




Internationalisation at home:

Building cross-cultural understanding
through enhanced teaching and learning practices at
Victoria University of Wellington

Xiaodan Gao, Karen Commons, Vicky Mabin

Our mission

*“The Faculty of Commerce and
Management aims to produce students who can function effectively
as leaders in a global community...
...
by using existing diversity as a classroom
resource
...
to develop capability and
provide stakeholders with
a global perspective”*

Links to

- Victoria L&T Strategy
- Victoria Student Experience Strategy
- VBS Mission statement






Information gathering

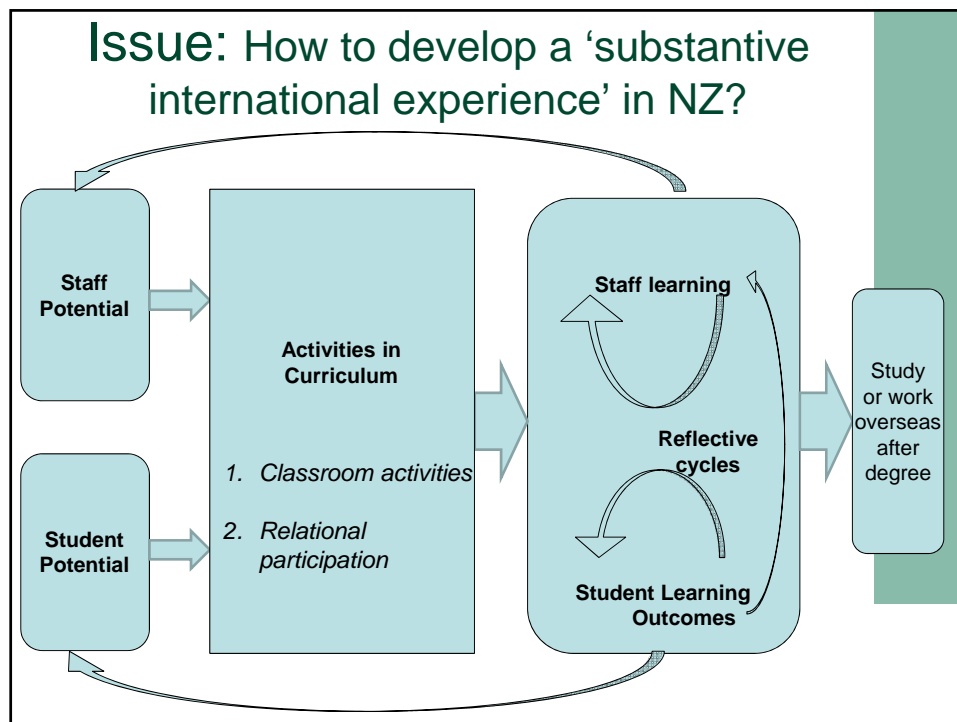
Surveys of students and staff to gauge diversity in student and staff bodies



Background Research

- Excell programme created by Barker, Mak, Westwood and Ishiyama in use at Victoria!
- Idea of 'relational participation' Caruana and Hanstock
- Leask: internationalisation of the curriculum is opportunity for students to learn about their own cultural identity as well as other cultures.
- ALTC Project 'Finding Common Ground'





Actions

- 1st year level: Extra tutorials and tutor training for selected BCA Core first-year classes – participation, inclusion, respectful environment
- 2nd & 3rd year levels: Role plays and other experiential learning interventions – on course topics
- All levels: consider how to introduce effective group work



Classroom interventions

- based on ExcelL: experiential, discussion, roleplay.
- related to curriculum content and assessment



Results

- No formal evaluation
- Anecdotal and end-of-trimester feedback from students
- Survey of staff who were involved



Reflections

- Experiential learning impactful
- International students often keen to participate



Reflections continued

- 'Comfort zone' to 'contact zone' (Caruana et al)
- Local students sometimes unaware they have particular cultural identity
- 'Culture' broad term



Where to from here

- Need to measure effectively
- Need to think carefully about indigenous students
- Continue building activities into lectures, tutorials, assignments -- embed appropriate learning objectives throughout degree
- Continue persuading staff to come on board!



Resources

- Victoria Business School website:
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fca/teaching/internationalisati-on-at-home>
- Victoria Business School's groupwork resource:
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fca/teaching/group-work>



Discussion and comments

Comments welcome

Vicky.Mabin@vuw.ac.nz

Karen.Commons@vuw.ac.nz

Xiaodan.Gao@vuw.ac.nz

