The re-entry experiences of international music therapy professionals from the Asia Pacific Rim area.

Australian Journal of Music Therapy
Volume 25 (2014)
Abstract: As music therapy is a relatively new healthcare profession in the Asia Pacific Rim area, students from the area may travel to countries with well-established music therapy programs, such as the United States and Australia, to receive formal music therapy education. Upon completion of their training, many of these international professionals choose to return to their home country. The purpose of this study was to (a) assess the existence and severity of reverse cultural shock in music therapy professionals from the Asia Pacific Rim area who relocated/established their professional practices at home after formal music therapy training in the United States, (b) understand their re-entry experience by exploring the relationships between reverse cultural shock and re-entry satisfaction, and (c) investigate the relationship between reverse cultural shock experienced and re-adaptation to home culture on a personal level. Forty-two music therapists accepted the invitation to participate in an on-line survey. Results revealed that most participants experienced low levels of reverse cultural shock during re-entry to their home country. The Pearson's Correlation Test found there was a medium-strong negative correlation between the severity of reverse cultural shock experienced and level of re-entry satisfaction, and weak negative correlation between re-adaptation to home culture on a personal level and severity of reverse cultural shock experienced. The transfer and application of music therapy knowledge and skills learned in the United States to the professional practice in participants' home cultural environment was also investigated. This study serves as the starting point for further investigation into the subject.