

Interactive Workshop on STE 2026

March 11 - 13, 2026, „Transilvania” University of Brasov, Romania

Workshop: Respect in a changing educational landscape

Respect is a word being used increasingly in the context of student experiences and safety in higher education. Respect is also a potentially complex concept – it is recognised to be demonstrated differently across cultures and generations. Additionally, respect is given by one person on their terms yet received and interpreted by another on their terms.

In a modern education environment – where educators are less the keeper of all knowledge and more a facilitator or learning and where the student cohort is becoming ever more diverse in terms of age, gender, background, nationality and disability – how do we ensure that everyone continues to feel respected?

Workshop Objectives, Target Audience, and Required Equipment (if applicable)

Focusing on mental health, equity and inclusion, cultural diversity, and quality learning outcomes has led to the realisation that respect and supportive university environments are important. Any improvements will not only benefit equity groups but all students, as learning is also about social interaction. Respect fosters inclusive and supportive learning environments that support students and staff in learning and academic discourses. This is particularly relevant in the current context of polarised public and social media interactions. In universities' quest for knowledge, respect is essential to ensure well-being, diversity of thought and meaningful discourse.

The purpose of this workshop is to develop a shared understanding of what respect looks and feels like in a modern educational context. Participants will work in small groups to unpack key concepts such as what is respect? How is respect given and received? And must respect be earned, and can be lost?

It is anticipated that this will provide opportunities for participants to reflect on their own understanding, experiences and perception of respect, and how this influences their interactions with peers and students.

Target audience: The workshop targets the whole range of educators and professionals. Not specific prior knowledge is required. There is no fixed limit to the size of the workshop.

Required Equipment: none

Workshop Facilitator(s)

The facilitators are part of a team that has recently undertaken a significant curriculum renewal project. The presenters have a professional practice background but also a track record in technical as well as engineering education research. One of their current focus areas is fostering a sense of belonging in the student cohort.



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