

## **What constitutes intercultural communication competence: International students' perspectives on their New Zealand classmates**

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While there is a growing body of literature on the communication competence of international students in the New Zealand classroom, less consideration has been given to international students' perceptions of the intercultural communication competence (ICC) of their NZ classmates. Hence, 52 students enrolled in a fourth year undergraduate intercultural communication paper at a New Zealand management school undertook an assignment where they paired with a cultural other (CO) who was also a student in the same school. Drawing on Chen and Starosta's (1996) model of ICC, the students reported their findings on the ICC of their COs. Having presented the New Zealand students' findings on the ICC of their Chinese COs earlier this year at the 12th International Learning Conference, in Granada, Spain, we now offer the findings of the international student researchers on the ICC of their New Zealand COs. These findings suggest that international students' conceptions of what constitutes ICC differ from those of their New Zealand classmates in a number of key areas. The findings also highlight some of the limitations of Chen and Starosta's (1996) model. We, therefore, conclude that there is a need to develop the model further to account for the perspectives of international students in the NZ pluricultural classroom.