

## **Skilling up for international communication**

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A recent (2015) British Council Report suggests that "A common challenge shared by employers around the world is finding employees with adequate intercultural skills". For today's graduates, it is becoming ever more compelling not just to be able to communicate across cultures, but to develop communication skills in multilingual settings, and to do so quickly. These skills can be further enhanced, for those aspiring to leadership positions, by the ability to analyse and evaluate the success of international discussions and to provide ad hoc advice to conversation participants.

This discussion paper, given by staff and students from CELT, aims to present CELT's work in Transcultural Communication addressing the above needs and to focus in particular on:

- (i) how students meet the challenges of moving between self- and peer-assessment (by developing criteria for the evaluation of successful communication) and self-monitored practice (applying and modifying those criteria)
- (ii) how 'home' students struggle where 'international' students succeed.

The presentation will include video clips of students' transcultural interactions, with their self-assessing commentaries.

Delegates will then be invited to discuss the effectiveness of the self-assessment process and ways in which more students might be engaged in this essential skill-building process, for example by embedding TC into programmes being redesigned within the York-Pedagogy.

Delegates will

- have an understanding of what constitutes transcultural communication, how skills can be fostered and where potential problems lie
- have an awareness of how communication skills might sit within the overall student learning experience.