Feedback received from participants:

“It was really useful, improved my communication and speaking skills”.
UG student, China

“I think this is a great opportunity to raise awareness of different cultures. It is important that people appreciate the potential difficulties that arise in clashing of difference discourse strategies”.
PhD student, UK

“I’ve discovered new views about people’s cultures”.
UG student, Nigeria

“I’m interested in working abroad and with other cultures so this course is relevant to me”.
UG student, Japan

“It was important for teacher and students to see a student as the person they were, rather than a representative of their cultural group”.
Teacher, Hilderstone College, UK

“It was very helpful in my day-to-day consultations and it will help me to have better communication with my patients, colleagues and others too”.
International trainee GP

Centre for English and World Languages

Email: cewl@kent.ac.uk
Web: http://www.kent.ac.uk/talkingcultures

Centre for English and World Languages, Keynes College, University of Kent, CT2 7NP
Enquiries: +44(0)1227 824401

“Fostering cross-curricular intercultural awareness within a learning, teaching & employment setting”
Talking Cultures refers to a series of training and consultancy activities devised by the Centre for English and World Languages. Our work aims to foster and enhance intercultural awareness both within and beyond the University context.

Talking Cultures involves the development of intercultural awareness in Higher Education teaching and learning. Our provision also includes specifically focused CPD for professionals working or studying in international environments ranging from academics in specific fields to trainee medical practitioners.

It is also envisaged that through an interactive mode of delivery, and related assignments, learning can be applied outside of the classroom / workplace particularly to social contexts.

A range of topics are covered throughout the courses and a selection of topics can be chosen for the tailor-made workshops. All courses and workshops involve discussion, reflection and video analysis.

**Workshops and Training**

This course tackles the notion of intercultural communication and aims to develop engagement and integration with fellow colleagues within a contemporary internationalised classroom / workplace. The module will help to increase awareness of cultural differences and will explore cultural heritage, prejudices and stereotypes.

The workshops draw on the underlying principles featured within the credit/non-credit bearing interactions of the intercultural awareness course and aims to offer these principles within a more condensed, Introductory setting. An assortment of topics are covered ranging from Intercultural Communication, Cultural Identity and can be tailored to a bespoke context e.g. Business centred, consumer relations or industry focused.

**Study Abroad**

This area of CEWL's provision offers an intercultural competencies' framework to enable outbound Study Abroad students to reflect on the (intercultural) skills needed both before they depart and during their time abroad, and how they might subsequently reframe and reflect on those skills on their return. The opportunities provided by CEWL have been designed to complement the range of support mechanisms and advice available through Kent's International Development team.

**Outline of Courses/Workshops**

**Exploring culture** - What is culture and how is cultural intelligence measured?

**Cultural Identity** - Ways to compare and contrast cultures. Looking at the fundamental differences between cultures. Awareness about ethnocentrism and knowledge of one’s own culture.

**Food, dining and etiquette** - Looking at the similarities and differences and what they mean to certain cultures.

**Cross-cultural understanding** - Cultural bias, stereotypes, empathy and misunderstandings.

**Intercultural Communication** - Cultural values in discourse and behaviour. Formality, politeness, respect and power.

Duration: Flexible (from 2 hours to 2 days)

Particularly Suitable for: University staff, students, general public, health practitioners and organisations.

**Additional topics covered in University staff-related workshops are:**

**Who are our students?** - Exploring the cultural backgrounds and student experience specific to the top 5 sending countries

**Talking their language** - Learning gestures and conversational expressions and phrases in a variety of languages to enhance communication.

**What’s in a name?** - Understanding the make-up of international names.

Duration: Flexible (from 2 hours to 2 days)

Particularly Suitable for: University staff and students.