

The health professional in an international perspective

Assignment 4.3

Interview with an international physiotherapy student

1. Introduction

We all live, work and study in an increasing global and interconnected world. The rapid rate at which the world around us is changing influences our work as physiotherapist. These days more and more physiotherapists treat patients from all over the world, meet international colleagues, participate in international networks and come in touch with international rules and regulation. Knowledge knows no borders and sharing information is brought to a higher level by the use of numerous ICT possibilities. Internationalization is therefore crucial for gaining knowledge, for the development of skills and professional competencies as physiotherapists. You will have to be prepared to participate in an international environment, follow the international developments of health and also in cooperated intercultural competencies.

In this assignment you will take the first steps to get some experience in internationalization at home. With the help of virtual mobility (skype or facetime) you can learn and share knowledge with physiotherapy students from other countries all over the world. Share your talent, move the world.

2. Learning outcomes

- The student is able to communicate in English with other international physiotherapy students
- The student has to be responsive to communicate with people from other culture with an open and reflective attitude towards their own and other cultures
- The student will gain insight into physiotherapy in another country (course contents, motivation and interest, job opportunities etc)
- The student will gain insight in the health care system in another countries and compares this to the local situation
- The student will be more aware of intercultural differences in communication and lifestyle of a specific target group of culture and is capable explaining how another culture views his or her own culture

3. Results

- Interview guide/questionnaire with answers (DPF)
- Presentation findings to their fellow students in class and share new insights in other cultures and health systems

4. Description

In this assignment you will work together with another student from your class. You will be linked to two other first year physiotherapy students from a partner institution. The first tutor meeting, in week 4.3,

will be used to discuss the structure of this assignment and the several steps you will be taking. The actual interview takes place before week 4.5. The presentations will be given in the tutor meeting week 4.5.

Match making

Each HAN student will be linked to one student from a partner university. An overview of the students pairs and their email addresses can be found on the electronic learning environment study.han.nl. Students should get in touch with their international peers by email to make an appointment for the Skype meetings. If, for some reason, it is not possible to get in contact with the student from the partner-university, contact your study coach soon as possible.

Skype conversations

Experiences with this kind of skype projects have learnt us that it is more effective to plan two meetings. In this first meeting you have some time to get acquainted with each other. Talk about yourself and this assignment. If there is something unclear regarding to the question you have been send by email you have a chance to clarify it. It is nice to make a selfie of yourself and your fellow student from abroad. Share this picture with your fellow students!

In the second skype meeting, when you are prepared for your interview and for the questions from your fellow student, you can talk more seriously and do the interview.

Email support

The questions can be sent in advance by email, so the students will have time to find the answers and prepare themselves.

Report your findings

Record your conversation to help you analyze the answers afterwards. In week 4.5 you share your experiences with the rest of the class by discussing your most interesting findings. Evaluate and write a reflection on your competence development. Stipulate what went well, what was challenging, what can be done to overcome this challenge and which questions remain unanswered.

5. The tutor lesson

During this meeting, you prepare the interview for the contact moment. The tutor will give a brief orientation on the assignment and facilitate the matchmaking. You and your fellow students brainstorm on possible topics and key areas to discuss during the interview. Formulate specific questions and imagine how you would answer if you were asked the questions yourself. Help one another in overcoming the language barrier, if necessary. Practice makes perfect, so additional conversations in English will help you improve your communications with an international peer. Finally, start up the initial contact by email making a Skype appointment.