

Virtual Exchange: Exploring the Role of Virtual Exchange in Fostering Intercultural Competence



JÖNKÖPING UNIVERSITY
Jönköping University Enterprise

Enhancing Intercultural Competence in Occupational Therapy Education through Virtual Exchange

Exploring how virtual exchange fosters intercultural skills in future occupational therapists.

Impact and Significance for Occupational Therapy



- Essential intercultural skills development
- Promoting professional responsibility
- Accessible global learning opportunities



Introduction to the Project

The presentation focuses on an innovative international educational initiative that leverages virtual exchange. The project aims to enhance intercultural competence among occupational therapy students, equipping them to work effectively in diverse cultural settings.



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Five University Collaborations

This project involved collaboration between five universities from different countries, emphasizing the importance of an international educational experience. The institutions included FH Campus Wien (Austria), Jönköping University (Sweden), Tung Wah College (China), Kitasato University (Japan), and Polytechnic University of Leiria (Portugal).



Structured Online Collaboration

Structured online collaboration was implemented through virtual exchange, allowing students to connect despite geographical barriers. This format fostered an inclusive learning environment, enabling students to engage in meaningful discussions and share perspectives across cultures.



Student Participation and Curriculum Focus

During the project, students participated in two to three online meetings in small international peer groups across three semesters, involving 95 students in Semester 1, 89 in Semester 2, and 83 in Semester 3. The curriculum was designed to focus on key areas such as intercultural awareness, competence, and communication.



Implementation of Virtual Exchange



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Structured Online Collaboration

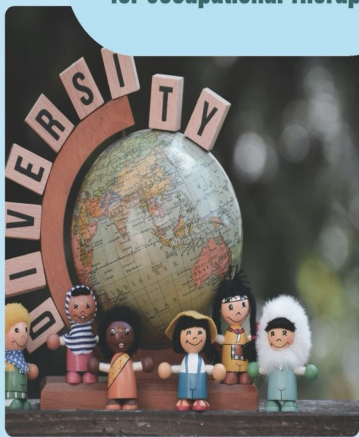
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Student Participation and Curriculum Focus

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Impact and Significance for Occupational Therapy



Essential intercultural skills development



Promoting professional responsibility



Accessible global learning opportunities



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