

Glocality

A project developed for
**COIL (Collaborative
Online Interactive
Learning)**



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Lecturer planning meeting on Teams

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Objective

Cultural exchange to develop intercultural competence & improved student experience



Student cityscape collage combining Madrid & Hanoi

Logistics

CEU: 40 students
2 lecturers

RMIT: 180 students
2 lecturers

Duration: 3 weeks

Cities: Madrid –
Ho Chi Minh City –
Hanoi

Time difference: 6 hours

Technology: Microsoft
Teams asynchronous
delivery



Vietnamese cats sketched into Madrid image

Introduction

In a rapidly globalising context, students are called upon to develop improved intercultural competence – a highly sought-after skill by multi-national employers. Developing these skills was particularly impacted during the challenges of Covid.

However, students in Vietnam may still not be able to easily travel overseas due to other factors such as a limited budget, disability or caring responsibilities. The aim of this project is to inspire the development of a model to be used within Vietnam's specific context to further develop this competency.



User research spatial analysis – Madrid

Description

A COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) project in collaboration with the RMIT Mobility Office was developed as part of the the History & Theory of Design 2 subject for students in Hanoi and the Saigon South campus Design Studies program. We were able to engage them with a group of their peers from both inside and outside Vietnam, with the overall aim of enhancing their education journey. The Glocality project involved a collaborative analysis of local and global (glocal) interconnecting factors and issues & locality – relating to place, a particular area or neighbourhood through the lens of the students design and architectural programs. Urban spaces across HCMC, Hanoi and Madrid were analysed for aspects of interconnection and divergence through an online exchange and a digital presentation artefact which combined slides and asynchronous exchange discussion and interaction in the Teams meeting platform.

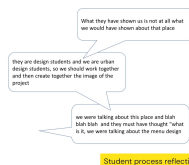
Project Objectives

Students at RMIT in the Design Studies Program in Vietnam had emerging design skills (Semester 2 first year) and students in Madrid were more advanced studying architecture in year 3 of a 5 year program. In line with capabilities development the aim was to further develop skills to critically review, analyse, consolidate, synthesise and adapt knowledge through experiencing diverse social, ethical, local and international cultural contexts.

INTERACTION



Interactions analysis research example - Student from Peru studying in Spain found many similarities between their home country and Vietnam



Student process reflection

Project Methodology

- Regular online meetings with academic team to develop project & personal rapport
- Using Microsoft Teams asynchronously to produce, share and communicate student research analysis
- Introduced students to a Design Research Tool for spatial analysis:
 - A - Action
 - E - Environment
 - I - Interactions
 - I - Information
 - O - Objects
 - U - Users
- Students worked in teams to gather 3-5 images of each category then share, discuss and imbed comments and easter eggs / hacks into their international teams research
- The Teams across all 3 cities then collaborated together to co-create a poster collage on the theme of what they found the most interesting as emerging architecture and design students.



User analysis example & imbedded hack / easter egg

Requirements

Potentially this type of collaborative online virtual exchange program could be used as a model to foster collaborations between other universities, both internally within Vietnam and internationally to give students in Vietnam the opportunity to experience interdisciplinary collaboration with other cultures.

The project would require funding for personnel support, space, technology and the collaboration between Higher Education providers in Vietnam to build a network, and encourage the participation and creation of projects by academics. Funding required would need to be assessed and can be mitigated through use of existing international networks.

Conclusion

A welcome aspect of the virtual exchange was that students within Vietnam were able to interact with Vietnamese colleagues, between both the Hanoi and Saigon South campuses as well as with the students from Urbanismo CEU, San Pablo, Madrid.

The project is affordable and sustainable. Using asynchronous technologies to combine images of city locations in slides, fostering interactive exchange engaging audio, text and or hacking of imagery (inserting Vietnam into Spain or vice versa), poster collage and discussion in Teams meeting platform.

The type of project can be readily adapted to other disciplines.

Urban Surrounding:



Comparison between Vietnam and Madrid urban environments

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Acknowledgements
RMIT Mobility Office
CEU Urbanismo University San Pablo
& SUNY COIL

