



Teaching International Students Project Website front page

[Introduction](#)

[About the TIS Project](#)

[Using the TIS Resource Bank](#)

[Organisation of the TIS Resource Bank](#)

[Case stories](#)

[TIS activities](#)

[Our approach](#)

[About us](#)

[Get involved in TIS](#)

[Introduction](#)

This website is for teachers in higher education looking for ideas and resources for teaching international students. Here, we offer **suggestions for practice** and **further readings**. By 'teachers' we mean all those engaged in (lecturers, tutors etc); by 'international students' we mean students who have traveled to another country for tertiary study (now almost one in five of the UK university student population).

International students have changed the landscape at many UK universities. They bring rich knowledge, skills and worldviews as they live and work with local students and teaching staff but they need support to adapt to new learning contexts and conventions. Teaching staff also need support in meeting the needs of both their international and local students and a more diverse student population. Increasingly too staff may be required to work in very different ways such as in transnational, distance, online or multimodal contexts.

We welcome you to use this site and give us **feedback** as well as suggestions for resources. We are also running **a series of events** (seminars, workshops and staff development sessions) which will be advertised on this site. We welcome you to attend these and to become a member of this professional learning community.

[About the TIS Project](#)

The Teaching International Students Project is a joint initiative of the Higher Education Academy and the United Kingdom Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) with funding from the Prime Minister's Initiative 2 (PMI2). It is a two year project, hosted and co-funded by the Higher Education Academy.



Increasing student mobility and successful national policies to recruit international students have led to more culturally diverse higher education landscapes around the world. The UK is the most popular destination for international students due to the quality of its provision, and it is important that this quality is maintained.

The project therefore focuses on the ways that lecturers and other teaching staff can maintain and improve the quality of teaching and learning for international students through providing guidance and information about how to meet the diverse learning needs of international students, and, importantly, in ways that will benefit all students.

Using the TIS Resource Bank

The resources on this website are organised around the '**International Student Lifecycle**' for ease of reference. Of course, international students take many pathways into higher education, and many of the categories listed in the framework overlap with other areas. We suggest that you look at several sections to give a broader picture of issues and suggestions. The entries have been written by lecturers and educational developers drawing on many years experience of teaching international students (and staff) as well as **evidence from research and practice** in the UK and world-wide.

These suggestions are intended as **starting points** and acknowledge that you know best how to draw on these resources. It is not our intention to tell people how to teach, but to show that the challenges that you may be experiencing are also experienced by others, and often through trial and error, sometimes more effective methods have been developed that can be shared. We see this project as helping to further develop a **community of practice** where ideas, difficulties and successes can be discussed and debated.

Organisation of the TIS Resources Bank

Resources are organised under Teaching Context, Teaching Approaches, Learning, Curriculum and Intercultural Competencies. Each begins with a description of the main issues followed by an exploration of their complexities based on evidence from research and practice. This includes suggestions for action if you are just getting started or are looking for further ideas and strategies. A list of Further Readings is for those wishing to explore complexities, debates and the research evidence. Where available, a 'Top Resource' or 'Top Tip' is provided for those with less time. By 'Tip' we mean 'Theory into Practice' and hope that teachers consider these in relation to their own contexts, needs and ideas. Case Stories from students and teaching staff illustrate the issues in each section and provide concrete suggestions for improvement.

Although 'Internationalising the Curriculum' appears within 'Curriculum', it is of course a much broader issue. We have provided links to the wealth of information and



organisations already working in this area such as the Centre for Academic Practice and Research in Internationalisation (CAPRI) at Leeds Metropolitan University and the Centre for International Curriculum Inquiry and Networking (CICIN) at Oxford Brookes University.

TIS activities

The TIS project activities include:

- the '[International Student Lifecycle' Resources Bank](#)
- a series of collaborative [Events](#) with Academy Subject Centres and other higher education organisations, and
- the development of a community of practice

The First Stage of the project has focused on the development of the teaching and learning sections of this website with the aim of these progressively developing over time as more resources are identified and produced.

In the Second Stage of this project, this site is starting to link to issues and resources in other broader areas of students' lives, connected to teaching and learning, including Pre-arrival support, Induction, Life outside the 'classroom' and Employability and next steps. These will be mainly providing links to other specialist groups and resources. This recognises that international students have their best chances of success if universities provide a holistic approach to supporting their international students and when staff working within and across universities share ideas, expertise and resources.

Case stories

We are always keen to hear from international students and their lecturers about their experiences and ideas for improving teaching and learning practices by writing a [Case Story](#). These illustrate the issues and demonstrate that people are not alone in experiencing difficulties and they often need to experiment and persevere. If you would like to write a **Case Story** for this site, you can use the following templates and email to: internationalisation@HEAcademy.ac.uk

[Student Case Story](#)

[Staff Case Story](#)

Our approach

Our philosophical position is that international students bring with them a range of cultural knowledge, experience and skills that can be shared with local teachers and students in the more globalised and interconnected world in which we now all live and



work. We are trying to avoid the 'problematisation' of international students by expecting them alone to change and adjust. Our focus here is on how teachers can change and adjust to new student cohorts and more globalised learning contexts.

We have also endeavoured to write the entries in a respectful way for all parties by using **inclusive language** although we have tried to use language that is concise and to the point. We recognise the nexus between other university policies and initiatives such as widening participation measures and inclusive pedagogy and believe that the approaches and resources described in this database will also have benefits for other groups of students and for staff working with them. We also recognise that many of the issues and terms are complex and are contested. We have tried to provide examples of such debates in the suggested readings and have aimed for a mix of more theoretical and more practically-orientated readings.

About Us

A large number of people are involved in this project, including those who were consulted during the feasibility study conducted by UKCISA in 2008/9. Below is a list of the groups and people involved in overseeing and guiding this project as well as the members of the TIS Project Team.

[TIS Project Team](#)

[TIS Advisory Committee](#)

[TIS Project Champions](#)

[UKCISA Teaching International Students Project Reference Group](#)

Get involved in TIS

The [TIS Project Team](#) is keen to identify and share resources that are already available as well as work with others to develop further resources.

If you would like to:

- **share a resource** via this site
- **host a TIS event** or
- be included in the [TIS mailing list](#)

please contact: internationalisation@HEAcademy.ac.uk

Janette Ryan
Project Director