

# Global Citizenship

## Competence in Culturally Diverse and International Environments

Griffith University's strategic plan 2009-2013 makes a commitment to "prepare students for the world of work and as global citizens, develop their capacities in inter-cultural competence". This builds on the key Graduate Attribute of 'Competence in Culturally Diverse and International Environments'. Students, upon graduation from Griffith University, will possess:

- Awareness of and respect for the values and knowledges of Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander First Peoples<sup>1</sup>;
- Respect, awareness, knowledge and skills to interact effectively in culturally or linguistically diverse contexts; and
- A global and an international perspective on their discipline.

Developing graduates who are globally aware and interculturally competent relies on systematic and supported approaches to design and delivery of internationalised curricula. Griffith's integrated framework for internationalisation of the curriculum outlines graduate attributes for students focusing on global awareness and intercultural competence, capacity building for staff in embedding international perspectives into their curricula and pedagogical practices and a commitment to engagement with local, national and international communities. The Internationalisation Strategy provides the basis on which the University's Internationalisation Framework is developed as indicated in Figure

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<sup>1</sup> No toolkit currently exists that addresses this aspect of Graduate Attribute 5. However, GIHE will be collaborating with Dr Chris Matthews (Indigenous Research Networks Coordinator), members of the reference group and other appropriate persons within the university to develop this resource. In the interim staff are encouraged to visit the ALTC website (<http://www.altc.edu.au/project-facilitating-whole-university-approach-griffith-2009>) for project updates.

