Department of
Early Childhood Education
幼兒教育學系

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COIL Unlocked:

Effective Strategies,

Best Practices

&

Overcoming Challenges

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Learning Outcomes

Goals for Participant Takeaways

Participants will:

- **identify** core principles of COIL,
- **apply** effective team strategies,
- **troubleshoot** challenges, and
- **utilise** tools for successful implementation in their projects.

The Importance of COIL in Education

Global Perspectives

COIL embeds **global perspectives** into curriculum without travel.

Intercultural Collaboration

COIL enables **authentic intercultural** collaboration among students.

Skill Development

COIL builds **essential skills** in communication and teamwork.

Core Principles

Principles to guide every COIL:

Alignment: objectives, assessments, instructional strategies.

Simplicity: scaffolded tasks and clear scope.

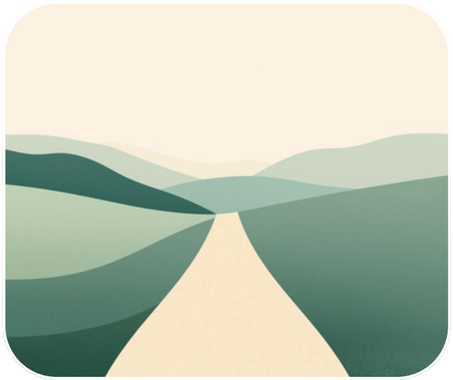
Equity: balanced workload and recognition across partners.

Flexibility: asynchronous options and recorded sessions.

Foundational Guidelines for COIL Design

Alignment

Connect objectives, assessments, and instructional strategies.



Simplicity

Focus on one clear deliverable for clarity.

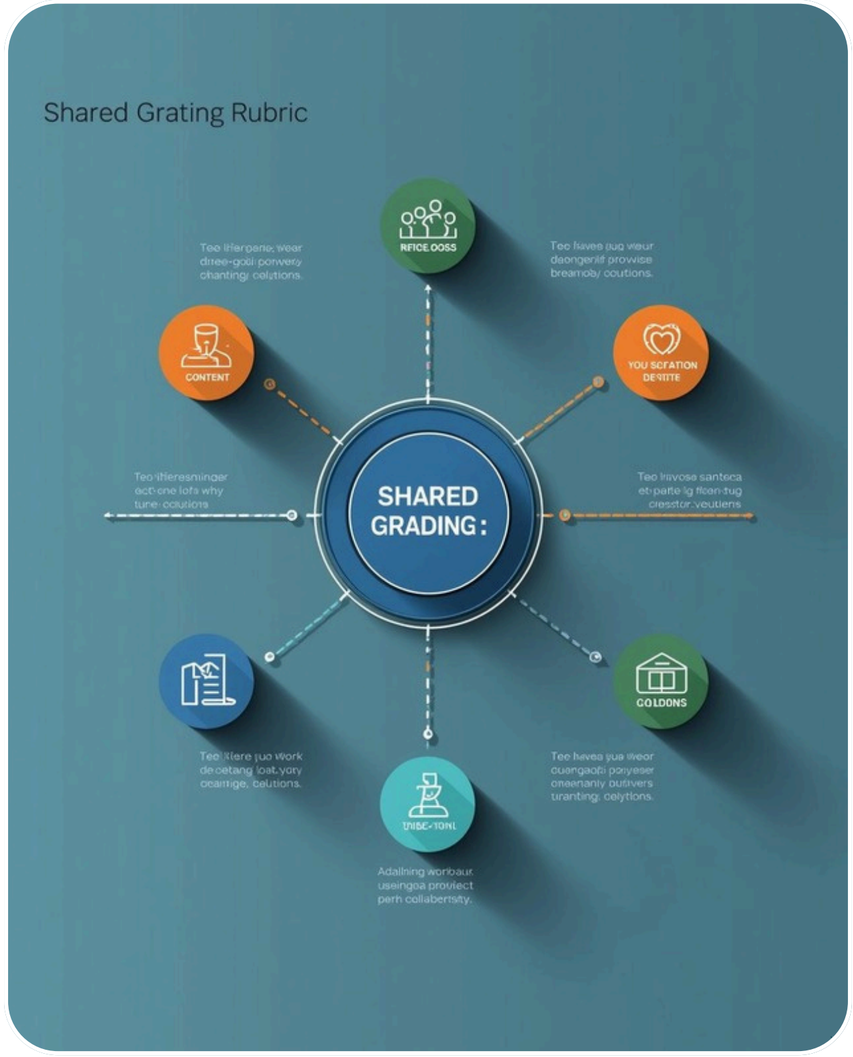
Equity

Balance workload and recognition across all partners.

Designing collaborative assessments

Best practices:

- Mix individual and team marks OR certificate COIL.
- Use shared rubrics co-created with partner instructors.
- Break projects into milestones with deliverables.
- Include reflective components to surface intercultural learning.



Designing collaborative assessments

Case Study

COIL Collaboration -

Creativity in Early Childhood Education and Language Enhancement

In this case study, we explore a Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) between two instructors, Professor A and Professor B. Professor A teaches a course on "Creativity in Early Childhood Education" at a university in the United States, while Professor B teaches a "Language Enhancement" course at a tertiary level institution in South Korea.

