

Intercultural Communication



Image 1

Task 1:

In your view, which competences are important when studying your subject ([see here](#) for some ideas)? Which competences should you possess if you'd like to study abroad? Why are these competences important?

Task 2:

Have a look at the following [graphic](#) which presents the results of a poll in which people from different European countries were asked what they think about their European neighbours. What do you find striking? To what extent do you agree with the results of the poll? Can you think of reasons for the different assessments? Discuss with your partner.

Task 3:

Are there stereotypes in your country about students, e.g. according to the subjects they study? If yes, which stereotypes are there? Compare the stereotypes between your countries. Which similarities/differences can you find? What is your view on such stereotypes? Have a look [at this article](#) and discuss which type of student might describe you best.

Task 4:

According to an [article by Johann Galtung](#), culture-specific intellectual styles can be found in academic texts across all fields of academia. Galtung argues that there are four main intellectual styles which are characterised as follows:

1. Saxonc (UK and USA): Documentation of data, fostering debate and discourse
2. Teutonic (Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Eastern Europe, Russia): Theory formation
3. Gallic (France, Italy, Spain, Portugal; South America): Elegance of style
4. Nipponic (Japan): Academic tradition

To what extent do you agree with this hypothesis? In your opinion, could the different intellectual styles lead to misunderstandings between academics from your countries? If yes, what would be a good way of dealing with these misunderstandings?

Follow-up activity:

Read an article in your target language on the topic of intercultural communication, such as [this article by the BBC](#). Tell your partner about it at your next tandem meeting and discuss whether you agree with the article.

Sources

- Image 1 <https://pixabay.com/en/hands-world-map-global-earth-600497/>
- Link 1 http://disruptiveacademic.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Nine.Cs_.png
- Link 2 <https://www.economist.com/blogs/graphicdetail/2013/05/what-europeans-think-each-other>
- Link 3 <https://www.topuniversities.com/blog/student-stereotypes-which-one-are-you>
- Link 4 <https://tinyurl.com/yb2d2ofk>
- Link 5 <http://www.bbc.com/capital/story/20141006-talk-shock-youre-doing-it-wrong>