

Big Conversation - Albrecht Kitshoff

In a world where globalisation has become more and more common, students will have to learn to join an ever more international workforce. Fewer meetings between colleagues are happening face-to-face, as many people nowadays work with people in other countries and time zones. Thus, I believe that students should have the opportunity to practice and increase their experience working in such a manner.

I propose that universities should have a group project as part of the curriculum, or at the very least as an optional module, in which students work on a project with other students from universities all around the world. This would increase many skills already taught, such as group work and communication, but would increase others such as working to deadlines and working with people in other countries and cultures. Students would be able to get used to having meetings over the internet, rather than face to face, and it would also challenge them to be more pro-active within their own individual areas of the group project. Such an initiative would expose students to the realities of working with people in other time-zones, where meetings may not always be in the most convenient time for them, similar to many British people who have colleagues in The Americas and Asia. These are very important, useful skills and experiences to have, and would make students far more employable, as they would not have to learn such things on the job like those who might not have such opportunities.

Furthermore, this would increase international and inter-university relations, and would facilitate even more globalisation. Also, bettering such relations could have both smaller effects, such as increasing the number and opportunities of years abroad, and bigger effects, like decreasing international conflict as people would have more experiences of different countries and cultures other than those then they are used to.

Lastly, it could also promote multilingualism, as students in other countries would have more opportunities to practice speaking English and British students could be encouraged to try to improve their own language skills.

In conclusion, I believe that, as the world and the workplace become more international, students should be equipped with the necessary skills and experiences to be more employable and to be all-round skilled workers. Thus, I think that creating and promoting such projects within universities would be beneficial, in allowing universities to better prepare their students for the workplace and future life.