

**WCC faculty observations on International students in the classroom  
Professional Development Day, Session 1, February 2014**

*Each student brings his/her unique life experience to the classroom. Regardless of the course content, all students in any class will benefit from connecting and deepening their understanding each other. The teacher sets the tone to help international and resident students connect.*

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**Johnny Hu  
Math Faculty**

**Benefits of having international students in the class International students**

**International students . . .**

- Can offer a “non-U.S.” perspective of the subject being taught
- Are not all the same (ex. different backgrounds, personalities, appearances, experiences, age, study habits, English ability, math ability)
- Challenge other students/faculty/staff to solve problems and communicate differently

**Tips for maximizing the benefits of international students in the classroom**

**Encourage interaction between international and resident students by:**

- Get to know your students by having an open door policy (ex. give difficult homework assignments that force students to come into office hours)
  - Encourage students to join student clubs and attend on campus and school-sponsored events
  - Work with students in the Math Center/Writing Center
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**Jan Adams  
Cooperative Education/Internships  
Co-op 180 Career/Internship Preparation**

Students are asked to:

- Examine their values, strengths, and goals
- Assess and rewrite job application materials
- Analyze job retention/success and growth in the work place

**Benefits of having international students in the class International students**

**International students . . .**

- Offer global perspective about work-place issues and the application process
- Share knowledge of foreign economies, customs, and practices
- Model skills needed in the global market, i.e. fluency in several languages
- Help feed a desire for knowledge, travel, and a deeper sense of self among resident students

**Tips for maximizing the benefits of international students in the classroom**

**Encourage interaction between international and resident students by:**

- Beginning the quarter with an ice-breaker that enables students to connect
- Creating a “Contact Sheet” at the beginning of the quarter with student-generated input

- Encouraging students to connect with others in a shared field of interest and/or for academic support
  - Breaking the class into smaller discussion groups
  - Calling on international students for information that can be shared easily and will enlighten the class
  - Reading inspiring excerpts from student writings with permission
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**Greg Hanson**  
**Hospitality and Tourism**

**Benefits of having international students in the class International students**

**International students . . .**

- Add an international flavor to a global subject
- Bring a unique perspective to traditional Western business models
- Bring an enthusiasm for learning and an appreciation for the opportunity of higher education
- Inspire American classmates to see their opportunities through the eyes of the international students
- Numbers to the Hospitality and Tourism program which helps make the classes viable

**Tips for maximizing the benefits of international students in the classroom**

**Encourage interaction between international and resident students by:**

- Doing lots of “low stakes” group work – activities where students share and discuss but complete their own work
- Asking questions that get students to talk about themselves and their culture
- Creating situations where students HAVE to speak up and address the class –and do it early!
- Doing icebreaker activities the first day so that students get to know each other and the unique make-up of the class
- Giving students some flexibility in their assignments -- allowing students to tie what they are learning in class to what they already know from home

**Classroom Activities that encourage interaction and interaction:**

- An assignment in which students create and present a 5-day tour of their home town/city/country, including the best restaurants, hotels and secret “insider” activities
- **Icebreakers** in each class. i.e. interview a classmate you don’t know; then introduce him/her to the class including name, home town, family pet, pet’s name.; favorite word, least favorite word; something nobody would know about you, etc.
- Lots of **case studies** that have students working in groups with the project being completed during class
- **Jig saw activities** – have groups of students read the same article, meet, and review the main points. Then re-arrange the groups so that each group contains someone who has read a different article. Students then teach each other.