## A Framework for Promoting Competence in Culturally Diverse and International Environments

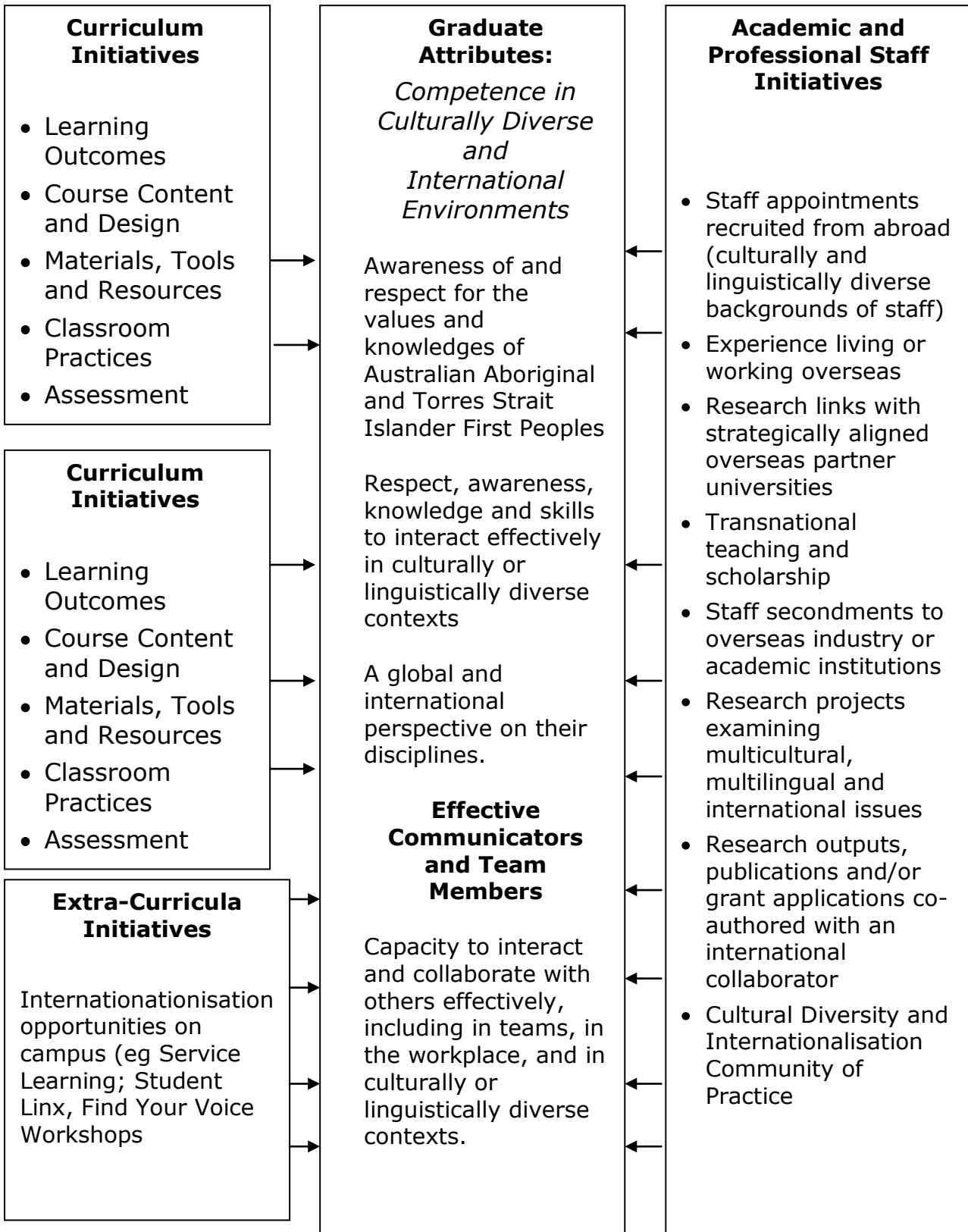


Figure 1: A Framework for Promoting Competence in Culturally Diverse and International Environments

## **Characteristics of Intercultural Competence**

Students who are inter-culturally competent demonstrate the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to thrive in a world characterised by global mobility and social, cultural, economic, political and environmental interconnectivity. Global citizenship reflects an awareness and appreciation of diverse people, cultures and environments throughout the world (global awareness) and the ability to manage this interconnectedness harmoniously and productively (intercultural competence).

Global citizenship is achieved through an interactive process whereby students and staff from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds exchange knowledge, skills, attitudes, values and experiences so as to enhance their understanding and appreciation of, and capacity to operate successfully within, a range of local, national and international communities.

**Griffith University's Conceptualisation of the Key Characteristics of Intercultural Competence Multilevel Strategies**

<b>Key characteristics of Intercultural Competence: What makes a Global Citizen?</b>		
<b>Knowledge and Understanding</b>	<b>Skills and Abilities</b>	<b>Attitudes and Values</b>
Knowledge of equity, social justice, human rights and related social, economic and political issues		
Knowledge of globalisation and interdependence, and the short- and long-term implications for sustainable development	Ability to think "globally" to consider issues from a variety of different perspectives (e.g., social, cultural, economic, political, religious, etc.)	Appreciation of, and value and respect for, global multicultural, multilingual diversity
Understanding of how the world operates (socially, culturally, economically, technologically, politically and environmentally)	Critical analysis of (and the ability to challenge) conventional thinking, injustice and inequality.	Commitment to engage in informed debate about issues of equity, social justice, human rights, and related social, economic and political issues
Recognition of the impact of local, national and international actions and decisions for local, national and international communities and environments	Ability to interact and empathise with people from different social, cultural, religious, and linguistic backgrounds, both locally and globally	Committed to justice, equity, environmental sustainability and civic obligations
Understands how knowledge may be constructed differently across cultures in different disciplines	Effective leadership, cooperation and teamwork skills	Commitment to participate in, and contribute toward, creating an equitable and sustainable community at a range of levels (from the local to the global)
Recognition of intercultural and transnational issues relevant to professional practice	Ability to engage in problem-solving, shared perspective-taking and negotiation to resolve conflicts	Appreciation of the complex, interacting factors that contribute to diversity of language, culture and multicultural relationships
Awareness of own culture and its perspectives, and other cultures and their perspectives		Sensitivity to, and awareness of, complex human-environment interactions; and a willingness to act in a manner consistent with the changing needs and demands facing society.

This table draws on the framework outlined in the Oxfam GB (2006) 'Education for Global Citizenship: A guide for schools.' The guide is available online at: <http://www.oxfam.org.uk/education/gc/>

## Websites:

Leeds Metropolitan University HE Academy literature review on internationalisation:  
[http://www.leedsmet.ac.uk/world-widehorizons/index\\_resource\\_bank.htm](http://www.leedsmet.ac.uk/world-widehorizons/index_resource_bank.htm)

Oxfam 'Education for Global Citizenship'  
<http://www.oxfam.org.uk/education/gc/>

Oxford-Brookes University Internationalisation Resources:  
<http://www.brookes.ac.uk/services/ocslid/ioc/modules/index.html>

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Available online at: [www.griffith.edu.au/gihe/internationalisation](http://www.griffith.edu.au/gihe/internationalisation)

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