

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Project

Internationalisation and Diversity Checklist

Our students come from many different educational and cultural backgrounds, whether they are from local communities or from overseas. There are students with learning and other disabilities, and students still working to master academic English. Mature students may be daunted by their lack of ICT experience while school leavers in the same class may be highly ICT literate.

In using ICT remember that many students do not share equal levels of prior learning with their peers, nor do they necessarily share their teachers' cultural backgrounds. This means that clarity, inclusivity and flexibility are key elements.

Here is a Diversity Checklist that might help your planning. Ask yourself, have I:

- established 'ground rules' or 'netiquette' for how students will address each other in online discussions?
- modelled inclusive approaches myself in how I communicate with students?
- used Plain English in all my instructions?
- avoided unnecessary jargon, slang and idiom?
- provided paraphrases or glossaries for essential technical terms?
- been very clear about what students are expected/required to do?
- avoided cultural stereotyping (eg referring to all engineers as Bob or John)?
- avoided culture-specific jokes and anecdotes?
- used international/intercultural examples where possible?
- allowed self-paced learning for those who need more time with the material?
- thought about the cultural composition of groups?
- been flexible on deadlines if students have pressing cultural or religious commitments (eg Indigenous students attending funerals; Muslims fasting in Ramadan)?
- encouraged students to share, and respect, diverse views (peer learning)?
- allowed students to negotiate assignments appropriate to their backgrounds and relevant to their careers?
- helped students reflect on, and develop, attributes of global citizens?
- taken into account the variety of students' technology skills (eg experience with platforms, packages, providers)
- thought about equity issues in terms of students with disabilities; limited access to computers; or limited funds for downloading and printing, limited visual access?