

# In two or three words, what does an Inclusive Learning Environment mean to you in a university context?



# Have you seen or experienced inclusion or exclusion in a classroom setting?



Yes ●

# Provide one or two examples of these experiences and their impact.

full and frank classroom discussion

Universal design for learning - preparing for all learners

Varied and choice in assessment

Exclusion through explicitly racist language. Inclusion through clumsy but productive conversations.

Rejection of Taiwan by Chinese students

Diverse cohorts with international students benefit a lot if they are in environment which supports and nurtures them

Supporting partially sighted students during live classes delivered online

Students with mental health issues not being taken seriously, considered to be dodging work.

Providing alternative learning objects to cater for different learning styles.



# Provide one or two examples of these experiences and their impact.

Sharing student's experience with the topic

Assuming pre-requisite knowledge = exclusion of capable students

Exclusion by physically sitting away from other students

Loss of students who feel isolated

Language barrier.

For exclusion, draws attention to difference without challenging perspectives, devalues difference, reduces confidence and participation

Student who always sat by themselves stopped coming to tutorials (dropped out of course?)

Gently calling students back when behaviours were unintentionally exclusive

Indigenous-led yarning circle leading to understanding of emotional and more-than-human learning



# Provide one or two examples of these experiences and their impact.

Problem with ESL foreign students in a Company Law Class. Not only language problem but cultural issues (students not prepared to risk their English in front of fellow students, misunderstanding of Australian values.

Exclusion by joking about stereotypes of particular student cohorts

The examples provided by teachers can only be understood by local people.

Giving students greater control over their learning and when they submit summative assessments.

Tasks that involve team work help in inclusion

A student with cerebral palsy spoke about her experience of physical disability and the perceptions others had of her intellectual capacity because of her physical attributes. Peers voiced new awareness of unconscious discriminatory actions

Non-disclosure of special learning needs, so not having reasonable adjustments in place

Friendly educator who is there for students

Sharing own stories



# Provide one or two examples of these experiences and their impact.

Attention and validation of students' contributions and opinions

Sharing is caring!

Students with anxiety disorders and/or depression have expressed to me the lack of support they have received from other tutors. They appreciate me 'checking in' to see how they are going with an assignment, and my offer to meet and chat informally

Exclusion appears to occur bc tutors and lecturers are not planning to include all of their students



# How do you develop inclusion in the learning environment?

Actively take steps to build diversity in the student cohort.

Inclusive pedagogy as foundation of practice

Understanding universal design for learning

Establish classroom norms

Taking care in the language you use, both in slides and lectures.

Ask questions and listen to the answers

You try. Seek help and advice. Learn from others. Listen!

Know your students.

Allowing students to share their own experience with others



# How do you develop inclusion in the learning environment?

Allowing students to give voice to their experience, in appropriate forms, through learning outcomes. Valuing what they know.

explicit brainstorming at the start of the course

Needs analysis prior to class

Tasks involving smaller, but diverse teamwork

Regular classroom progress checks against agreed norms

Ask questions, build rapport, listen to others Be prepared and open to working hard to make changes

remaining open to suggestions and being flexible

Changed the format of the class. Invited ESL students to see me privately during longer breaks in the class. Made myself more aware of problem by viewing video about the issue and discussion with colleagues.

Fun (educational) games during tutorials so students have a chance to have a laugh together while learning.





# How do you develop inclusion in the learning environment?

Attention towards and validation of students' contributions

strengths based visioning exercises

Understand different learning styles - auditory, visual, independent, group work etc.



# What are some of the potentially sensitive areas in classroom lesson content??

Medication as an intervention for ADHD

Government policy and funding issues re inclusion of students with special needs. Very political! Eg Gonski, private and public school funding.

Cultural and political differences to traditional western-centric values, traditions and understanding, particularly among international and indigenous students.

