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**Linking continents and bridging cultures -  
Embedding Intercultural Competencies into the  
Pre-sessional EAP Programme**

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**Tomasz John & Teza Soe (UCA)**

# AIMS

- development of intercultural competencies
- application of practical solutions
- generation, sharing ideas and good practice

**NICKNAME**  
Swang

**COUNTRY**  
China

**LANGUAGE**  
English, Chinese

**PREVIOUS EDUCATION**  
Interior Design BA

**COURSE PROGRESSING TO**  
Illustration MA

*Do not cross the bridge till you come to it.*

**Past**

First of all I would like to introduce myself. My name is SWANG, I come from China and I studied Interior Design for four years. This soulless course made me realise more and more clearly that I was not interested in what I was learning. It took me a long time to think about what I want to pursue. At that time an illustration gave me a positive feeling of optimism, which is probably what I want to bring to others.

That is why I came to UCA to study Illustration. Above all, I strongly believe that the inner anxiety and the pain of the heart cannot be cured by drugs, but art can lead to healing.

**Now**

During the ten weeks of the pre-session courses, I have acquired many new skills, for example how to write an article, how to do a presentation and how to communicate and cooperate with others...I made many new friends, also met 5 kind and responsible tutors. Every project offered many benefits to me and this valuable experience is enough to let me have a strong confidence to face my main course.

**Future**

Maybe I will enjoy the next academic year or maybe not. However, these experiences, which will accompany me throughout my life, remind me of a Chinese song's lyrics: Fall in love with a wild horse, but never own the prairie. The wild horse symbolises art, and the university symbolises the prairie. I am following the prairie because art grows here. I hope I can learn what I want to learn and do what I want to do.

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# International Pathway Programmes

- [UCA video](#)
- Pre-sessional English for Art, Design (PSEAD): 10w and 5w
- International Foundation for Art, Design and Media (IFADM): 7m
- Graduate Diploma for Art and Design (GDAD): 8m

## Our campuses

Based at Canterbury, Epsom, Farnham and Rochester, our campus communities are the lifeblood of UCA. Whichever campus you study at, you'll be surrounded by people with the same creative passions and interests as you.

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for the  
Creative Arts



# UCA Strategic Mission 2013-2018



## INTERNATIONAL

Our commitment to internationalisation will create an international community of staff and students and inform all aspects of University life.

Our students will be required to develop international perspectives, understanding and ambitions, and so have the potential to work across the world.

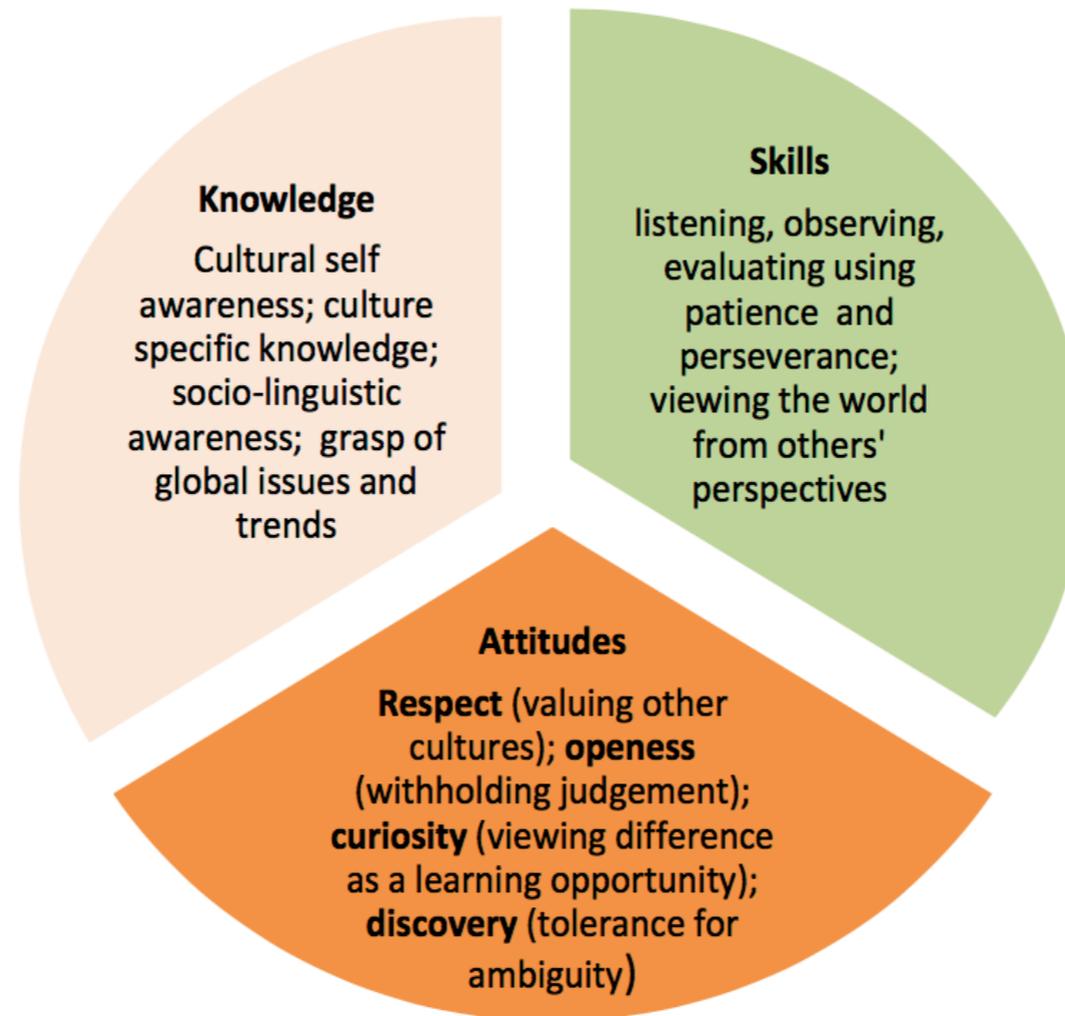
Our courses will encourage students to participate in exchange programmes, international projects and study visits.



# INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCIES

## Constituent elements of intercultural competence

(Adapted from Deardorff, 2006)



**‘Abilities to develop targeted knowledge, skills and attitudes that lead to visible behaviour and communication that are both effective and appropriate in intercultural interactions’ (Deardorf, 2006)**

# The Melting Pot



## Introduction

I have lived in the UK 11 weeks, I am ready for the main course for the next two years. (OMG, two years is so long). If I want to return home, I will need more money. When I first came to Farnham, I felt upset because in my impression this town is not as I imagined it. But now, I find that I am in love with it.



## PSEAD

I do not know what I should learn about life skills. Because I live alone in my country, I can do anything, lol. I still like cooking and want to be a cook.  
 Presentation skills. I like doing presentations. I could share my opinions and some interesting things of what I find.  
 Using Facebook. Before I came here I did not like using this app. Actually, in China, if you use it you will need to use a VPN. This is the big problem. To be frank, I do not like Facebook's interface. Maybe they should change it.  
 Going to galleries help me to know more artists, it lights up my life.  
 Cinema time, I know the most comfortable sleeping position when I had Cinema time. LOL.



## Future

My major is MFA Photography, I need to speak English every day, and another reason which makes me want to speak English fluently is my British true love. He and my major are indispensable parts of our life in the future.

## Thanks

In fact, I am very grateful to my friends and my tutor because I'm not very confident about my English. With their encouragement I think sometimes this is not a difficult thing. In the future I want to continue my trip, sometimes traveling can really help me gain more knowledge.  
 Inner space is important for me, and just do it.



# CULTURAL SHOCK



# Project Brief



Pre-sessional English for Art and Design  
#ucapsead #artactivism

Project 3/1: Art and Activism

Aims and Learning Objectives	A1, A2, A3, A4 LO1, LO2, LO3, LO4
Date of Briefing	28 July 2016
Project Start Date	28 July 2016
Project Deadline	9 August 2016
Course Co-ordinator	Tomasz John
Lecturers	Sam Talbot, Anna Jordan, Celia Martinez, Nikoleta Zachari
Guest Lecturers	Mary-lou Barratt, Hala Georges, Marilene Ribeiro, Teza Soe



Kaleidoscope of Cultures (Las Vegas, NM, USA)  
<http://www.insideoutproject.net/en/group-actions/usa-santa-fe-nm>

# Project outcomes

## Project 3/1 Submission Checklist

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Have you done it?		Tick
<b>Project Proposal</b>	Write a Project Proposal (FE/BA: 500 words; MA: 800 words). Collect at least 6 sources for the bibliography section. Use at least 3 quotations.	
<b>Group Presentation and Critique</b>	Actively contribute to the project proposal presentation and engage in the critique	
<b>Visual Journal</b>	Evidence of research, annotations, drawings, photographs, documentation of the continual evolution and development process of Project 3/1 including generating, exploring and refining ideas (at least 10 pages)	
<b>Blog Entries</b>	Summarise the entire experience of Project 3/1 and how you engaged with the relevant research (3 entries)	
<b>Social media engagement</b>	Use #ucapsead at least 5 times throughout the duration of the project. Engage meaningfully with online discussions/critiques on facebook	
<b>Course Folder</b>	Organise your file hand-outs, printouts, research sheets, etc.	

