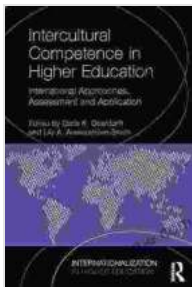


# Intercultural Competence In Higher Education: A Key to Success

## What is Intercultural Competence?

Intercultural competence is the ability to effectively communicate, collaborate, and problem-solve with people from different cultural backgrounds.



## Intercultural Competence in Higher Education: International Approaches, Assessment and Application (Internationalization in Higher Education Series)

by Wendy Smith

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
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It involves:

- Understanding and respecting cultural differences
- Being able to communicate effectively with people from different cultures
- Being able to work collaboratively with people from different cultures

- Being able to resolve conflicts peacefully and respectfully

## **Why is Intercultural Competence Important in Higher Education?**

Intercultural competence is increasingly important in higher education for several reasons.

1. **The world is becoming increasingly globalized.** Students are more likely to encounter people from different cultures in their personal and professional lives.
2. **Higher education is becoming more diverse.** The number of international students and faculty on college campuses is growing.
3. **Employers are looking for employees who are interculturally competent.** Employees who can work effectively with people from different cultures are more likely to be successful in today's global workplace.

## **The Challenges of Developing Intercultural Competence**

Developing intercultural competence is a challenging but rewarding process.

Some of the challenges include:

- **Cultural biases and stereotypes.** We all have biases and stereotypes about other cultures. These can make it difficult to understand and respect people from different cultures.
- **Language barriers.** Language can be a barrier to communication and understanding. This can make it difficult to build relationships and collaborate with people from different cultures.

- **Culture shock.** When we encounter a new culture, we may experience culture shock. This can make it difficult to adjust to the new culture and interact with people from that culture.

## How to Enhance Intercultural Competence

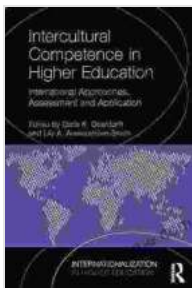
There are several things we can do to enhance our intercultural competence.

1. **Be open-minded and curious about other cultures.** The first step to developing intercultural competence is to be open-minded and curious about other cultures. This means being willing to learn about new cultures and to challenge our own assumptions about them.
2. **Spend time with people from different cultures.** One of the best ways to develop intercultural competence is to spend time with people from different cultures. This could involve studying abroad, volunteering in a diverse community, or simply making friends with people from different cultures.
3. **Learn about different cultures.** There are many ways to learn about different cultures, such as reading books, watching movies, and listening to music. Taking a course on intercultural communication can also be helpful.
4. **Develop a critical understanding of your own culture.** It is important to develop a critical understanding of your own culture in order to understand and appreciate other cultures. This means being aware of your own biases and stereotypes and being willing to challenge them.

Intercultural competence is a key to success in higher education and beyond.

By developing our intercultural competence, we can build bridges between cultures, promote understanding, and create a more just and equitable world.

Learn more about intercultural competence in the book "Intercultural Competence in Higher Education" by Laura L. Finley and Susan D. Blum.



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