

Integrating Intercultural Competence into the Formal and Informal Curriculum

Dr Lesley Treleaven
Faculty of Economics and Business
University Of Sydney

Internationalising Learning and Teaching in Academic Settings,
The University of Sydney
Engagement, Collaboration and Sustainability

Seminar aims

- Engage with why intercultural competence is important
- Identify embedding strategies for developing intercultural competence
- Identify curriculum planning strategies in the formal curriculum and align with student support initiatives in the informal curriculum
- Identify an intercultural competence support website and online community with relevant learning activities

What is intercultural competence?

- Intercultural competence can be viewed as ‘understandings, competencies, attitudes, language proficiencies, participation and identities necessary for successful cross-cultural engagement’ (Heyward, 2002:10)
- Developing intercultural competence is a dynamic, ongoing, interactive self reflective learning process that transforms attitudes, skills and knowledge for effective communication and interaction across cultures and contexts’

‘It is a common belief that tertiary students acquire intercultural communication competence through interacting with each other in multicultural classrooms. Much research undertaken in Australia, however, indicates that having culturally diverse classrooms will not, by itself, necessarily promote student development in this area’ (Briguglio, 2005)

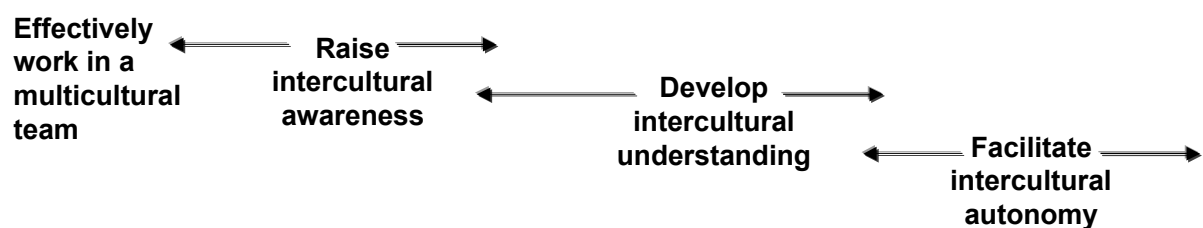
The single most important reason for developing IC is

- 📖 Employers want new graduates with business communication skills and argue that it is the tertiary sector's responsibility to develop those skills.
- 📖 It is vital that students develop intercultural competence as future global leaders.
- 📖 Developing intercultural communication is consistent with our program goals for business education.
- 📖 It is important for implementing the policy relating to our university's graduate attributes for AUQA-2.
- 📖 With such diverse cohorts, students and staff alike are dissatisfied with their groupwork experiences.






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Curriculum planning: from program to courses

Master MGT	Semester 1				Semester 2				Semester 3
Course Program	M601	M602	M603	M604	M605	M606	M607	M608	M609/ M610
Learning goal 5	Intro	Extended		Extended		Extended		Extended	Mastered and Assured



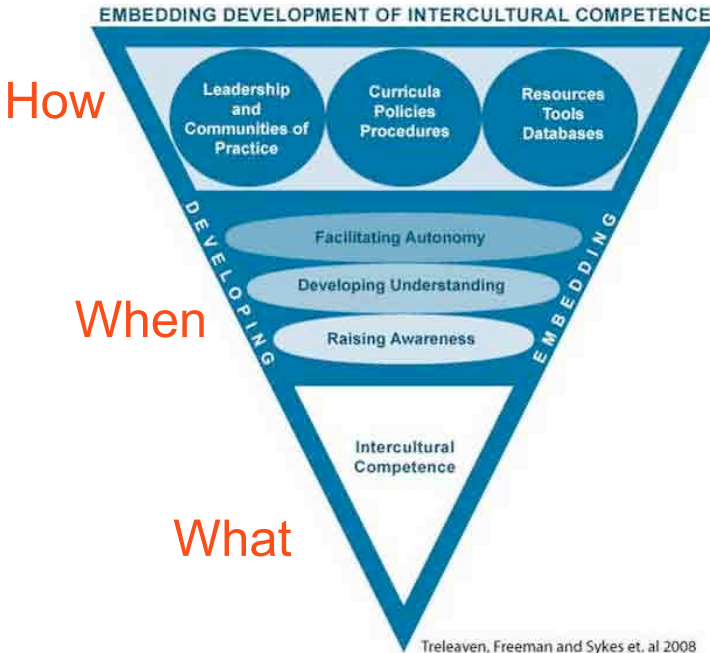
The best way to start embedding intercultural competence is...

-  Providing good resources and tools (including staff development workshops)
-  Committing to program assurance of learning
-  Aligning intercultural competence across programs through policy and curriculum review
-  Establishing distributed leadership commitment
-  Encouraging networks of IC expertise

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Embedding framework



Treleaven, Freeman and Sykes et. al 2008



Strategies to embed DIC

- Generate leadership commitment within communities of practice that can be adapted to support a maturing intercultural ethos
- Introduce and establish curriculum, policies and procedures that can be adapted to support the sustained development of IC
- Provide resources (including \$ support), tools and databases that can be used or adapted to develop IC

The best way to develop intercultural competence in the formal and informal curriculum is...

- 📅 Planning curriculum that scaffolds the development of IC within a program
- 📅 Designing assessment tasks and criteria that align with unit learning outcomes that develop IC.
- 📅 Introducing a Faculty global citizenship portfolio for recognising student engagement in relevant activities (eg. peer mentoring; study abroad)
- 📅 Introducing a University policy that rewards Faculty improvement in student experiences of IC interactions (eg. AUSSE)
- 📅 Pursuing relevant international accreditation where IC is emphasised (eg. EQUIS) or assurance of learning standards exist (eg. AACSB)

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Learning activities for...



- Raising intercultural awareness
- Developing intercultural understanding
- Facilitating learner autonomy



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Definition of Intercultural Competence

A dynamic, ongoing, interactive self reflective learning process that transforms attitudes, skills and knowledge for effective communication and interaction across cultures and contexts

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Embedding the Development of Intercultural Competence in Business Higher Education

- 1. Formal and Informal Curriculum
- 1.1 Learning Activities
- 1.2 Taxonomy for Developing Intercultural

<http://www.altcexchange.edu.au/1-embedding-development-intercultural-competence-business-higher-education>

One minute reflection ...

What I've realised about embedding the development of intercultural competence is...

What I am still curious/unsure about...

