

ET913-15 Culture, Identity and Adaptation

26/27

Department

Applied Linguistics

Level

Taught Postgraduate Level

Module leader

Andrew Davidson

Credit value

15

Module duration

8 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

Many of us have experienced or are experiencing the demands (cognitive, behavioural, affective) associated with intercultural contact, such as that which may be experienced when visiting as well as living for extended periods in a new or quite unfamiliar sociocultural context (e.g. as international students or as business expats). Such acculturation experiences that unfold for these individuals may result in a positive intercultural learning trajectory leading to development of 'intercultural competence' and some sense of belonging in the foreign society. Yet, such experiences may also have negative consequences for an individual leading to, for example, acculturative stress that can deeply impact one's overall psychological and emotional wellbeing as well as sense of identity.

This core module therefore takes as its principal concern the experiences of individuals who have lived or are currently living abroad and so who are experiencing life away from a familiar, 'home' cultural context. To do this, the module explores a variety of empirical and theoretical research work relating to acculturation, cultural adaptation and intercultural learning and personal development.

Importantly with regard to the module focus on intercultural learning and personal development, opportunity will be given to students to reflectively explore their own lived experiences of adjusting

to life in a new/unfamiliar sociocultural context. Hence, module work will particularly encourage students to identify and record their own intercultural experiences and, informed by relevant reading of module-related literature, personally engage in self-analytical work that pushes them to make sense of their own lived intercultural experiences through sustained personal reflection. Ultimately, the module aims to construct an intercultural learning space for students to develop their understanding of themselves and others as intercultural individuals in an era of globalisation and increasing international mobility.

Module aims

The module aims to develop and extend students' critical understanding of:

- acculturation
- cultural adaptation
- identity (in relation to cultural adaptation experiences)
- strategies that can facilitate cultural adaptation.

The module aims to familiarise students with recent research in the area of culture, identity and adaptation, including:

- methodologies used for researching this topic
- key findings from classic and recent studies.

The module aims to enable students to reflect on:

- their own experiences of cultural adaptation
- the impact of culture(s) and intercultural contact on their own identities
- the impact of globalisation on their own intercultural experiences and sense of identity
- intercultural learning and personal development as an experiential learning process.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

- Affective, cognitive and behavioural dimensions of intercultural contact and adaptation (e.g., stress & coping; cognitive aspects of learning and adjustment; identity transformation/change; behavioural learning and adjustment);
- Theories of identity relevant to the study of cultural adaptation and intercultural learning and development;
- Competencies and strategies for dealing with cultural transitions;
- Contexts of cultural adaptation: international students in higher education;
- Acculturation and adaptation of migrant populations;
- Doing intercultural learning: Exploring and analysing lived personal experiences of international mobility and intercultural contact

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate in-depth knowledge and understanding of key theories and models of acculturation, intercultural learning and cultural adaptation
- Understand what the research indicates about the impact of cultural adaptation experiences on an individual's sense of identity
- Understand a range of contexts where cultural adaptation may occur and factors that may facilitate or hinder the adaptation process
- Demonstrate familiarity with research findings on the cultural adaptation process
- Critically evaluate theories, concepts and research findings and draw informed conclusions
- Relate theoretical concepts to one's own as well as other people's lived experiences of cultural adaptation

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

[Specific reading list for the module](#)

International

This module explores various theories and research findings regarding cultural transition experiences (e.g., studying overseas), cultural adaptation, and opportunities for experiencing as well as facilitating personal intercultural development/transformation outcomes. Hence, students develop understanding of the process and implications of intercultural contact as well as reflect on their own personal intercultural journeys. Moreover, in class, students are asked to work in small groups during seminars, providing intercultural contact opportunities.

Subject specific skills

- Acquire knowledge of theories and empirical research in relation to cultural adaptation, identity and intercultural learning and development.
- Apply theory to practice through reflection on case studies and personal lived experiences relating to cultural transitions abroad.

Transferable skills

- Communicate clearly and contribute effectively in discussions
- Work collaboratively in teams
- Read academic papers effectively
- Communicate ideas effectively in writing, using appropriate wording and structure
- Work independently
- Plan and manage time and workload to meet deadlines

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	8 sessions of 2 hours (11%)
Seminars	8 sessions of 1 hour (5%)
Private study	126 hours (84%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

Guided independent study and reading for assignment, equivalent to around 126 hours in total.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A2

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Individual assignment 3000 words	100%		Yes (extension)

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

Downloadable online feedback according to departmental marking criteria and, where required, personal meeting with module tutors.

Availability

Courses

This module is Core for:

- TETS-X9PJ Postgraduate Taught Intercultural Communication for Business and the Professions
 - Year 1 of X9PJ Intercultural Communication for Business and the Professions
 - Year 1 of X9PJ Intercultural Communication for Business and the Professions
- Year 1 of TETS-X9PT Postgraduate Taught Intercultural Communication for Business and the Professions (Part-time - 2 years)

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 1 of TETS-X9PL Postgraduate Diploma in Intercultural Communication for Business and the Professions
- Year 1 of TETS-X9PJ Postgraduate Taught Intercultural Communication for Business and the Professions

This module is Optional for:

- Year 1 of TETS-X9PM Postgraduate Diploma in Intercultural Communication for Business and the Professions
- Year 1 of TIMA-L981 Postgraduate Social Science Research