

Gifts from my home educational culture

KATE COULSON JUN 08, 2021 01:46PM

Rationale

Overview

Employees deserve to contribute their perspectives within organizational decision making, providing a sense of belonging and psychological ownership to their organizations (Simsek and Gurler, 2019).

Overview

A particular, currently under-utilised, resource within the university (UoN) is the learning and teaching insight of the 42 nationalities represented in our academic staff body (stats obtained from HR).

Key Findings

International staff should have a voice and the Crackerbarrel should give them an opportunity to give their voice with regards to teaching and learning.

What can we learn from the strengths within the learning and teaching practice within your home educational culture?

DIY

PhD experience seems more comprehensive

PhD experience and culture in the US, from hearing from colleagues, seems more comprehensive than what I've experienced in the UK. More requirements around and opportunities for being able to engage in all 3 big areas: research, teaching and admin.

Teacher-student hierarchy

Teacher knows all culture

Hierarchy

My home educational culture is rooted in hierarchy

What insights from your own experience coming into UK Higher Education can help us understand our diverse student body better?

Some experience in US, but not in UK

casual ways.

difference in mode of evaluation

Email protocol

US culture isn't too far off UK culture, but something that I had to adapt and learn when I came to do my PhD in England, was how to address and sign off on emails. And I'm still not

100% sure when to use 'kind' or 'warm' regards, etc.! :) Maybe a very mini intro to practicalities like this would be helpful.

What specific learning and teaching activities would you recommend that we should adopt from your home educational culture?

Rubric

I always had a very clear rubric in my classes and it was very helpful!

structured syllabus

well defined syllabus, guidance with research culture

Facilitating the need to belong

'How did you get here?' - a timeline padlet to explore what makes you the teacher you are - an idea from a 'classroom of many cultures' website

Start by celebrating the positive! - a gift from a Zimbabwean colleague

What specific learning and teaching activities would you recommend that we should adopt to meet diverse student needs?

Be explicit about practical and logistical things eg standard emailing protocols/signing off, etc.

Don't assume an activity won't work - think about the potential challenges, and how you can mitigate them, and it CAN work - lessons from using student-led seminars in China
