

04.7.2024

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**Title**

Global Citizenship and Cross-Cultural Competency: Student and Expert Understandings of Internationalization Terminology / Debby R. E. Cotton ...

**Publication year**

2019

**Source/Footnote**

In: Journal of studies in international education : a publication of the Association for Studies in International Education (ASIE). - 23 (2019) 3, S. 346 - 364

**Inventory number**

48325

**Keywords**

Internationalität ; Austausch von Wissenschaftlern und Studenten ; Studienreform

**Abstract**

Internationalization of the curriculum is of increasing interest in many universities; yet, the terminology used to describe it is highly varied and it is not clear that students understand its core concepts. This study explores students' understandings of the terms global citizenship and cross-cultural competency, and compares them with use in the literature and by experts. A large-scale questionnaire of students from a range of disciplines is supplemented with qualitative data from pedagogic and internationalization experts. Findings indicate that student understandings of both terms were mixed, and frequently differed from the way the terms are used by experts and in the literature. The concept of cross-cultural competency was more likely to invoke a sense of agency among students than was global citizenship, contrary to how they are depicted in the literature. This suggests that there may be some pedagogic benefits to be gained from using the former term. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)