

Transforming an Intercultural Classroom into a Learning Community

In an intercultural classroom, instructors should:

- Acknowledge the existence of cultural variation in the classroom. Accept and respect different styles of communication and learning.
- Help U.S. students, both majority and minority, to understand that cultural differences may affect learning styles and class interactions.
- Help international students understand that the issue is not their deficiency but the need for cultural adjustment on both sides.
- Personalize knowledge in teaching content and help students put the course materials in their personal contexts.
- Discuss openly the possibility that the methodology or content may not apply to all cultures. Incorporate multi-cultural perspectives in course materials whenever possible.
- Change the format of the classroom to allow for team-based learning and face-to-face interactions.
- Acknowledge what students don't know about cultural variation and seek collaboration to address gaps.
- Be aware of major ethnic events and celebrations (e.g. Asian Lunar New Year, Indian Diwali, etc.), and encourage students to attend cultural activities.