

ExcelL: a strategic intervention for increased interaction between international and local students.

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Colleen Ward, a lead researcher in cross-cultural psychology, argues that we need strategic interventions if we are to benefit from the internationalisation policies currently mooted by many tertiary education providers. The ExcelL programme, created by Australians Anita Mak and Michelle Barker, is one such strategic intervention. Involving both newcomers and members of the host country, the ExcelL programme inquires into participants' different cultural behaviours and the values behind those behaviours. Newcomers learn skills to enhance their competency in the host culture, and all participants gain in multi-cultural awareness.

This workshop demonstrates how ExcelL and its component skills can be used in tertiary education contexts. It will be relevant for educators, student advisers, and other support staff.

Workshop participants will:

- encounter the subtle and complex nature of intercultural interaction
- learn some useful tools for effective intercultural interaction
- experience sections of the ExcelL programme and gain insight into its potential applications for their work environments.

This workshop will be run by experienced group facilitators and will be largely interactive.

Key Words

Cross-cultural psychology, strategic interventions, internationalisation, ExcelL programme, intercultural interaction, multi-cultural awareness