

Fostering intercultural and global competences at UVic-UCC

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Global and intercultural competences needed in professional environments, are still not directly worked on in higher education as a must. It is often implicitly understood that if someone has a C1 or C2 level of English, he or she will be able to interact in English in the most diverse cultural contexts and will know how to interact in a global working environment. It is also often assumed that studying abroad or an internship abroad will provide participants with these skills automatically. Both universities and employers know that this is not the case. But students, nevertheless, or at least many of them, may not even be aware that they do not possess the skills to interact effectively in intercultural encounters. Therefore, it is important for HEI's to introduce instruments to identify whether these cross-disciplinary skills have been acquired during the study period and in all degrees independently of the study subject at university.

In our paper we will present different certificates of competence using instruments of this type partly developed by European projects where the University of Vic was involved. We will focus on a proposal how the certificates have been adapted to the UVIC context so that all students may have the opportunity of accrediting their intercultural and global competences. Challenges and implications for motivating students to achieve intercultural and global competences will also be discussed.