CHARM-EU

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Transnational Online Learning in CHARM-EU

You are offering your course through the CHARM-EU course catalogue. Teaching in an online or hybrid setting requires adjustments to the online students. To help you preparing for these online classes, we collected the following tips on interactivity in classes and teaching in intercultural settings.

Interaction in your classroom

Interactive teaching boosts student motivation and attention, giving students the opportunity to actively process knowledge, leading to higher student learning outcomes and overall higher satisfaction of all involved parties. In hybrid or blended settings, ensuring engagement for both in-person and online students is crucial to maintaining an effective learning environment for all students.

Activate your education!

Get away from the passive knowledge transfer and let students think about, engage in, and discuss your class topics. Even adding voting tools like Wooclap in your lecture is already a small step you could take.

Tips and tricks for interactive teaching

- Switch between individual and groupwork, using Think-Pair-Share and the Jigsaw method
- Switch between en synchronous and asynchronous activities using knowledge clips or podcasts
- Use your learning management system (i.e. Moodle or Brightspace) for quizzes or discussion activities
- Use interactive tools like FeedbackFruits.
- Plan your hybrid teaching: how do you engage all students?
- Mix online and on-site students in group work

Build connections with all your students by using icebreaker questions or small check-ins.

Resources

- CHARM-EU Transnational and Intercultural Learning Toolkit
- UU Teaching and Learning Collection
- UU International and Diverse Classroom
- TCD Engaging Students Online
- TCD Creating Social Presence in Online Environments
- The Writerly Framework: An Observation Protocol

Teaching in intercultural settings

Culturally diverse classrooms enrich learning but also require awareness and adaptability from students and teaching staff. Inclusive teaching practices help all students feel respected and understood, reducing misunderstandings and enhancing collaboration.

Acknowledge diversity!

Make space for students to bring their cultural perspectives into the classroom; encourage comparisons and use multiple viewpoints during discussions and exercises.

Tips and tricks for intercultural teaching

- Encourage student participation and interaction. Challenge students to learn from each other.
- Let your students reflect. Intercultural learning comes through thinking critically about one's own perspectives and lived experiences.
- Reflect on your own biases. Regularly consider how your own cultural background influences your teaching and interactions.
- Consider 'Universal Design For Learning' approaches to create inclusive education: Use multiple means of engagement, multiple means of representation, and multiple means of action and expression.
- Internationalize your curriculum!
- Rethink your examples: use international cases

Additional reading

- Gray, R. (2025). Learning is [like] an act of writing: the writerly turn in teaching and learning in higher education. *Teaching and Learning Inquiry, 13*, 1-14. https://doi.org/10.20343/teachlearninqu.13.17
- Gray, R., Russell, M., & Reeves, E. (2025). Inflection and innuendo: using the writerly framework to achieve deep learning and scientific intuition in a university classroom. *Innovative Higher Education*. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10755-025-09855-4
- Hřebačková, M. (2019). Teaching intercultural communicative competence through virtual exchange. *Training, Language and Culture, 3*(4), 8-17. https://doi.org/10.29366/2019tlc.3.4.1
- Nyunt, G., Niehaus, E., Light, A., Boryca, A., & Bryan, A. (2023). Online + International: Utilizing Theory to Maximize Intercultural Learning in Virtual Exchange Courses. *Frontiers: The Interdisciplinary Journal of Study Abroad, 31*(1), 325-344. https://doi.org/10.36366/frontiers.v35i1.789