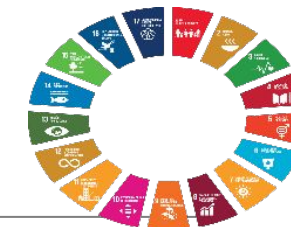




UNIVERSITAS
Miguel Hernández



Internacionalización de la docencia universitaria

Vicerrectorado de Relaciones Internacionales

Servicio de Relaciones Internacionales y Cooperación al Desarrollo y Voluntariado

Junio 2021

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What is Virtual Exchange?

Why Virtual Exchange?= WHY Internalization ?

The world is increasingly interdependent

More and more jobs require collaboration with international colleagues, language skills, collaboration with people from different backgrounds, and familiarity with global issues

Education exchanges and study abroad programs are among the best means to prepare young people for such a world- increasing their **Global competence skills**

These skills help students to better understand local and global issues, recognize different perspectives, communicate ideas effectively to international audiences, and act on their ideas

Why Virtual Exchange

A small minority (4,5% Europe) of youth study abroad as part of their undergraduate education

In line with ODS EQUITY OBJECTIVE: Virtual exchange is cost-effective, and uniquely capable of reaching populations that are not otherwise reached by in-person exchange programs

What is Virtual Exchange?

- Developed over 30 years from experience in the field of educational exchange and study abroad at all levels of education from kindergarden through university
- VE are education programs, **primarily learner-led**, participants are the main drivers of knowledge creation, technology-enabled and students interaction
- Particular attention to the development of activities that promote interaction and collaboration between international students
- Prepares, deepens, and extends physical exchanges, and fuels new demand for physical exchange

A question of terminology

- Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) (Rubin & Guth 2015)
- Telecollaboration (O'Dowd 2006, Dooly, 2008; Guth & Helm, 2010; [Vinagre, 2010](#))
- [Teletandem \(Telles 2008; Vinagre, 2007\)](#)
- Globally networked learning (Starke-Meyerring and Wilson 2008)
- Collaboratories (Wulf, 1989; Cogburn 2003)
- Online international/intercultural exchange (O'Dowd, 2007; O'Dowd & Lewis, 2016)

- **Virtual Exchange (Exchange 2.0 coalition; the Stevens Initiative; European Commission 2017)**

Aims of Virtual Exchange

- To allow an increasing number of people **to have a meaningful intercultural experience** as part of their formal and/or non-formal education
- To develop **employability skills** such as digital competence (the ability to communicate and collaborate effectively online), **foreign language and communication skills, media literacy, the ability to work in a diverse cultural context and international team work**

Class-to-Class Virtual Exchange

- Two or more professors from different countries connect to add an international and intercultural dimension to their already-existing courses
- The courses are usually **blended**, that is they combine face-to-face lecturers but also have students interacting with one another
- They last the **minimum of 6 weeks**
- They can be implemented in **any subject or course**

VE is well suited to accompany a physical mobility project - “blended mobility”

- VE is well suited to accompany a physical mobility project - “blended mobility”
- **Pre-mobility:** Students can get to know one another before meeting in person
- **Post-mobility:** Students can continue to collaborate on projects started in person

EXAMPLE:

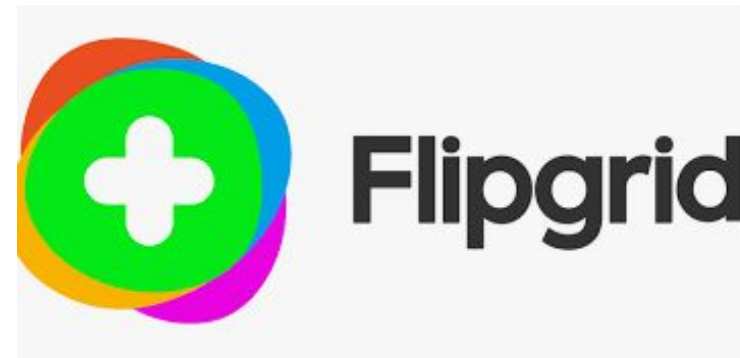
Pre-mobility Erasmus exchange at the University of Padova

- 8 weeks prior to foreign students coming to Padova
- foreign language students in Padova receive credits
- foreign students get to know Padova and locals before coming

Tools



Google Drive



How is Virtual Exchange different from other forms of online learning

- Virtual Exchange is different with respect to Virtual Mobility, since **Virtual mobility does not necessarily include student-to-student dialogue**, and usually refers to distance and eLearning learning courses (for example students taking one course at another university and having these international credits recognised through a learning agreement between universities).
- **Learning is experiential, with participants experiencing first-hand how to communicate and collaborate with their peers from different backgrounds and cultures**

Challenges of VIRTUAL EXCHANGE

- Implies an extra work load for both students and professors
- Recognition is needed: credit, time, quinquenio, docentia, salary?