

École nationale supérieure de génie industriel

International experience at home for engineering students (to foster intercultural skills)

Prof. Gülgün Alpan
Director of International Relations, School of IE&M

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Facing Uncertainty in Higher Education in IE&M due to Pandemic Crisis: Towards a New Education Paradigm



Why do engineers need intercultural skills?

Be aware of cultural diversity and the way in which cultural differences impact the working methods and professional activity of the engineer. (CTI R&O 2020)

Engineers should be able to

Express him/herself in English (or in a language other than his/her first language)

Communicate and promote his/her own approaches and point of view

Understand and respect those of his/her collaborators, customers, partners.

Dealing with new and unexpected situations

Integrate into diverse work contexts

Work in a multidisciplinary and multicultural team

Master remote communication tools and technologies



International mobility to foster intercultural skills

- Conviction of our school. Development of bi-lateral agreements and international networking for decades now.
- Required by the CTI (French accreditation commission of Engineering Titles)
 - Last accreditation : at least 3 months
 - New recommandation : At least 1 semester for regular programs and at least 3 months in apprenticeship.
- And Integrated in the internal rules of the Institute and the School of I&EM
 - Mobility is compulsory and students are strongly encouraged to achieve mobility of at least one semester (three months for apprenticeship) for of cumulative duration. (Grenoble INP)



International mobility during Covid 19 pandemics Nightmare or opportunity?

Total Nightmare!

- March-June 2020: to repatriate students or to follow-up those who cannot come back to France. Follow up well-being of hosted exchange students during the lock down, etc.
- Major impact on physical mobility (2020-2021 and 2021-2022 academic years) :
 - Difficulties in managing in Inbound/outbouns exchange students flow due to uncertanities
 - Cancellation of mobilities
 - Administratif hurdles
- Mobility obligation is relaxed for 2020, 2021 and 2022 graduates: Difficulties in validation of intercultural skills

Some numbers:

- 2019 graduations: 100% of our students has at least 6 weeks physical mobility,
 81% at least 3 months
- 2020 graduations : 2 students without mobility
- 2021 graduations : 28% without mobility
- 20% of the expected mobility is cancelled this semester



International mobility during Covid 19 pandemics Nightmare or opportunity?

Also an opportunity!

- To rethink the acquisition of the intercultural skills for our students
- Physical mobility is a priority but can be complemented with activities at home



Priority to

Physical

Mobility

Physical mobility complemented with intercultural activities at home

Extra-Curricural curricural WITH WITH @ HOME @ HOME MOBILITY **MOBILITY Activities** Student Validated Exchange LV2 Before arrival mentoring (e.g. (cumpulsory), programs / (foreign diploma, buddy Program) double degree 3rd language interships, ...) By the school Sabbatical year Self (online) Mixed project learning with teams (Plateau Intercultural projet, Etude de experience international terrain) mobility Associative activities with Mobility in Internship or Association intercultural internship or apprenticeship activities with context professional in company mobility framework (for having industrial apprenticeship) context Personnel Project (to discuss)





Challenges

Evaluation of the outcome

« Quantifying » activity

Opportunities

Growing number of potential activities (Unite! activities, online learning plateforms, entrepreneur students, ...)

A new way of integrating in a new era



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Thank you for your attention

