

WHAT IS COIL OR VIRTUAL EXCHANGE?



Watch these 3-minute videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ASuCF-YRqtE> | <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5K5JxNEEcmw>

COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) or **Virtual Exchange** links the classrooms of two higher education institutions, each located in a different country or cultural setting. COIL creates equitable team-taught learning environments where faculty from two cultures work together to develop a shared syllabus, emphasizing experiential and collaborative student learning. Joint class activities can range from one assignment or project on which students work together in both locations via online technologies to a fully shared syllabus.

The courses give new contextual meaning to the ideas and texts they explore, while providing students with interactions with peers in a different cultural setting in which to develop their cross-cultural awareness. Classes may be fully online or, more often, are offered in hybrid formats with traditional in-person sessions taking place at both institutions, while collaborative student work takes place online.

Cooperating instructors work closely with students in both locations, but in most cases these students are enrolled, charged tuition (if there is tuition), and are awarded grades only at their home institution. Therefore, the collaborating institutions do not need to enter into agreements outlining financial and legal details. COIL courses do not require high-end technology; however, support is available through UOnline and Teaching & Learning Technologies at the U. These courses do NOT replace learning abroad experiences, but rather research has determined that they are effective in increasing student interest in learning abroad.