

## Poster

**Title:**                   **International staff and the inter-cultural classroom.**

**Presenter:**       **Angela Hammond**  
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### **Session Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this session, delegates will be able to:

- Understand some key findings from research into the experiences of international staff at a UK university.
- Consider inter-cultural issues in teaching and learning.

### **Session Outline**

Across the sector non-UK academic and research staff account for almost 25% of the workforce (UK Higher Education International Unit, 2013), but their presence little considered (Pherali 2011). The poster presents research carried out at the University of Hertfordshire into the contributions international staff make to the classroom and to the teaching and learning experience of their students.

At the University of Hertfordshire 25% of lecturers and researchers are drawn from 74 different countries. Using an online survey and focus groups, researchers gathered data from just under 100 colleagues. Findings from the research established that many international staff considered that they were able to relate more closely to the experiences of international students and in particular develop the perspectives of students away from western-centric approaches towards a more globalised outlook.

The poster will summarise findings through certain key themes, including differences in learning and teaching practices, the impact of cultural background and beliefs on teaching and individual reflections from staff on their contribution to the student experience.

### **Session Activities and Approximate Timings**

This will be a timetabled poster session when the presenter will be available to discuss the content with conference participants.

## References

Pherali, T J (2011) Academic mobility, language, and cultural capital: the experience of transnational academics in British Higher Education institutions. *Journal of Studies in Higher Education* XX(X) pp 1-21.

UK Higher Education International Unit (2013) International Higher Education in facts and figures Available at: <http://www.international.ac.uk/media/2416084/intfacts2013.pdf> Accessed 13/01/15.