# Formative Assessment: Aims & LOs

<b>A1</b>	Advance Academic English in preparation for studying on main course: help enhance academic study skills by improving reading, writing, listening and speaking skills in English and improve the overall IELTS score or equivalent by 1.0/0.5*
<b>A2</b>	Develop study and research skills as well as enhance critical thinking
<b>A3</b>	Increase confidence as a university creative arts UG/PG student
<b>A4</b>	Develop intercultural competencies in relation to knowledge, skills and attitudes, such as: cultural self-awareness, respect, openness, empathy, curiosity and discovery

<b>L01</b>	Advanced Academic English in productive skills: writing and speaking
<b>L02</b>	Advanced Academic English in receptive skills: reading and listening
<b>L03</b>	Developed academic reflective and analytical skills
<b>L04</b>	Developed research skills: Harvard referencing and increased knowledge and ability in using academic vocabulary and grammar
<b>L05</b>	Developed ability to work independently and in groups

# PSEAD: Art Activism – Linking Continents, Bridging Cultures



# PSEAD: Art Activism – Linking Continents, Bridging Cultures



# PSEAD: Art Activism – Linking Continents, Bridging Cultures

NICKNAME  
Daisy

COUNTRY  
Taiwan

LANGUAGE  
English, Chinese, Taiwanese

PREVIOUS EDUCATION  
Ming Chuan University

COURSE PROGRESSING TO  
Illustration MA



I want to be the kind of artist, who could eat and sleep well.

## Past



When I was little, I never had good grades at school because I could not concentrate in class. I was always lost in my thoughts and drawings in class. So my teachers, parents and classmates disliked me, thinking I was hopeless and lazy. Although I am confident in creating art, sometimes I also feel lonely and disappointed in myself, but only when I am creating, do I feel relieved and free.

## Now

Looking back in my childhood, I feel that those things I suffered were really unimportant. In my country, taking high scores in a school test means you will have a successful life in the future, and probably become a doctor, lawyer or a scientist. In other words, people underestimate other occupations. As times went by and I have become an adult, I have found time to spend on drawing and researching arts, and actually I am improving day by day. Especially when I am working on design, I really believe I can do pretty well.

In order to equip myself with anything needed to succeed in the future, I decided to attend the PSEAD course, which is an English class preparing me for my main course, MA Illustration.



## Future

After I complete my MA Illustration course, I hope I will be able to work as an illustrator or animation artist, who will tell stories in the future to inspire other people who may have lost hope and confidence. I wish I will gain respect from other people and gain a sufficient income to support my life!



University  
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NICKNAME  
Jimmy

COUNTRY  
Taiwan

LANGUAGE  
English, Chinese, Taiwanese

PREVIOUS EDUCATION  
National Taipei University of Education

COURSE PROGRESSING TO  
Illustration MA



Constant drooping wears away the stone.

## About Me



Having graduated from university and completed my military duty, I first tried to find a job in the graphic design industry. However, it did not go as planned because my mother wanted me to work with her in an insurance company for at least one year. She told me that I would benefit greatly because I would be given the opportunity to come in contact with people from various social classes and learn to be practical, rather than unrealistic. Probably, this was the reason I decided to study abroad; to prove that art can be realistic.

## Challenges of PSEAD

Arriving in Farnham, a small rural area in the southern UK, I was taken aback by its remote location. In addition, there were plenty of tasks waiting for me to complete in the pre-sessional course such as a project proposal group work and an individual essay, both of which I was unfamiliar with. Although these tasks were not a piece of cake, I actually learned much from them, for instance how to cooperate with people from different countries and most importantly, I feel that my listening, speaking and writing skills have improved.



## Next Stage

I wish that one day I will become an extraordinary illustrator based on the premise that I will complete my postgraduate studies, during which I will have plenty of time to explore my illustrating and research skills. Furthermore, getting a job and working in the illustration industry is my ultimate target for the future.



# PSEAD: Art Activism – Linking Continents, Bridging Cultures



adam lorens  
photography



# Feedback & Testimonials

**Would you recommend the PSEAD to other international students? Explain why/why not:**

**“PSEAD is really useful for international students to adapt to the uni life before main course in UK”**

**“Yes. Really fun and unforgettable experience”**



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Epsom  
Farnham  
Rochester

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UCA Strategic Mission 2013-2018 [https://issuu.com/unicreativearts/docs/strategic\\_vision\\_-\\_web\\_version](https://issuu.com/unicreativearts/docs/strategic_vision_-_web_version)