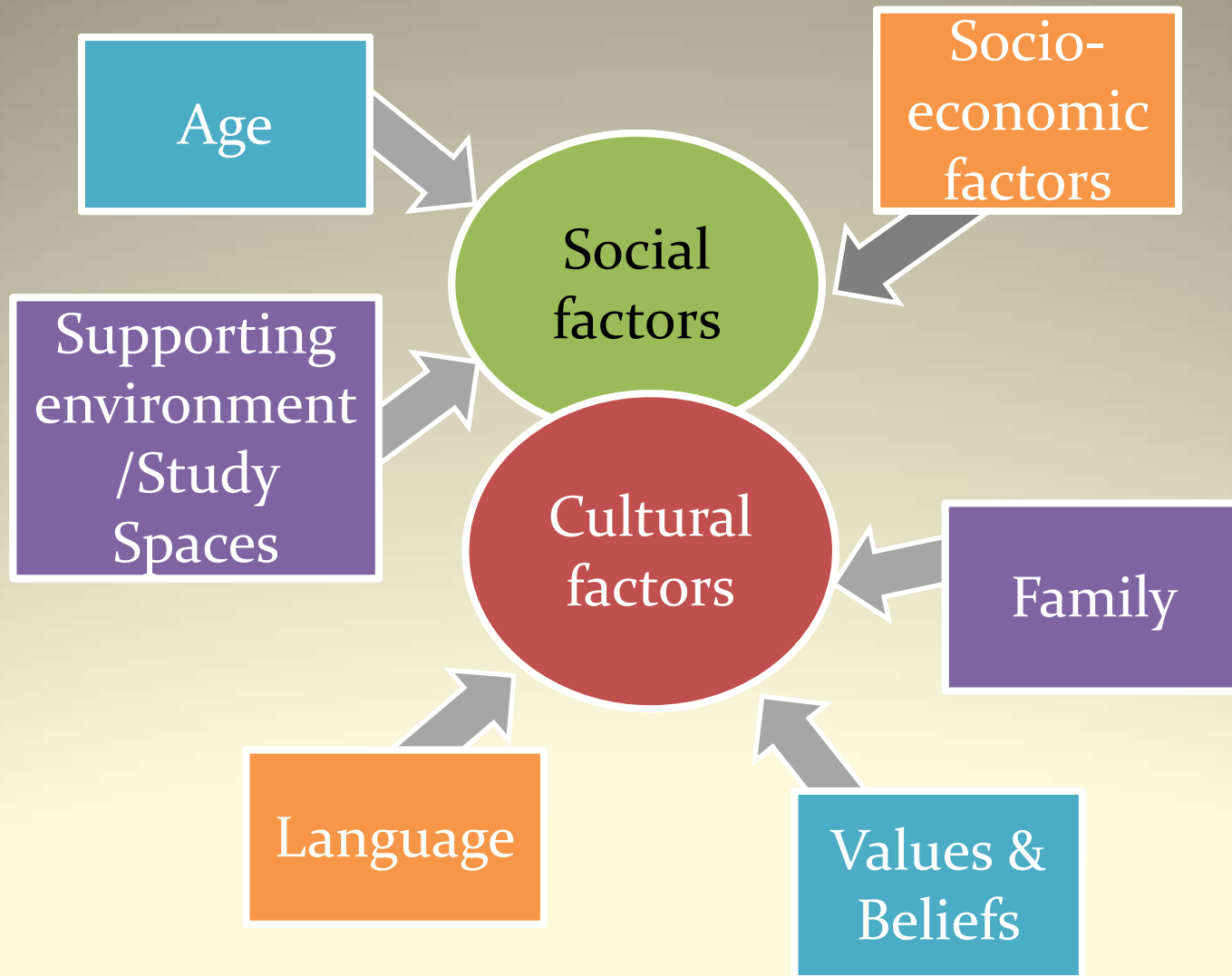


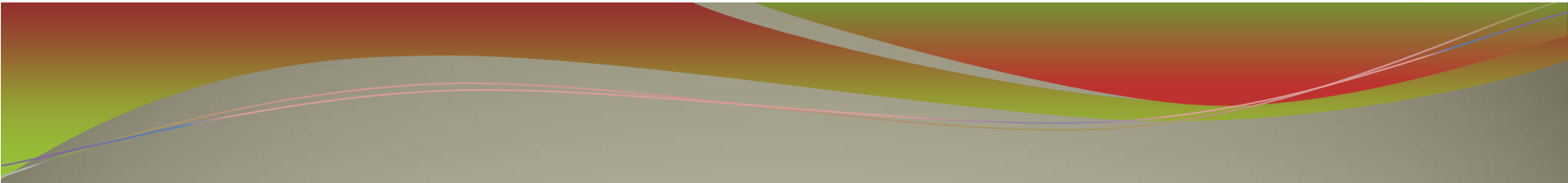
Significance of the South Campus

What makes it 'special'

- ☐ Population
- ☐ Socio - Cultural factors







Amituna'i-Toloo's (2013) study mentioned deep within the students' culture, experience, and upbringing are the hindrances/factors/barriers preventing the students of Maori and Pasifika from performing well in studies and the library is one of the informal spaces which supports the students' learning.

