

Things To Do In the Classroom to Improve Intercultural Competency

Improve Cultural Awareness

- Attend workshops or training sessions focused on cultural competence.
- Engage in regular self-reflection to explore personal biases, assumptions, and cultural perspectives.
- Stay informed about current research, trends, and best practices in diversity and inclusion.

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Keep an open mind

- Keep in mind new policies, and social & historical contexts.
- Encourage students to leverage their learning to other aspects of life;
- Foster an open and approachable atmosphere where students feel comfortable sharing their cultural perspectives.

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Foster cross-cultural collaborations

- Structure group projects that require collaboration among students from diverse backgrounds.
- Integrate case studies that include diverse cultural contexts, allowing students to analyze problems and solutions from different perspectives.

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Address unconscious bias

- Communicate and enforce a code of conduct that promotes respect and inclusion.
- Address any incidents of bias promptly and sensitively.
- Integrate implicit bias awareness into the curriculum.
- Regularly evaluate the effectiveness of strategies to address unconscious bias

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Reflect on teaching methods and learning outcomes

- Review your assessment methods to ensure that they are culturally fair and unbiased.
- Solicit feedback from students about their experiences in the classroom.
- Collaborate with colleagues to share insights and strategies for promoting intercultural competency.

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Promote Inclusive Language and Communication

- Set ground rules for inclusive discussions, emphasizing respect and openness.
- Be mindful of potentially ambiguous or culturally specific language, and provide clarification when needed.
- Consider the language proficiency levels of all students, and provide additional support or resources for those who may need it.

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Diverse course content

- Provide practical opportunities to develop intercultural skills.
- Integrate readings and resources authored by individuals from different cultural, ethnic, and geographical backgrounds.
- Incorporate content that provides global perspectives on relevant topics.

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Offer Alternative Assessment Methods

- Ensure that assessment materials, prompts, and examples are culturally sensitive and inclusive.
- Implement peer assessment to encourage students to consider different perspectives and learn from their peers, fostering a collaborative and interculturally rich learning environment.

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Provide support for international students

- Provide language accommodations for students who are not native speakers of the language of instruction.
- Establish inclusive classroom policies that consider the unique challenges international students may face.
- Encourage students and student leaders to translate intercultural skills into global employability skills.
- Provide information about campus resources and support services available to help

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Seek professional development opportunities

- Attend intercultural training;
- Take advantage of resources offered by your institution's teaching and learning center.
- Connect with your diversity and inclusion offices on campus.

References

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