



Is Collaborative Online International Learning part of your strategy to enhance the quality of your education?

EUA and Columbus members are currently undergoing a major review of the internalization of the curriculum. According to the recent EUA Trends 2015 (by Andrée Surssock) 41 % of European Universities consider international collaboration in teaching and learning as “the feature that have contributed most to its enhancement”. Notwithstanding, there is an indication that such initiatives are not yet pervasive across the institution and remain mainly an initiative of some faculties and, even more, of individual teachers.

Through collaborative online international projects students develop a set of new skills that teachers can't easily transmit on a traditional classroom.

It is a fact that 95% of your students will not be mobile learners. How could they live an international experience without moving abroad? The interaction with peers in other countries, if properly organized, allow your students to **develop 7 major assets**:

1. **Working with digital tools**, from anywhere and everywhere, in any profession.
2. Finding, analyzing, evaluating and applying information to **solve a specific task**.
3. **Organizing complex tasks in an autonomous way**, including time management.
4. **Understanding and managing interactions** in diverse, complex and novel scenarios.
5. **Communicating in different languages** and gaining insight into cultural differences;
6. **Participating in interdisciplinary team-work** involving networks of geographically-dispersed professionals.
7. **Gaining in entrepreneurship and employability**, as more and more these skills will be appreciated by the world of labor.

This is an invitation to take part in the Columbus Hub Academy

Access is free to all Columbus and EUA members. This invitation is extended to **every teacher at your University aware of the impact of International collaboration in teaching and learning with European or Latin American colleagues**. Teachers create a collaborative project with colleagues of at least another country involving students working on mixed groups, identifying and analysing issues, and producing an intercultural work. The project could be developed by matching similar courses or combine different courses at undergraduate or postgraduate level. As it is not a face to face activity, to be successful, collaborative online projects demand strong commitment from both teachers and students. They are time consuming, but, as they don't require extra funding, their impact can reach substantial number of students.

A friendly virtual environment to facilitate international online learning

The Columbus Hub Academy is a **m u l t i l a t e r a l** initiative, meaning that you can choose – and even invite – your partner from **a n y** Columbus or EUA member. Its team will be present all along helping and guiding your academic staff.

Basically, it consists of 5 features:

1. **A matching system to ensure that your teachers find the right partner with complementary knowledge and skills to work together on a shared project**, based on teacher's profiles (academic field + area of interest)
2. **Guidelines and support materials** for participating teachers.
3. **A dedicated Academic and Social-network** –supported by JomSocial - to facilitate the interaction among international teachers and students groups, through chat and forum tools, profile accounts, document and video sharing, event organization, progress monitoring, etc. Each project counts with its own social-media group.
4. **Available virtual room in the Columbus Communication Platform** (Adobe Connect) for videoconferencing with international partners.
5. **Access to success stories** developed at the Columbus Hub Academy and by other similar initiatives. In the near future, access to expertise via a community of practice.

Don't miss the launching of the Columbus Hub Academy!

Please share this information within your institution and encourage your most innovative teachers to participate at the Hub Academy' **Launching Web-Conference, on April 27st, 2016 at 4 p.m.**, Paris time-zone. For **additional information** and/or **Web-Conference registration**, please follow this link:

<http://bit.ly/columbushub>