Purpose of the Study

- ❖ **Create** library spaces that are comfortable, lively and active according to the **cultural need**
- ❖ **Support** for the use of library resources and relevant technology to access these resources
- ❖ **A place** for cultural, ethnic, generational, multicultural and digitized students

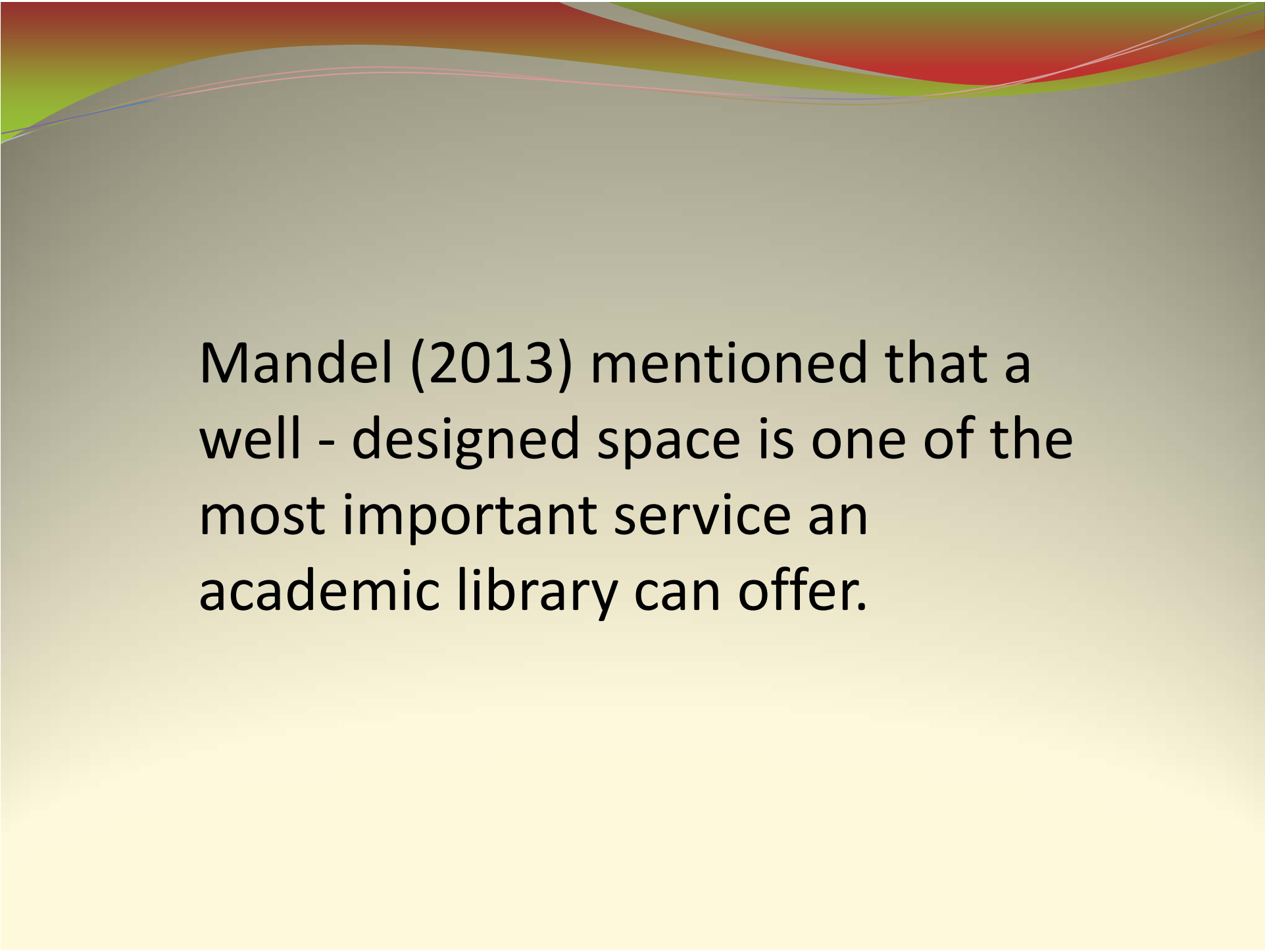
Advantages

By offering these sociocultural spaces, the library can act as a campus crossroads, allowing students from different disciplines to mix, discuss, share interests, and work collaboratively in using the library collection and resources.

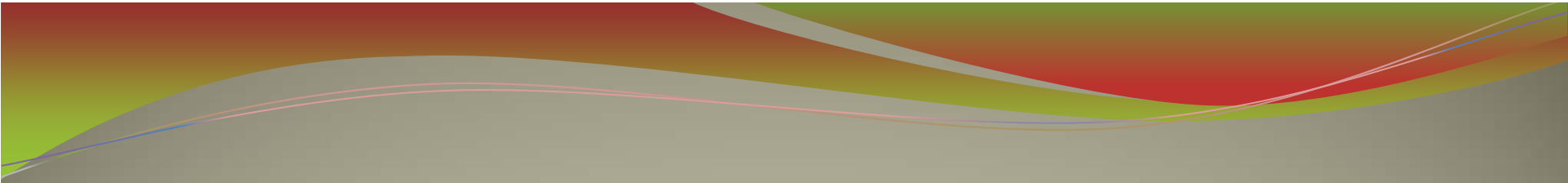
Points to Consider

One needs to consider the social and cultural impact of spaces for students of different ethnicities, and how these support

- ❖ peer learning,
- ❖ create a sense of belonging,
- ❖ encourage student retention, and
- ❖ contribute to increasing enrolment at the university.



Mandel (2013) mentioned that a well - designed space is one of the most important service an academic library can offer.



Keeping Bennett's words (2006) in mind, the planners of AUT Library should endeavour to understand the learning culture of one's own institution and how it may resonate with and differ from the cultures of other colleges and universities across New Zealand.

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THANK YOU

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