Case Example from HKBU

Programme: Journalism

To put the essence of the course title “International/Intercultural Communication” into practice, local Hong Kong students were encouraged to form multicultural groups with peers coming from Mainland China, the United States, Australia, Southeast Asia and Central Europe for term projects that dealt with topics meaningful to international audience, such as online privacy issues in China/Hong Kong/Taiwan compared to a Western country. To prepare students for teamwork, students were provided with multiple opportunities to have small-group discussion in class. Both international and local students were invited to share their perspectives so that they could learn from each other. More importantly, the teacher paid extra attention to those who were eager to have international partners but less confident in taking the first step. She would take initiatives to bring local and international students together in learning activities. Students’ global knowledge was assessed through a mid-term essay requiring them to summarise global media system and elaborate each system with solid examples.

Curriculum-wise, the School of Communication secured a triangular collaboration with Leipzig University in Germany and Ohio University in the US for exchange opportunities to increase the physical mobility of journalism majors. Outside the classroom, the department organises and subsidises international reporting study trips for students every year. The locations included Mainland China, Taiwan, North Korea, Myanmar, and Europe.

To further internationalise teaching and learning at home, a Small Private Online Course (SPOC) on “Data Journalism” has been created to connect HKBU Journalism majors with experts and learning partners from the DePaul University, Chicago and National Taiwan University. The course starts in Semester 1 of AY 2018/19. Dr. Du also founded the Data and News Society and has invited journalists and teachers from diverse cultural and working backgrounds to give guest lectures to her students.

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