

4- More culturally intelligent after a semester abroad? Intercultural Encounters in Higher Education

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Due to improvements in communication technology, the increasing globalization and continuous cross-border collaboration, organisations as well as individuals, the encounter of different cultural concepts and understanding will be almost inevitable and even probably be more frequent than ever before. Therefore, competencies that help bridging and overcoming cultural differences should be trained and further developed. Some individuals seem to perform better in diverse cultural settings and their cultural capabilities are more distinctive. In order to standardize intercultural learning at universities, the liquidity of intercultural experience, with its ever-changing flow of information, needs to be captured in the static framework of academic norms and regulations. By constructing trainings based on previous research done in the areas of learning styles, trainer fit and learning behavior, one could already work with previous research to create new standards for intercultural training. However, in order to focus on the importance of gaining cultural intelligence, intercultural trainings should provide a narrative of customs, norms and places within the host culture. Questions we would like to address, among others, are:

- How has intercultural training shaped and how is it shaped by HEI internationalization strategy?
- What ways exist to set standards, norms and processes for intercultural trainings, while allowing the flexibility that intercultural topics need?
- What is the minimum standard that an intercultural training must fulfil?
- Finding ways to set standards, norms and processes for intercultural trainings, while allowing the flexibility that intercultural topics need.
- Is it necessary to standardize intercultural trainings at HEI?
- Is it possible to hold academic standards and leave fluidity for the cross cultural learning process?
- What is the minimum standard that an intercultural training has to fulfil?
- How much cultural intelligence can be learned in standardized settings and trainings?
- How has intercultural training shaped and how is it shaped by HEI internationalization strategy?