

Building cross-cultural understanding among local and international students through enhanced teaching and learning practices

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Cognisant of a need to produce graduates who can function well in a global workplace, today's business schools face the teaching and learning challenge of developing international and cross-cultural perspectives and understandings among students. At Victoria University of Wellington we recognise that we have extensive diversity among our students and staff, and so we have begun to reflect on how to use this diversity as a classroom resource in order to develop such understandings. This paper describes a project that tried various ways of helping our diverse students learn from each other in classroom settings within our university's business school. Our project has found that experiential-learning interventions in classrooms can help develop cross-cultural perspectives. However, such interventions need to be closely tied to curricula and perceived as valuable by students.