

Intercultural Competence Course – led by DMU Global

This exciting course offers you the chance to gain international experience right here on campus, with the option to apply to take part in an overseas trip too! Designed to help you thrive in an interconnected, diverse, and rapidly changing world, the Intercultural Competence Course will equip you with the knowledge, skills, and values essential for global graduates.

Throughout the course, you'll develop a deep understanding of intercultural competence and build your own capacity to explore global issues, appreciate diverse worldviews, and interact respectfully and effectively with people from different cultural backgrounds. You'll engage with key theories and best practices, while also having the chance to apply your learning through practical experiences with peers, students from international partner universities, and members of the local community.

By completing this course, you'll discover how intercultural competence can enhance your employability - giving you the tools to communicate and collaborate successfully in diverse teams. The cultural awareness you gain will also support your ability to live harmoniously in multicultural environments, empowering you to become a truly global citizen.

The course includes a blend of on-campus and online workshops, with an optional overseas experience. We're looking for a small, committed cohort of students who are ready to participate fully and actively in this transformative learning journey.

Course Aims

The main goals of the Intercultural Competence Course are to:

- **Understand what intercultural competency is** - and what it is not - by exploring key theories and concepts.
- **Develop intercultural competency** to communicate effectively and behave appropriately in diverse intercultural interactions.
- **Explore cultural dimensions**, learn how to identify them, and apply this understanding to navigate cultural differences more effectively.
- **Cultivate curiosity and openness toward different cultures**, embracing diverse perspectives while withholding judgment.

- **Engage in self-reflection** to examine one's own cultural norms, values, and beliefs, and consider how they shift in relation to other cultural reference points.
- **Enhance core intercultural skills** such as active listening, keen observation, thoughtful interpretation, and the ability to analyse, evaluate, and relate across cultures.
- **Build global competence to improve employability**, equipping individuals to communicate effectively and collaborate within diverse teams.
- **Recognise the relevance of intercultural competency in both global and local contexts**, appreciating how empathy and acceptance of differences contribute to harmonious multicultural communities.

Programme overview

The course is designed around engaging sessions, workshops, and activities, running from **January 2026**. Here's what you can expect:

	Activity	Date and Venue*	Details
1	Introduction: mapping our intercultural learning journey	Wednesday 21 January 2026 Time: 2 – 3pm Venue: MS Teams	Get an overview of the course, meet your fellow students, and learn about what's ahead.
2	What is intercultural competence?	Wednesday 28 January 2026 Time: 2 – 3.30pm Venue: The Yard 1.02	In this interactive session led by DMU Global, you'll begin to explore the concept of intercultural competence and why it matters. We'll examine the attributes, skills, and knowledge needed to communicate and act effectively across cultures. The session will introduce key ideas such as cultural dimensions, ethnorelativism, and the impact of stereotypes and cultural norms—encouraging critical

			reflection on how these concepts can be both helpful and harmful when navigating diverse cultural settings.
3	Cross culture communication: collaborating across cultures <i>Peer-to-peer activity</i>	Wednesday 4 February 2026 Time: 11am – 1pm Venue: The Yard 3.02	Join international students at DMU in a UNESCO Story Circles session - an enriching intercultural experience designed to foster connection and understanding. By engaging with incoming exchange students from universities across Europe, North America, and Asia, you'll have the opportunity to build meaningful relationships and develop practical skills for navigating diverse cultural contexts.
4	Intercultural competence in the workplace: working across cultures	Wednesday 11 February 2026 Time: 2 – 4pm Venue: Careers Hub	Intercultural competence is increasingly essential across many careers. In today's globalised workplaces, individuals are often required to collaborate across borders and engage with colleagues and customers from diverse cultural backgrounds. In this session, we'll explore strategies for navigating cultural differences in professional settings, helping you prepare to succeed in future employment opportunities. The session will feature guest speakers who will share first-hand experiences of working in different cultural contexts. They'll discuss how they adapted effectively and offer practical advice for others looking to thrive in intercultural environments.

5	Intercultural competence in society: being a Global Citizen	Wednesday 18 February Time: 2 – 4 pm Location: SDG Hub	In 2022, The Guardian described Leicester as entering a new age of 'super diversity', based on 2021 census data showing that over 40% of the city's residents were born outside the UK. In this session, we'll explore how multiculturalism can benefit society and discuss how developing greater intercultural competence can foster tolerance, respect, and understanding - both within our local community and across the globe. As part of this session participants will engage with a community organisation and/or project to see intercultural engagements in action in Leicester. Full details of this will be shared ahead of the session.
6	Reflection and Celebration: continuing the journey	Wednesday 25 February Time: 2 – 4pm Venue: TBC	We'll take time to reflect on the learning gained throughout the sessions. This reflection will include assessing how the group has developed its intercultural competence, exploring how these insights can be applied in the future, and creating a personal action plan to continue your intercultural learning journey. We'll also celebrate the group's achievements and conclude the course with a mini social/celebration event.

7	OPTIONAL - Intercultural Competence in Bangkok	6 June – 20 June 2026	Spend a 2-weeks in Bangkok, Thailand, applying the knowledge you've gained throughout the course as you navigate a new cultural environment. Engage in a series of guided cultural activities and visits designed to deepen your intercultural competence - skills you can carry forward into both your personal and professional life. Full details of this opportunity can be found here. Although this opportunity is open to all DMU students to apply, those on this course will be given priority.
---	---	-----------------------	---

*dates/times/venues are subject to change