

# Langara College Post Degree Diploma Programs

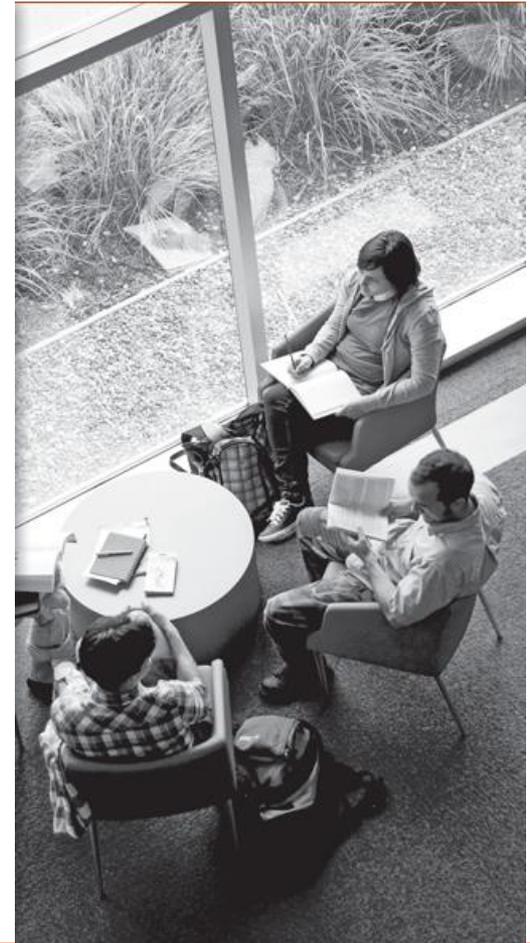
Creating Innovation in International Education by Integrating  
Mandatory Work Experience

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# About Langara College

- History
  - 1965 - Vancouver City College
  - 1994 – Langara College
- Locations
  - 100 West 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver
  - 601 West Broadway, Vancouver
- Programs
  - University Studies
  - Career Studies
  - Continuing Studies



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# Langara College Welcomes the World

[https://youtu.be/q7WK\\_fPJ4](https://youtu.be/q7WK_fPJ4)



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# BC Strategic Priority – International Education

## B.C.'S INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION STRATEGY

Launch refreshed B.C. International Education Strategy including potential areas of focus such as:

- Continue to promote B.C.'s competitive advantages in international education (e.g. the B.C. Transfer System)
- **Enhance pathways to learning, working and community**
- Collaborate with federal partners to alleviate challenges in study/work permit processing issues
- Work to address barriers to study abroad opportunities for B.C. students
- **Strengthen integration of international and domestic students**

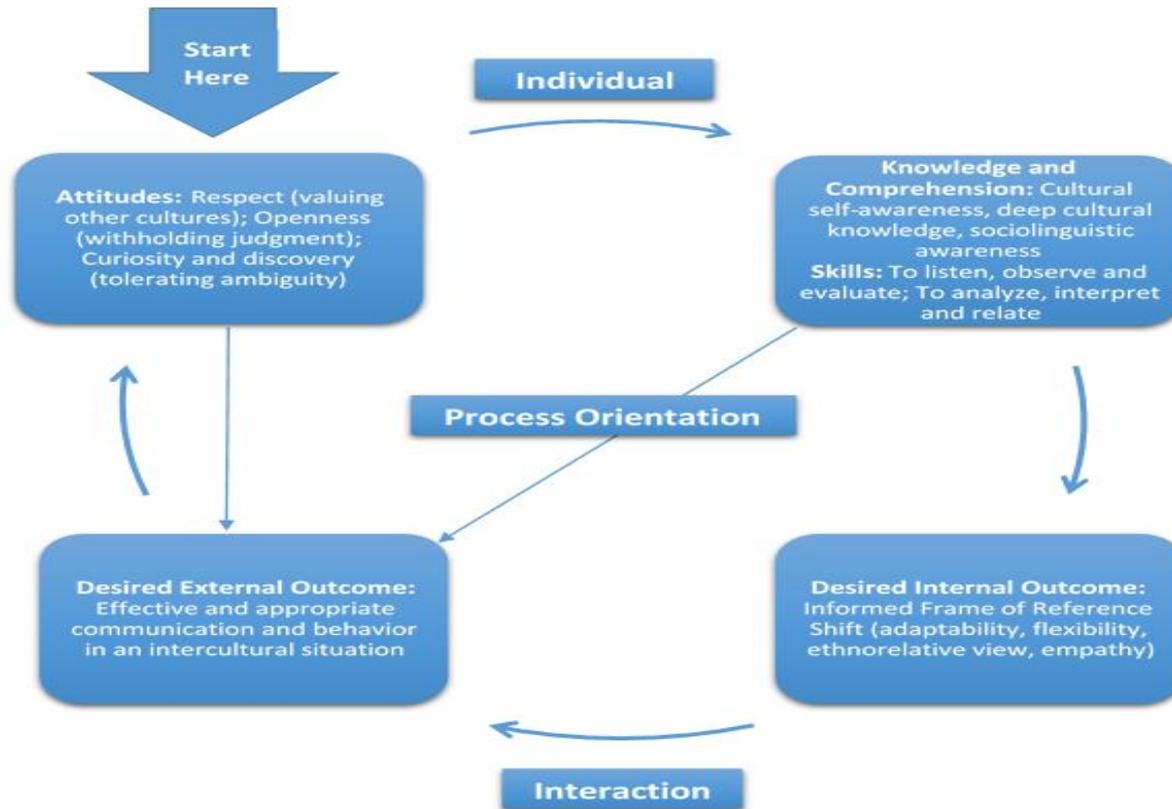
(Source: B.C Provincial Update at BCCIE 2016 Summer Seminar)

