

Principles of an internationalised curriculum
Sabine McKinnon, *Global Perspectives* Project, GCU LEAD

“Internationalisation of the curriculum is the incorporation of an international and intercultural dimension into the content of the curriculum as well as the teaching and learning processes and support services of a program of study. An internationalised curriculum will engage students with internationally informed research and cultural and linguistic diversity. It will purposefully develop their international and intercultural perspectives as global professionals and citizens.”¹

An internationalised curriculum aims to²

- engage students with internationally informed research and cultural and linguistic diversity,
- purposefully develop students’ international and intercultural perspectives - the knowledge, skills and self awareness they need to participate effectively as citizens and professionals in a global society characterised by rapid change and increasing diversity,
- move beyond traditional boundaries and dominant paradigms and prepare students to deal with uncertainty by opening their minds and developing their ability to think both creatively and critically.

The ***Global Perspectives principles of internationalising the curriculum*** are based on contemporary pedagogic research and international good practice³. They identify the **features of an internationalised curriculum** and are designed to support the curriculum review process at programme level. A separate audit tool provides additional assistance.

Principle 1: The learning outcomes that are related to the development of international and intercultural perspectives within the context of the students’ discipline are clearly defined, systematically developed, assessed and communicated to students and staff.

Principle 2: Curriculum content is predominantly informed by research and practice from an international context. A broad range of viewpoints and ways of thinking in the discipline are presented, invited and rewarded.

Principle 3: A wide variety of learning and teaching activities integrate global and cross-cultural perspectives into learning tasks at all stages of the programme. They require students to engage with multiple national and international perspectives and points of view.

Principle 4: Constructive feedback is provided to assist students in developing international and intercultural knowledge, skills and attitudes.

Principle 5: Students are provided with opportunities to learn a foreign language and study abroad as part of the accredited programme.

Principle 6: Students are given training and support so that they will be able to work effectively in a variety of cross-cultural group work situations on completion of the programme.

Principle 7: Assessment tasks which require students to discuss and analyse international and intercultural issues relevant to their discipline are embedded at all levels of study.

Principle 8: Teaching teams are expected to have a good understanding of the cultural foundations of knowledge and practice in their discipline and related professions and ensure that this is reflected in the curriculum.

Principle 9: All teaching staff are required to continually develop their understanding of the discipline and related professions at international level.

Principle 10: Teaching staff are supported in the employment of teaching strategies that engage students from diverse cultural backgrounds.

¹ Leask, B. (2009). ‘Using formal and informal curricula to improve interactions between home and international students’. *Journal of Studies in International Education*, 13(2), 205-221.

² Adapted from: Leask, B. (2012) Questionnaire on Internationalisation of the Curriculum; A Stimulus for Reflection and Discussion, ALTC National Teaching Fellowship: Internationalisation of the Curriculum in Action, University of South Australia, Available from: <http://www.ioc.net.au/main/course/view.php?id=2>

³ Ibid ; see also resources provided Griffith University <http://www.griffith.edu.au/gihe/resources-support/internationalisation>