

It is not just the academic that counts – a certificate in recognition of co-curricular activities for International Students

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We know in the field of International Education that what happens in the classroom is only part of the total education experience, yet experiential education outside the classroom is not often recognised, recorded and evaluated.

Since 2008 Arcadia University has offered every student studying at universities around the world the opportunity to do a project based on their co-curricular experiences. The recognition takes the form of a non credit bearing Co- Curricular Learning Certificate (CLC). Encouraging students to do a reflective project and not receive any academic credit has had its challenges, but surprisingly many participate. In the four years since its introduction, over 500 students have been awarded CLCs.

In this session we review the gentle tweaking of the original concept across different countries Arcadia works with. We discuss the challenges in motivating students to participate, the difficulties in assessing reflection on the non-academic, the benefits to all the stakeholders including the students themselves, university faculty, advisors, and marketing staff and finally the value to be gained from engaging students in reflection on their co-curricular experiences.

Although Arcadia University has developed the CLC for American students, this is something that we believe could easily be adapted for students from other ethnic backgrounds.

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evaluation