Cross-Cultural Competencies for the NASA International Internship Project

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CCC DEFINED

• Skill that facilitates international and intercultural engagement
• Stems from both stable individual traits and behaviors and habits that can be strengthened over time
• Critical for workplaces and projects that include multinational and multicultural employees, such as NASA’s I² project

COMPETENCIES

Confidence in one’s language ability

Cultural sharing

Positive models of engagement

Awareness of one’s own culture

General competencies (e.g., Trust)

ACTIVITIES

• Reflection on past language success
• Multicultural nights and activities
• Comparing variation within a shared experience
• Presentations by multinational NASA employees
• Scavenger hunts in a grocery store & downtown
• Happy hour events
• Team building & bonding activities

FUTURE STEPS

• Continue research on specific competencies
• Develop a logical schedule of activities
• Deploy schedule for the Fall 2017 NASA I² cohort
• Create qualitative and quantitative tests to determine project success

BENEFITS TO NASA

• Different cultures emphasize different things, so creating an inclusive international environment will facilitate creativity and problem-solving
• More diverse teams will dream up a greater range of possibilities & create better missions

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REFERENCES


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