

Introduction:

This assignment is intended to help participants make connections to their discipline. There are three parts to the assignment: Professional Biographies, Interview, and Short Essay. The goal is to increase participants' knowledge about careers in their chosen field, how people around the world prepare for and practice their profession, and what (if any) intercultural skills have proven helpful in these careers. Participants will conduct an informal interview (face-to-face and ideally over coffee or an inexpensive meal) with a professional, grad student or professor/teacher working in their chosen field in their host country.

Facilitator Notes:

This activity is designed for students who are studying abroad. Purdue students who have succeeded in interviewing a cultural informant in a profession related to their field have found it to be beneficial.

Integrative Learning VALUE Rubric:

	Benchmark	Milestones	Capstone
Connections to Discipline <i>Sees (makes) connections across disciplines, perspectives</i>	When prompted, presents examples, facts, or theories from more than one field of study or perspective.	When prompted, connects examples, facts, or theories from more than one field of study or perspective. Independently connects examples, facts, or theories from more than one field of study or perspective	Independently creates wholes out of multiple parts (synthesizes) or draws conclusions by combining examples, facts, or theories from more than one field of study or perspective.

(AAC&U, 2009)

Objectives:

As a result of this activity, participants will be able to:

1. Interview a professional from their host country.
2. Explain how their chosen career and educational path function in a different country.
3. Synthesize or draw conclusions by combining examples, facts, or theories from more than one field of study or perspective.

Time:

3 hours.

Group Size:

Entire Group.

Materials:

Participant Instructions (in [Downloads](#)); Access to Wikipedia and an interviewee.

Intercultural Development Continuum Stages:

- Denial
- Polarization
- Minimization
- Acceptance

AAC&U Intercultural Knowledge and Competence Goals:

Knowledge of Cultural Worldview Frameworks

- To demonstrate sophisticated understanding of the complexity of elements important to members of another culture in relation to its history, values, politics, communication styles, economy, or beliefs & practices.

Curiosity

- To ask complex questions about other cultures.
- To seek out and articulate answers to these questions that reflect multiple cultural perspectives.

Other Skills:

Teamwork; Mentorship & Leadership.

Activity Instructions:

1. Familiarize yourself with the assignment.
2. Introduce the assignment to participants and pass out the Participant Instructions (in [Downloads](#)).
3. Be sure to respond to each participant post by providing feedback on the short essays.