

# Using Technology to Bridge Cultural Gaps among English Speaking International Students in UK Higher Education

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## Abstract

This empirical paper investigates the cultural challenges faced by English speaking international students studying in the UK, with particular reference to Nigerian students and how technology could possibly aid in bridging the cultural gaps. Data sources includes interviews with Nigerian students studying in the UK. The study found there was a contrast in the teaching methods despite the international students being able to speak and understand the English language. Factors such as the style of teaching, way of life, perception and the curriculum were amongst the cultural challenges they faced. The findings emphasise the need for UK institutions and policy makers to understand and address the challenges faced by international students during their educational journey. Based on the findings it might be useful for institutions to investigate and invest in technologies that can provide centralised information applications and enable peer mentoring in order to facilitate integration. Further work can be conducted to determine other technologies that can be used to further mitigate the cultural gaps.

**Keywords:** Curriculum; Cultural Differences, Intercultural Communication Competence; Technology Enhanced Learning