

# CULTURAL INTERACTIONS

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Our world is getting smaller and multiculturalism is embraced throughout our country – but how far does your cultural insight extend?

We don't know, what we don't know - until we know it!

“**Cultural Interactions**” is a specifically designed workshop aimed at increasing your understanding of the challenges faced when welcoming international students into your classroom and addressing their specific needs from an educational stance. Exploration of cultural norms and adjustment for cultural integration by teachers and students alike is required, and this workshop will provide ways to understand behaviours and encourage students to embrace their new learning environment in a constructive and open manner. International interaction is our future...and teachers are in the front line, assisting with this adjustment and integration...and we can assist *you* to make this easier, more comfortable and successful.



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## COURSE CONTENT

### CULTURAL INTERACTIONS - UNDERSTANDING LEARNING IN THE GLOBAL SOCIETY

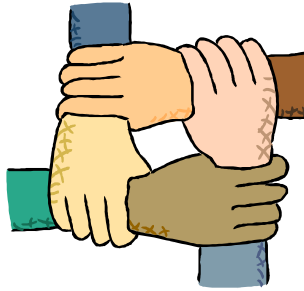
A one-day interactive experience designed to support teachers in their roles with international students.

This workshop has been specially designed to provide new frameworks of understanding for teachers working with international students. More than a cultural awareness program, *Cultural Interactions* offers insights and tools to support the maximisation of learning through dynamic understanding and cultural insight. Beyond ethnicity, we will design and create inclusive approaches that ensure students are able to connect with material in ways that provide meaning, insight and real learning. We all know that individuals learn in different ways, adding culture to the mix provides greater challenges but also broader possibilities. This program will utilise participants' experience in the classroom, creating new understanding and offering new pathways to success.

Some things we will explore are:

- Understanding and articulating mutual expectations in a cultural framework
- Establishing real agreements and co-creating processes
- Exploring cultural norms and understandings

- Adjusting for cultural integration and crossover (includes the impact of ethnicity on gender and generational norms and expectations)
- Reading and understanding behaviours
- Encouraging students to be part of the solution
- Real rewards in cultural terms
- Sharing insights and growing the international culture
- Advocating for real progress, influencing for positive development
- Looking after yourself and maintaining your energy, hope and enthusiasm (avoiding burnout and fatigue)




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## FACILITATOR

Joan works from a base of practical originality, bringing fresh ideas, concepts and approaches to integrate with the specific needs and desired outcomes of her clients.

Her experience in partnering and alliance building ensures that she works with the client to achieve their goals.

### **Academic Qualifications:**

Joan holds a B.A. in Cultural Studies from Griffith University Queensland and a Master of Education (Adult and Workplace Learning) from the Queensland University of Technology.

During the year 2000 she studied with Dr William Bloom in Scotland and attended workshops in life transition and new starts in New York.

She continues her own learning through an array of workshops, projects and special interests.

### **Acknowledgments and Achievements:**

Joan has twice been nominated for the Telstra Business Woman of the Year awards and was awarded a Commendation for Management Excellence from the Australian Institute of Management.

She has served on many committees including the National Women's Consultative Committee, the Queensland Management Development Committee and a Research Ethics Committee for the University of Queensland. Whilst working full time she has raised two daughters, completed undergraduate and post-graduate studies, travelled extensively throughout Asia, Europe and America and engaged in a variety of personal interests.

Joan is noted for her innovative approach to her work, her ability to establish and maintain valuable rapport and worthwhile relationships with people, her enthusiasm and high energy and her sense of humour and fun.

These skills and traits ensure Joan has what it takes to get the job done.