Theme 02: Defining the Research Problem

**Critical Reading 2**

**Below is a literature review main body paragraph which synthesises a number of sources and makes a reference to the student’s own research.**

Identify:

1. Those parts where the student is describing the sources (e.g. summarising aims, findings, methodology). **Highlight those in bold.**
2. Those parts where the student is evaluating the sources. *Highlight those in italics.*
3. Those parts where the student indicates the gap which his/her own research will address. Underline those.

There is a large and growing body of literature which has investigated the various pull factors that influ*ence Asian students to study* abroad. **According to one large scale study conducted in India, Malaysia and Indonesia the most important factors are to have better career prospects, gain international experience and to learn about technology (Ng, 2012:278). Ng’s research focussed on students wanting to go to Hong Kong rather than the UK,** but the former is a developed city with a strong English language background so may be partly relevant to this research. **Another study actually carried out at three UK universities also found that career enhancement was a significant motivation along with experiencing nati**ve culture and English environment, although the sample was limited to Chinese postgraduate students (Wu, 2014). Bamber’s (2014) investigation seems to confirm the primacy of career prospects, as well as shorter study period of UK masters courses and access to the UK job market. Although Bamber’s sample only included Chinese females, and tighter working restrictions on UK student visas have since been implemented which may make the UK a less attractive destination for non-EU students. Moreover, as the study only included qualitative findings it is not possible to rank the different pull factors accurately. Cao et al (2016) provide perhaps the most useful research for the current study, even though their findings were also limited to Chinese students, in two Chinese cities. They provide a clear ranking **of the top five pull factors: mobility costs, quality of institution, career prospects, financial aid and employment rates. Their findings are also categorised into three demographic groups (gender, major and parents’ education level) which may provide a useful framework for future research.** However, none of the above studies specifically investigate pull factors that encourage Asian students to attend Scottish universities, and only a very narrow range of nationalities participated in the research. These limitations will be addressed in the current study.