



UA

UNIVERSITAT D'ALACANT
UNIVERSIDAD DE ALICANTE
Vicerectorat d'Estudis i Formació
Vicerrectorado de Estudios y Formación



AUTHORS: Wilfried Johann Ludwig
José Luis Casal Devesa
Alumnado UPUA

Seminario Permanente UPUA
Conversaciones
en la Sede

CULTURAL INTEGRATION AND COLLABORATIVE LEARNING CONVERSATIONS IN VARIOUS LANGUAGES

INTRODUCTION

The framework provided by the Incubator of Values serves to implement the initiative known as “Conversations at the UA,” which allows for the participation of UPUA students who develop a cultural volunteering action in the linguistic context, as an extracurricular activity that is complementary to the regular academic offer.

The considerable language knowledge potential amongst UPUA students, along with the clearly perceived need to practice and improve what was acquired in due time, constitutes the ideal basis to carry out a cooperative learning experience in the context of languages.

METHODOLOGY

Participation is free of charge, but students must be enrolled in any of the subjects of UPUA’s Senior Diploma pursuant to the normal registration and functioning rules.

At the beginning of each academic year, and with the support offered by the UA for infrastructures, dissemination and coordination purposes, students are summoned to an informative meeting to carry out the free registration and to establish the following aspects:

- The working schedule/calendar.
- Timetables.
- The distribution of tutors and students between groups .
- The general sessions in which specialists and academic coordinators will deal with specific topics of common interest.

Taking into account the linguistic skills and autonomy levels along with the diversity of interests of potential participants, different groups are offered with activities suited to the expectations of their members, who meet once a week in one-to-two-hour-long sessions.



AIMS

- Improving language use in conversation
- Providing a space that facilitates personal relationships and the knowledge of participants’ cultures
- Helping to achieve citizens’ integration
- Socialising and enjoying chatting
- Breaking generational barriers
- Encouraging constructive learning

CONCLUSIONS

‘Collaborative learning’ is a highly interesting and attractive tool, both from the perspective of academic outcomes and from that of social skills implementation.

The role played by the volunteer-tutor in collaborative learning is that of a knowledge-generation mediator who not only observes the work made by the groups but also actively (though not directly) supervises them throughout the knowledge construction and transformation process, as well as in their social interactions.

In instrumental subjects (languages, ICTs), any additional or continuous practical activity can prove useful to retain what has been learned.

