

International competence

Internationalisation is not a purpose in itself. It is a means to prepare students for learning, living and working in an intercultural society and an international labour market.

Due to migration, increasing mobility and technological developments, our living and working environments have become increasingly diverse. Nowadays, we are regularly in contact with people from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds. And many organisations deal with international clients, products or services on a daily basis.

An international experience is therefore often linked to gaining competences for global citizenship and employability in a globalised labour market.

In the context of internationalisation we call this **international competence**, which refers to three overarching learning outcomes that students can obtain through international activities:

- **Intercultural competence:** Students have the knowledge, attitudes and skills that enable them to interact successfully with people from diverse (linguistic and cultural) backgrounds.

- **International orientation:** Students are informed about and engaged with, international organisations, topics and perspectives on:
- **societal and global issues**, such as inclusion, refugees, climate change and supranational institutions such as the European Union.
- **disciplines and professions**, such as international knowledge, techniques and perspectives on how to perform one's profession.
- **Personal qualities:** An international experience can contribute to personal development and growth, such as becoming more independent, self-aware, flexible and adaptable. These competences are not merely acquired through, or relevant to, international contexts. However, they can be vital to the success of an international experience, as well as enhanced through such an experience.

Internationalisation of education means integrating an international dimension into the learning environment or learning content and gives each student the opportunity to acquire international competences that are key to learning, living and working in an intercultural society and an international labour market.



Intercultural competence



Knowledge

- Knowledge of foreign languages
- General and specific knowledge of cultures
- Knowledge of communication styles
- Knowledge of identities, stereotypes, discrimination and racism



Attitudes

- Open-mindedness
- Respect
- Tolerance
- Interest in different perspectives
- Engagement with other people and topics



Skills

- Perspective-taking skills
- Listening, observation and interpretation skills
- Mediating and relating skills
- Managing differences and conflict
- Intercultural relationship-building and networking skills
- Ability to deal with uncertainty and ambiguity
- Metacommunication skills (communicating about communication)



Orientation towards society and the world

- Familiarity with international perspectives on global challenges such as climate change, refugees and sustainability.
- Familiar with supranational institutions such as the European Union, the United Nations and corresponding themes, including Human Rights and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Awareness of global citizenship and its corresponding rights and responsibilities.
- Engagement with societal and global issues (politically critical and personally transformative).

International orientation



Orientation towards the profession



- Staying informed and updated on international practices and developments within one's profession/discipline.
- Making use of international information, sources and resources from different countries.
- Understanding and evaluating perspectives and practices from an international or cultural perspective.
- Having the ability to use techniques and methodologies from different countries.

Personal qualities



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| ▪ Self-awareness | ▪ Independence | ▪ Adaptability | ▪ Entrepreneurial skills |
| ▪ Self-confidence | ▪ Drive | ▪ Flexibility | ▪ Problem-solving skills |
| ▪ Self-reliance | ▪ Perseverance | ▪ Creativity | ▪ Reflexivity |
| ▪ Critical attitude | ▪ Resilience | ▪ Curiosity | ▪ Tolerance to stress |
| ▪ Responsibility | ▪ Patience | ▪ Empathy | |