

Title: Suggestion on best practices for teachers and administrative staff working in multicultural environments in higher education – Lessons learned from a Master program in International Fisheries Management

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Abstract:

The Master program in International Fisheries Management, running since 1998 with students from more than 40 countries, is the most culturally diverse program at the Faculty for Biosciences, Fisheries and Economics and at the University of Tromsø. We interviewed the teachers and administrative staff involved in this program to investigate their cultural awareness and explore the challenges and opportunities offered by the cultural diversity of the group of students. We identify the program's internationalization strategy and describe how multiculturalism is or may be utilized in class and outside it. We map how the Norwegian culture is influencing this strategy and the activities in this program. Can the program in International Fisheries Management be considered a success story when it comes to adapting teaching and communication strategies to the cultural background of its students? We communicate the lessons learned from this case study and suggest how they may be transferred to other highly international activities at the Faculty. Based on the study best practices are suggested for teachers and administrative staff working in multicultural environments in higher education.