What should be the **learning objective/s** for this COIL collaboration?

Designing collaborative assessments

Project Brief

For Part 1, we require

- One video recording of your conversation (pair)
- One reflection (individual)

For Part 2, we require

- One collaborative creative short video (pair)
- One reflection (individual)

Part-1: Getting to Know You

- Share about yourself and get to know your new friend/s
- Share an example of a lesson plan that you have made or used. Discuss the features, similarities and differences.

Part-2: Create a Short Video (limit: 5 minutes)

Discuss one of the two following themes with your partner:

- A typical day in a preschool OR
- Challenges faced by preschool teachers

Make a short and fun video with your partner/s to illustrate the theme

Designing collaborative assessments

Case Study

Collaborative Activities and Assignments:

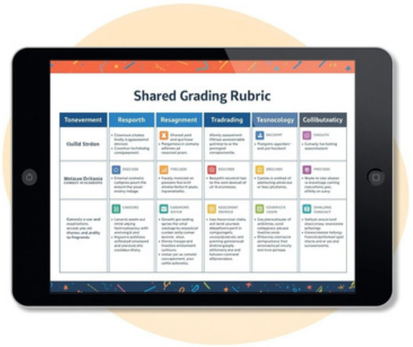
- Cross-cultural exchange of teaching materials
- Virtual (Synchronous and Asynchronous) classroom discussions
- Collaborative project
- Reflective journals
- Peer feedback and evaluation

What **challenges** will they face, and what **mitigation strategies** should they use?

Assessment Strategies for COIL Projects

Collaboration

Co-create tasks and rubrics with partner instructors for fairness.



Milestones

Break projects into manageable milestones for clarity.

Reflection

Include reflective components to highlight intercultural learning.

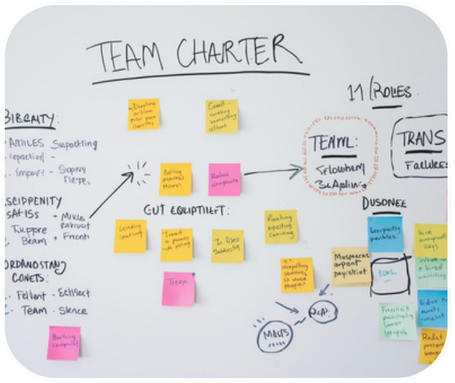
Building Effective COIL Teams

Balance

Consider skills, time zones, and language proficiency.

Roles

Assign rotating roles to enhance collaboration and engagement.



Communication

Develop a charter and hold regular check-ins for support.

Technology and Tools for COIL

Core LMS

Central hub for content and grading management.

Synchronous Tools

Platforms for live meetings with recording options.

Engagement Tools

Interactive applications for enhancing participant involvement.

Managing Time and Support Effectively

Time Zones

Coordinate across different **time zones** for scheduling.

Clear Deadlines

Set clear **deadlines** to ensure flexibility for all.

Technical Support

Provide **technical support** contacts and backup plans.

Case Study

Challenges	Mitigation strategies
Language barriers	Design both asynchronous & synchronous kinds of activities and encourage the use of simplified English, provide clarification when necessary, and promote patience and empathy among students.
Time zone differences	Students from both institutions may face difficulties in finding mutually convenient meeting times for synchronous activities. To address this, the instructors establish flexible meeting schedules, record sessions for those unable to attend, and encourage asynchronous interactions when possible.
Technology issues	Technical glitches and internet connectivity problems can disrupt virtual meetings and collaboration. The instructors provide technical support resources and establish backup communication channels to ensure smooth collaboration.
Cultural differences	Cultural variations in teaching styles, expectations, and communication norms may require explicit discussion and understanding. The instructors foster an environment of cultural sensitivity, encourage open dialogue to address potential misunderstandings, and provide resources to increase cultural awareness.

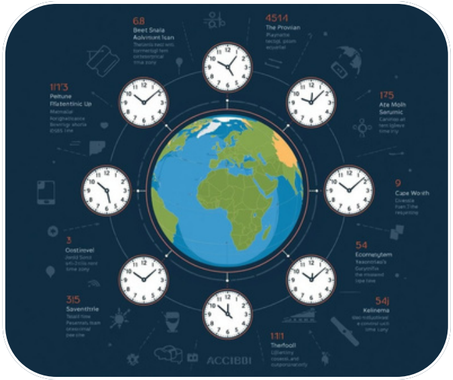
Overcoming Common COIL Challenges

Technology Issues

Ensure tech checks to avoid failures during collaboration.

Language Barriers

Use simplified language and glossaries for clarity.



Time Zone Coordination

Rotate meeting times for equitable participation.

Quick-Start Checklist for COIL Implementation

Define Outcomes

Clearly outline the learning objectives for participants.

Develop assessment strategies

Develop shared assessment criteria with partners for fairness.

Schedule Tech-Check

Ensure all tools are functional before collaboration starts.

Key Takeaways and Next Steps

Alignment

Revisit core principles for effective COIL design.

Implementation

Take actionable steps to initiate your pilot.

Reflection

Gather feedback to continuously improve your approach.

Essential Tips for Effective Facilitation

Clarity

Tasks and deadlines.

Engagement

Synchronous; Asynchronous, Team and individual

Timing

Manage pace for optimal participation.

Thank you