

Personal Growth Series

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Intercultural Learning



Many contemporary cities and communities around the globe are fast becoming cultural melting pots. The call to embrace cultural diversity and to better engage and interact with people from diverse creed, language and ethnicity has never been greater.

This would require specific sets of attributes, skills and knowledge known as intercultural abilities. Increasingly, private and public organisations are seeking individuals with such qualities to advance their cause or business in the international arena. Thus, there are far reaching benefits, especially for students or individuals who aspire to be 'global citizens'.

We are, at almost every point of our day, immersed in cultural diversity: faces, clothes, smells, attitudes, values, traditions, behaviours, beliefs, rituals.

Randa Abdel-Fattah

Tips on how to develop intercultural skills more effectively:

- ❖ Understanding someone from a different culture requires openness and tolerance. Embracing diversity does not mean that you have to like the differing value or belief or adopt it as your own, but it is necessary to respect the other person's way of life.
- ❖ Encountering or being exposed to a different culture may take some getting used to, especially if it is vastly different from yours. Therefore, it will be helpful that you give yourself some time to make some adjustment to the changes to areas, such as your response or even attitude.
- ❖ Intercultural competence encompass communication skills such as listening abilities, as well as qualities like tact and diplomacy in order to foster better ties and understanding. Thus, it is necessary to develop and strengthen these skills and qualities to be a better global citizen.

SUTD Wellbeing Services offers professional counselling services for students in a private and confidential setting.

If you would like to see a Counsellor to discuss any issue or challenge, please email us at wellbeing@sutd.edu.sg.

