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BALEAP PIM @ Northumbria University

**27 MARCH 2021**

**10:00 - 16:30 (GMT)**

Integration: We're all in this together



## Plenary Speaker:

**Emeritus Professor Helen Spencer-Oatey**  
University of Warwick

### Promoting Integration and Rapport in International Education

Mixing with fluent speakers of English is widely regarded as particularly helpful for language acquisition. At the same time, integrating with the local community is known to support the intercultural adaptation process, the development of intercultural competence, and general well-being. Yet it often seems that international students have difficulty experiencing all of these elements.

In this talk, I consider some of the hindrances that international students experience, along with possible ways of addressing them. Drawing on both authentic critical incident data and student report data, I explain and conceptually unpack some of the challenges the students identify. I demonstrate how the difficulties they experience are typically co-constructed by the participants concerned and why it is therefore important for staff (teaching and professional services) and fellow students all to be more aware of the issues at stake. In the second half of my talk, I introduce some of the resources we have developed at the University of Warwick to help promote (a) greater mutual understanding among students from different backgrounds, (b) adaptation to different communication patterns, and (c) ways of working more effectively in culturally diverse groups.

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