

Engaging International Students to Promote Global Student Success

Are you an instructor who has an eclectic group of students in your class? Are you looking to promote engagement but don't know how to form "success" or "community" amongst your wonderfully diverse students? The variety of different cultures in our classes today is an amazing thing that we should all continue to embrace, but if we are being honest, this same diversity can sometimes present its challenges to instructors while we try to promote success and engagement amongst international students whom we may never see in person. This is mostly due to the fact that most instructors only position us or identify with one (or possibly two) cultures ourselves. A lot of empathy and learned awareness is necessary to create student success in an inclusive, strategic and successful way! So,

how do you promote success and engagement amongst the variety of students in your own class? I am thankful enough to be in the position where I am surrounded by students of many different cultures, languages, and geographic locations daily during my work at Arizona Global. Due to my varying duties and different types of students that I communicate with, I am always needing to be aware of my cultural competence and awareness when talking to students as well as faculty from around the world. In my work, it has taken several years of experience in working directly with different students and learning where they come from in order to know how to keep them connected, engaged, but most of all, successful during their educational journeys here at the University of Arizona. Today I will be going over my top 10 ways that I have learned to keep our diverse population of students from around the world, engaged, connected and excited to successfully graduate as a UA Wildcats!

Amanda Agate

Amanda currently works as Coordinator for Global Student Engagement/UAJakarta Location Manager at Arizona Global within The University of Arizona. In this role, she helps to develop course curriculum, coordinate outreach events, help facilitate orientation of students new to microcampuses abroad, while also teaching student success courses in Arizona Global's dual-degree programs throughout the globe. In 2019, Amanda earned a master's degree in English Applied Linguistics, a TEFL certification from the Center for English as a Second Language (CESL), and a bachelor's degree in Leadership, Literacy, and Learning – all from the University of Arizona. Prior to joining the Global Education team at UofA, Amanda taught English as a Second Language in the countries of Iceland, Italy, and the Czech Republic. As the recipient of a Fulbright-Hayes Scholarship, Amanda also recently participated in a teacher training program as well as Mandarin language learning in Shanghai, Nanjing and Beijing, China in 2019

