

Learning Connect: Cultural Understanding (5 CATS points)

The Open Learning team was approached by the University to develop a new course on cultural understanding for undergraduates. We thought it would be great to offer this also to you, our Open Learning students. The course is a little over 10 hours and is all pre-recorded, so you can study the units at whatever time suits you best. There are five units:

1. **Valuing Black Lives: Building Understanding, Solidarity and Equality** – which relates very much to the current focus on Black Lives Matter
2. **Intercultural Understanding** – which relates to another key issue of our time – the many reasons why people migrate
3. **Our Planetary Emergency: Hope and Agency in Turbulent Times** – which presents both the challenges for our planet and the potential for hope and positive action
4. **Putting Years on Us: Considering Ageing – Challenges and Liberations** – which relates to how we cope with the demographic changes of our time in a spirit of compassion and solidarity
5. **Out in the World: My World Class Contribution.** This unit really asks you to think, as learners how you enact democracy and active citizenship.

In making the course, we have drawn upon many different experts within Queen's and we are also honoured to have guest contributors from Hyderabad University, India; Auburn University, Alabama and Durham University. There are also many excellent contributions from voluntary and statutory organisations in the community, locally, nationally and internationally, including the Nerve Centre, the Southern Poverty Law Centre, Age NI, the Arts Council, the Commission for Older People, Northern Ireland Migrant Centre and the Educational Authority and the Rooted in Africa and Ireland Network, Dublin.

Each unit offers a range of teaching and learning styles including PowerPoint video presentations, panel discussions, dialogues and commentaries.

There is also a mix of visual, audio and moving image materials and you will see many different perspectives in each unit, reflecting the rich, interdisciplinary approach that Queen's can offer you, encompassing history, culture, literature, the visual arts, architecture, economics, law and anthropology.

There are lots of additional resources and reading materials for each unit so you can pursue the topic that most interests you.

There is also a short evaluation. We would be really grateful if you could fill this out because that will allow us to compare what you think with what the full-time undergraduate students thought of the course and the format.