



The Vientiane College Diploma - Module Overview

DIPIC110 Intercultural Communication

Overview of the module

Intercultural communication offers the ability to relate across cultures which is increasingly important as there are more and more opportunities for contact with people from different places. Through videos, discussions, readings and observation tasks, this module will help you better understand cross-cultural complexity as you cultivate your awareness of your own and others' cultures, recognize some of the important differences in communication styles and cultural values, and build your intercultural competence all while developing your English language skills.

Key questions explored in the module

- What is culture and how does it influence my life?
- How can I learn about other cultures and include elements 'below the surface'? In doing this, how can I avoid stereotyping?
- In what ways may communication styles be influenced by culture? How might cultural orientations, dimensions and values underlie different behaviors?
- How does culture influence body language?
- Why is it important to become aware of my own cultural identity in order to be more interculturally competent? How interculturally competent am I?

Skills

This module will help you improve your English language skills with a special emphasis on:

- recognizing the role of background knowledge, context, topic, and purpose in listening and reading
- understanding main ideas in listening and reading and separating them from specific details
- taking effective notes in listening, reading and observation situations according to the given purpose
- using cross-cultural knowledge and observation skills to behave and speak in a culturally appropriate manner; recognizing the cultural differences such as body language
- expressing ideas clearly and accurately in speaking

Performance Tasks

Throughout this module you will:

- listen, read and discuss topics related to intercultural communication
- write regularly in a reflection journal
- observe yourself, others in your culture, and those in other cultures
- participate in and then reflect on role plays and simulations to raise awareness of intercultural differences and your own reactions to them

