

# The added value of international students groups in geography classrooms

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# Introduction

Q: ‘How do we benefit from international classrooms in our modules?’

- Background: international classrooms in our bachelor and master studies
- Experiences: teachers & students
- Conclusion / Discussion

# Background

- Erasmus program since 1980s
- 2002: introduction Bachelor – Master system
- 2004/5: 74 international students in 19 modules (14 BA, 5 MA)

# Experiences (1)

## Teachers

- Course design:
  - geography & citizenship: classroom discussions
  - European integration: role play
- Strong: international atmosphere
- Weak: language problems

# Experiences (2)

## Students

- Strong:
  - Practising English
  - Different points of view
  - Working with foreign students
  - Example: peer review of course paper
- Weak:
  - Language?

# Conclusion

Overall positive <> practical difficulties

Debate:

‘How to deal with evident bias in (i.c. Dutch) academic style?’

- European average style?
- Variation as a gain?

International student group = extra dimension to the multi-perspective approach!