# Overview – I have arrived!

## The Story of an International Student

- Promised Land
- What? I have many assignments (in groups).
- Take care of myself, by myself?
- Relatives, lack of social network, homesick
- No time to explore
- P/T work necessity, not option
- Depression, loss of face

# Process Model of Intercultural Competence: Deardorff



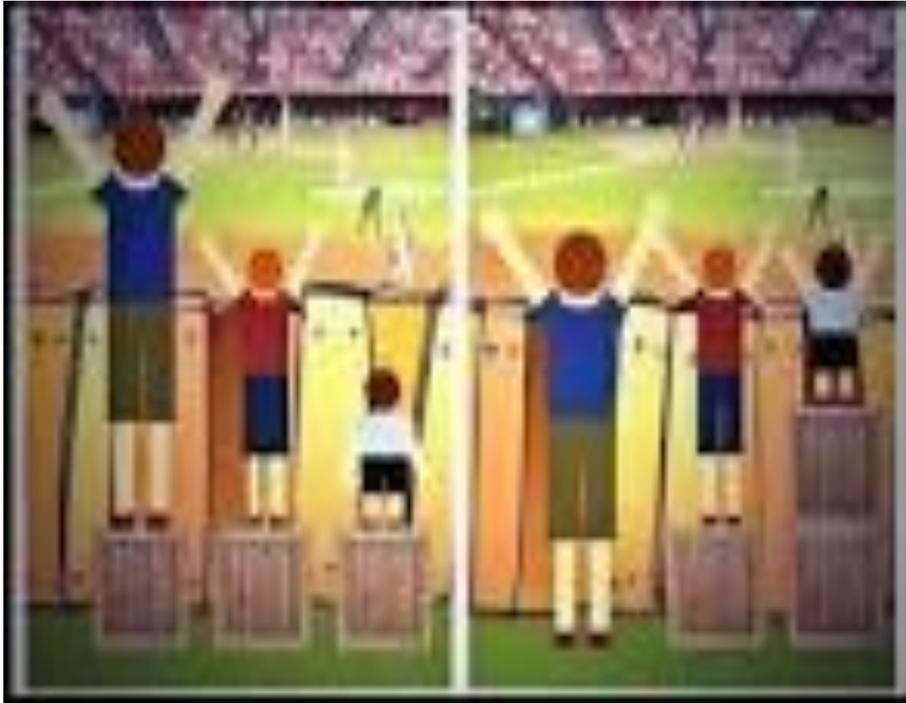
By Dr. Darla K. Deardorff in *Journal of Studies in International Education*, Fall 2006, 10, p. 241-266 and in *The SAGE Handbook of Intercultural Competence*, 2009 (Thousand Oaks: Sage).

# Intercultural Competence

M. Hammer

“The capability to shift cultural perspective and adapt behavior to bridge across cultural differences and commonalities.”

# International VS Domestic Students



- They are ALL OUR students!
- Extra support
  - Language
  - Counselling
  - Smaller class sizes
  - Global learning examples
  - Different type of work integration

# Perspective of the Dean

- Academic Reasons
  - Market(s) we had not previously served
  - Not everyone who wants a business credential wants an MBA...
  - 2-year programs retain students longer than university transfer
- Instrumental Reasons
  - 2-year programs attractive to international students, particularly potential immigrants
  - Tuition freeze does not apply
  - Meets government mandates

# Program Design

- Ensure manageable course load for new Canadians
- Build in mandatory work experience
- Build in extensive support/preparation for work experience

# Surprises/Challenges...

- Very high international demand
- High spoken English fluency   
high written English fluency
- Major disconnects on academic integrity
- Still working on better integrating PDD students with other students
- All international class was challenging for many instructors

# Perspective of a Student - Arneet

- Lack of options for International graduate degree students
- PDD - an excellent alternative for post degree studies
- Thesis not mandatory unlike Masters
- More practical and career focused
- Condensed program format

# Perspective of a Student - cont'd

- Co-op element – an advantage
- Training for Canadian work culture
- Effective Co-op structure
- Less time investment

# Perspective of a Student - Sikander

Why I Chose the Post Degree Diploma Program:

1. Career Opportunities
2. Duration of Program
3. Work Experience

# A Faculty Member's Perspective

- The task of teaching Canadian business, marketing, and workplace knowledge
- Significance
- Importance of Reflection
  - Curriculum deliberation (Schwab, 1983)
  - Reflective learning and practicum (Schön, 1983)
- Understanding & supporting student needs



# Concerns

- There were concerns over how many international students would obtain a paid work experience at the end of their program due to:
  - a) Limited prior knowledge & experience
  - b) Employer perceptions of hiring international students

# Outcomes

The first 2015 cohorts yielded a high success rate.

- 53 out of eligible 55 students completed a work experience.
- 2 unsuccessful students:
  - moved to Toronto late
  - did not receive a valid work visa

# Questions for Panel

Question #1:

What did you think about the PDD program prior to start? Did this change during the program and / or after the program ended? How?

# Questions for Panel

Question #2:

In your opinion, is the PDD program an example of internationalizing of higher education?

# Questions for Panel

Question #3:

What are future possibilities for the PDD program?

# Questions?

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# Conclusion

Imagine you are 20 years old.

What would you tell your younger self?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQv78-FBoU0>

# References

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