

‘Developing intercultural competences at SDU’ Project Action Plan – Project Leaders: Donna-Marie Jørgensen and Robb Mitchell

Donna-Marie’s project aim: ‘I strongly believe that it is essential for all to recognise that SDU graduates not only leave with a solid education, but also to possess the relevant new learning and an awareness of working with various cultures in an international setting. I saw this project as a way to address this need.’

Robb’s project aim: ‘To contribute, even in a small way, to friendly co-existence...perhaps it should go on tour’.

Project Leaders	Dept. Faculty Campus	Project Title	Target Group Prog. or Course	Project Activity	Project Outcomes
Donna-Marie Jørgensen (MSc IT Product Design student) Robb Mitchell Assistant Professor, Social Interaction Design	Department of Design HUM, Kolding	<i>Developing intercultural competences at SDU</i>	Cross faculty SDU students; student services; course teachers	Workshops ‘Developing Students’ Intercultural Competences’ (22.02.17) ‘Making group-work work: developing intercultural competences’ (03.05.17)	1. Positive evaluation 2. Student initiated network and Facebook Page on Intercultural 2. Competences; Recognition of need for more student workshops on intercultural groupwork
Step 1: Meeting educational consultants, Anne and Donna	Robb and Donna-Marie responded independently to the project advert, we encouraged a collaborative project, which was mainly led by Donna-Marie. Together we planned a workshop for students and staff. There were two main challenges, how to make the workshop authentic and how to persuade students to attend. Actions: To offer a workshop on developing intercultural competences for students and staff, on the Kolding campus. To provide authenticity by involving companies.				
Step 2: Workshop 1 ‘Developing students’ intercultural competences’	Actions: Donna-Marie contacted international Danish companies and invited speakers for the workshop; she prepared posters (Available from itc.sdu.dk Resources 3) with employees’ perspectives from three Danish companies on the importance of graduate intercultural competences. The workshop was publicised with the support of Kolding Student Services and Donna-Marie. 10 students, a teacher and a Student Services Advisor attended the workshop, their positive feedback led to workshop 2.				
Step 3: Workshop 2 ‘Making intercultural group-work work’	Actions: Donna-Marie re-contacted the companies and a talent scout from Danfoss presented at workshop 2. Workshop 2 was attended by 14 students and colleagues from Student Services and Careers. Both workshops were led by Donna and Anne and included practical activities focusing on intercultural group-work, managing unconscious bias, viewing and discussing issues raised by role plays, reviewing an intercultural competences framework and background information on factors influencing effective group-work. (Workshop resources are available from itc.sdu.dk Resources 1 and 2)				
Step 4: Evaluations and ways forward	The student feedback was positive and evidenced a need for similar workshops to be available, especially at the start of academic years. The student participants decided to establish a Facebook Group for SDU students interested in intercultural competences. The partnership with Donna-Marie, a Kolding based student, was the most significant factor in this project’s success. Working in partnership with students to develop similar workshops is strongly recommended.				