



International Virtual Exchange Project

Moodle and the International Virtual Exchange Project

MoodleMoot
Africa 2019

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Developing cultural and intercultural understanding

- *What is the IVEProject?*
- *Modality & Tools*
- *Examples of exchange activities*
- *Moodle and research*
- *Outcomes: benefits of VE*
- *The experience*



Participants to date

Japan	35 universities and growing	Spain	1 university
Colombia	The SENA - 20 centers	The region of Taiwan	2 universities
China	3 universities	Thailand	3 universities
Ecuador	2 universities	The Philippines	1 university
Indonesia	1 university	UAE	1 university
Saudi Arabia	1 university	Vietnam	2 universities
Brazil	1 university	Chile	1 university

Since 2015, we have had 15,000 students and 300 teachers participate

Our Model - Modality and tools



- *Asynchronous text, video and audio (try to promote synchronous)*
- *Single Language Virtual Exchange*



Moodle (Open Source Learning Management System)

Quick Observations of Student IVE Activity

- Asking questions → Persuasive English
- Pictures paint a 1000 words → Images are communication
- Developing arguments → Expressive English
- Expanding dialouge! → Communication is two way



Posts

10 posts about food. These are their things you can share

- 1. What are the most interesting things you can share?
- 2. What is your favorite food?
- 3. How do you usually eat your food? What are the usual?
- 4. What are the most interesting things in the world?
- 5. How do you usually eat your food? What are the usual?

Search groups, communities, images

Posts

Post	Like
1. What are the most interesting things you can share?	1
2. What is your favorite food?	1
3. How do you usually eat your food? What are the usual?	1
4. What are the most interesting things in the world?	1
5. How do you usually eat your food? What are the usual?	1
6. How do you usually eat your food? What are the usual?	1
7. How do you usually eat your food? What are the usual?	1
8. How do you usually eat your food? What are the usual?	1
9. How do you usually eat your food? What are the usual?	1
10. How do you usually eat your food? What are the usual?	1

Outcomes

Benefits of Virtual Exchanges:

- *Language acquisition outcomes:*
- *Learner involvement - Increased input and output*
- *Motivation outcomes - target language is the principle medium*
- *Cultural knowledge - other and own culture - Cultural acclimatization*
- *Personal development*



How do we know?

Question / % of students agreeing with the statement	Japan 2019 n=594	Colombia 2019 n=402
I think this online exchange is beneficial to learning English.	81	90
I didn't learn anything about the other country.	13	16
Compared to before starting the exchange, I now think English is an important language.	79	96
I'm more interested in the other country(ies) now because of the virtual exchange.	77	86
I changed my view of the other country because of the virtual exchange.	70	89

Type of benefit / number of responses	
Sense of linguistic improvement	171
Sense of improving intercultural understanding	264
Motivation increase	31
Sense of participation in a global community	227
Other (system ease of use, “fun”, could be done anywhere etc.)	42
Negative comment (I didn’t find out enough about the other country)	1
No comment	12

Type of problem or dislike / number of responses	
A reply of “Nothing” or “no problem”	257
System problems (such as difficulty in uploading pictures etc)	216
Time consuming	11
Topic choice	10
Demotivating	3
Dissatisfaction with other students’ efforts	57
“Other” (slow reply time, assessment style, difficulty in understanding English, lack of synchronous exchange etc)	51

Other research - Intercultural Sensitivity Scale (Chen & Starosta, 2000) and a developmental model of intercultural sensitivity (Bennett, 2011)

<i>Question number</i>	<i>Pre total agrees %</i>	<i>Post total agrees %</i>	<i>Change %</i>
-All big cities, whatever the country, are the same: lots of buildings, too many cars and fast food restaurants.	59.7	56.8	-2.8
-As long as we all speak the same language, there's no problem.	35.6	32.0	-3.6
-I really know my own culture and can explain it to others.	43.6	49.5	5.9
-I would feel comfortable even if there are many foreigners around me.	63.4	66.7	3.3
-I know the taboos in my country's culture and can explain them to others.	45.9	53.8	7.9
<i>-When living in a foreign country you should take on all the customs and culture of that country.</i>	74.3	70.3	-4.0
-12	39.9	45.5	5.6

Changes in cultural understanding

Spring 2017 n=264	<i>P</i>	<i>Z</i>	<i>Cohen's d</i> <i>Effect size</i>
<i>No matter the country, people are the same.</i>	0.021	-2.034	0.142
<i>I really know my own culture and can explain it to others.</i>	0.024	-2.253	0.135
<i>My country's culture is very different to other countries'.</i>	0.017	2.384	0.196
<i>I know the taboos in my country's culture and can explain them to others.</i>	0.021	-2.039	0.137
<i>I can say what I really feel more openly in a foreign language than in my own language.</i>	0.002	-3.060	0.21

Conclusions from the research

- The first step in learning a new culture is to understand that you have your own.
- This study notes that students with low levels of English ability increase their interactional confidence, increase their knowledge of their own culture, gain motivation to learn English and are more interested in other cultures after participating in simple VE.
- To lessen the “shock” impact of different cultures, the IVE Project offers “cultural acclimatization” allowing students a gentle yet real introduction to other cultures.



Easy and free to join!

- Join the IVE Project:

<https://iveproject.org>

Japanese government (Kaken)
project funded, so free of charge

Request an account

Sign in

Fill in the information

Prepare your list of students
in a CSV

New entry

Name (Given name followed by family name):	<input type="text" value="Thor Rawson"/>
Name of institution:	<input type="text" value="Nagasaki International University"/>
Major of the students in this class (if mixed, write "mixed"):	<input type="text" value="International Tourism"/>
Approximate number of students in this class:	<input type="text" value="35"/>
Average level of student (only choose one):	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Beginner <input checked="" type="radio"/> Intermediate <input type="radio"/> Advanced
Percentage of grade assigned to the exchange (only choose one):	<input type="radio"/> Voluntary <input type="radio"/> 5% <input checked="" type="radio"/> 10% <input type="radio"/> 15% <input type="radio"/> 20% <input type="radio"/> greater than 20%
If you already know, the time/day of your class:	<input type="text" value="Monday 9:00 and Friday 16:20"/>
For Japan based teachers only: If available, would you like to exchange with more than one country's students?:	<input type="radio"/> No, I only want my students exchanging with students from Colombia. <input type="radio"/> Yes, but only one other country. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, the more the merrier!
Tags:	No selection <input type="text" value="Enter tags..."/> Manage standard tags
<input type="button" value="Save and view"/> <input type="button" value="Save and add another"/>	



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Using virtual exchange in the language classroom: results

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