

International Exchange within the Block Schedules

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International student and faculty travel opportunities were sharply curtailed by the global pandemic. In this post-pandemic environment, Victoria University (VU) and the University of Montana Western (UMW) are actively working to design an international exchange program to benefit both students and faculty.

To increase relationships with block model universities in North America, staff of the First Year College (FYC) and the University of Montana Western are exploring how to support international efforts and harness the block-scheduling model for student and academic staff exchanges and co-teaching opportunities. This panel discussion will bring together constituents from both institutions, including faculty, staff, and administrators, to discuss both the untapped potential and realization of international exchanges.

This collaborative approach to building international exchange will be discussed at the IBILTA conference to work out any operational challenges, and, in so doing, provided a template for future staff and student exchanges.

This panel discussion will adhere to the following outline:

- A general discussion of international exchanges;
- An examination of how two similar work/teaching cultures function together;
- A facilitator-led group discussion of specific examples of international student/faculty collaborations;
- A wider discussion of whether this approach is suitable for various disciplines.