

# **INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE – STAKEHOLDERS AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES AT THE UNIVERSITY**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This project is currently being carried out at Chalmers University of technology and is scheduled to be finished by early 2016. The study aims at exploring views on intercultural initiatives at the Master's level the university. It also aims at providing strategies for active learning by designing learning objectives, activities and assessment practices for intercultural competence among students and teachers.

## **KEYWORDS**

Intercultural competence, intercultural communication, active learning, integrated learning

## ***Project in Progress***

Many Master's students across the world study in a multicultural environment and will work in a global environment. This is an environment that involves meeting, communicating with, negotiating with, and cooperating with a range of cultures both currently at the university level and later on in different companies and different countries. Many universities work actively to attract students from other countries and have internationalization as a stated goal of the university.

The question this work-in-progress presentation seeks to address is how far universities prepare students for such environments. This project has carried out interviews and questionnaires with engineering students and faculty at Master's programs at Chalmers University of Technology in order to investigate the level of integration between Swedish and non-Swedish students and if steps are being taken in order to facilitate this integration. Furthermore, the project also investigates and proposes actions to be taken in order to introduce active learning within the realm of intercultural competence. One of the initial findings is that there is some work being done in this field, but this seems primarily focused on the visiting students, thereby neglecting learning activities for the national students. This presentation will therefore report on the preliminary results of this study and, in particular, present steps that universities can take in order to increase intercultural communication competence amongst its students.

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**Rebecca Bergman** is a university lecturer at the Division for Language and Communication. She teaches on a wide range of courses and is presently involved with the Electrical Engineering and Shipping programs; the optional courses English for Engineers and Technical Writing for Master's Studies as well as staff training with Teaching in English. Her research interests and publications include use of web 2.0 tools for communication courses; peer reviewing and intercultural exchanges.

**Carl Johan Carlsson** is a university lecturer at the Division for Language and Communication. He is involved in communication courses in several educational programmes, primarily within the fields of mechanical engineering, maritime studies and design engineering. As the director of Chalmers Open Communication Studio, he is responsible for the Writing Centre at Chalmers University of Technology and the peer tutors working there. His research interest include various aspects of intercultural communication, writing in higher education, pedagogy and pedagogical development work

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