**Welcome to your Global Community: an online ice-breaker workshop**

The Welcome to your Global Community online icebreaker workshop was piloted with a small group of participants taking part in the online Leeds International Summer School in June 2020. It was developed and delivered using Blackboard Collaborate by Katy Gregg and Jenna Isherwood from the International Student Office. It is based on a workshop delivered to PGT students during induction between 2016 - 2019.

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| **Aims** |
| * Get to know each other better
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| * Share different perspectives
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| * Learn from each other
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| * Have fun
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This fun, interactive 1-hour session is designed to create an inclusive and supportive online environment for participants to connect and learn about each other. It can be used to help build a sense of community and belonging at the beginning of the academic year or can be used in other contexts. The framing and narrative can be adapted depending on the aims and audience. For culturally diverse groups the benefits of learning in an intercultural environment can be highlighted or alternatively where groups are less diverse the framing can focus on getting to know each other and the title can be changed e.g. ‘Welcome to your Community’.

**1. Ground rules:** Facilitators introduce ground rules that will be useful both for the workshop and other group work situations in future. These include participating at your own comfort level and supporting others to contribute. Facilitators acknowledge the challenges and opportunities of communicating in an online space, helping participants to feel safe and supported.

**2. Name game:** In small breakout groups each participant has 45-60 seconds to talk about their name. They are given prompt questions and the facilitator models to activity to indicate the expected level of sharing. Talking about your own name enables you to be an expert for a moment and builds confidence for those less comfortable speaking in groups. Names are an important part of our identity, and participants are often surprised how much they learn about each other’s backgrounds and cultures through this apparently simple task. The debrief acknowledges that remembering lots of new names is hard but that knowing each other’s names and pronunciations is an important first step in getting to know each other and building community.



There are 2 options for the facilitator to choose from for the final activity. In version 1 of the workshop participants are asked to share an object, while in version 2 they are asked to share their journey.

**3. Share your object / your journey:** This activity allows participants to get to know each other better by either sharing an object that is significant to them or by sharing a picture/map of their life before starting their programme. Participants can be asked to prepare an object or drawing prior to attending or have time to do this during the session. Facilitators model the activity and then in the same small groups, participants have up to 2 minutes to talk about their object or journey drawing. The debrief asks participants to reflect on their experience of the activities. Participants may share that they discovered similarities and common threads within their diverse experiences, as well as new perspectives and an increased level of self-awareness. The session ends by signposting to further resources and sharing an online evaluation form to gather feedback.

**Please get in touch** if you would like to discuss this workshop in more detail. A Facilitator Pack including slides and script is available: globalcommunity@leeds.ac.uk