

Creating and evaluating collaborative online international learning projects in the post-pandemic higher education context

Slides 1-5

[No notes]

Slide 6

There is a growing body of international, practice-based research which suggests that students consider COIL to be a worthwhile, engaging experience which enhances transversal skill development and employability (International Virtual Exchange Conference, 2020).

The author's own research involving a COIL project spanning four different countries, found that participants valued working in a multicultural team in a real scenario, finding solutions and solving problems; and they recognised meaningful changes in their own approach to other cultures (Swartz, Barbosa, Crawford, 2020).

Some of the participants' comments suggested that COIL projects have the potential to enhance employability and graduate preparedness for a global workplace.

The research provided the tutors with a deeper insight into the student experience and enabled them to identify ways to improve it from a pedagogical perspective.

To investigate this further, the author embarked on a PhD project in 2020 examining the perceived impact of COIL on employability from the perspective of alumni and employers.

The results reinforced many of the student reflections and suggest that COIL should be embedded more widely across Higher Education.

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To ensure that RGU emerged stronger from the pandemic, staff were encouraged to reflect on this period of immense change and begin planning for the future.

The Emerging Stronger Enhancement Award fund aimed to support colleagues and students seeking to enhance the future learning experience at RGU.

The Award was supported by funding linked to the QAA Enhancement Theme, Resilient Learning Communities. The fund was specifically aimed at supporting enhancement at school and/or department level and student-led enhancement activity.

To support the adoption of COIL within RGU, a paid student intern was employed to help create staff, student and partner facing resources.

Play video (4 minutes)

Slide 8

[No notes]

Slide 9

A dedicated COIL web page was established on the RGU website explaining what COIL is, what the benefits are, and how prospective partners can connect with staff.

This is designed to enable international partner institutions to identify and collaborate with RGU staff and students in a structured, streamlined, and measurable way.

This in turn facilitates more COIL opportunities for students, helping to democratise student mobility, and support the post pandemic internationalisation agenda.

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[No notes]

Slide 11

A dedicated COIL Moodle page was created for staff, and a separate one for students, including project start-up guidelines; best practice examples and case studies; COIL teaching, learning and assessment resources;

digital skills support; internal and external training opportunities; peer support; access to global COIL networks; and meta skills reflection for enhanced employability.

This is designed to enable staff and students to easily access the information and resources they need to design, deliver, and evaluate their own COIL projects.

Slides 12-18

[No notes]