GLOBAL LEARNING ONLINE (GLO)
Study abroad via the web

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Migration Task

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International Partnerships
University of Kent
Canterbury
UK

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Rationale

The GLO project has been devised in order to complement existing options for exchange which encourage and facilitate students in studying overseas. Unlike traditional modes of study abroad, GLO introduces students to cross-cultural academic learning opportunities through the medium of the internet and other ICT.

Communication methods

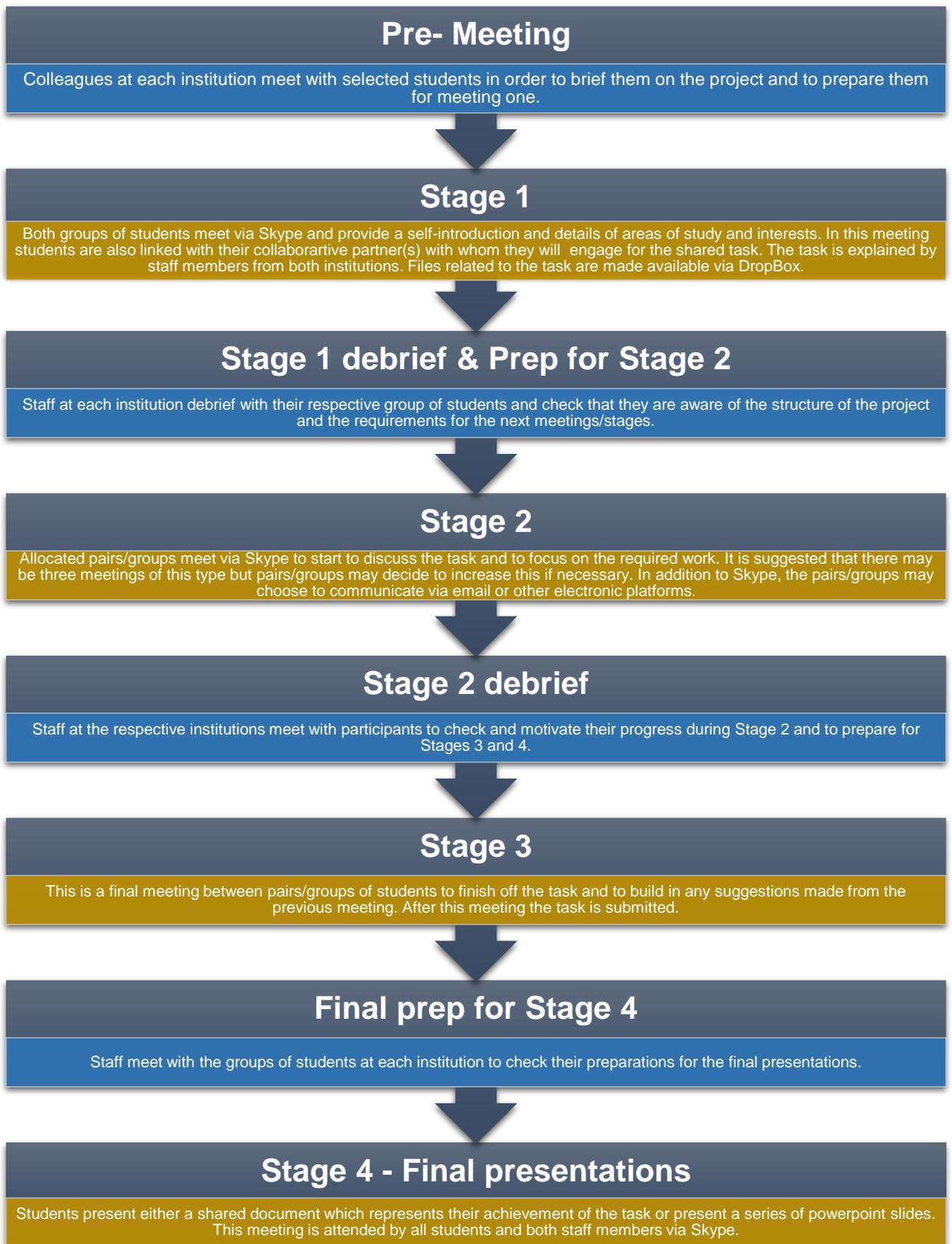Typically, some of the internet and ICT tools which can be used include:

- **Skype**- for video discussion or meeting
- **Dropbox**- for file sharing
- **Word and PowerPoint-** for document creation and presentation building
- **Email or messaging apps-** for discussing aspects of the task

Project features

In order for a GLO project to be successful it is thought that the following features will need to be incorporated:

- The project should involve an activity which is engaged with by a group of at least five Kent students who are following the same or similar programme of study
- Counterpart students studying the same subject area, or with relevant shared interests, should be identified to participate at one of Kent's existing partner institutions.
- The task should be focused on a shared area of academic practice or interest pertaining to the participating students in both institutions.
- The task should be jointly devised or approved by colleagues from both institutions.
- The project should be devised and centred on a series of clearly devised learning outcomes which are demonstrated in the completion of a shared task, completed jointly by students, at least one from each institution.
- The task should be structured with key stages and a fixed deadline.
- Both groups will be guided by at least one University staff member at each institution.
- A number of meetings should be held during the interaction, a framework for which is provided on the next page:

Meeting Framework

Pre- Meeting
Colleagues at each institution meet with selected students in order to brief them on the project and to prepare them for meeting one.

Stage 1
Both groups of students meet via Skype and provide a self-introduction and details of areas of study and interests. In this meeting students are also linked with their collaborartive partner(s) with whom they will engage for the shared task. The task is explained by staff members from both institutions. Files related to the task are made available via DropBox.

Stage 1 debrief & Prep for Stage 2
Staff at each institution debrief with their respective group of students and check that they are aware of the structure of the project and the requirements for the next meetings/stages.

Stage 2
Allocated pairs/groups meet via Skype to start to discuss the task and to focus on the required work. It is suggested that there may be three meetings of this type but pairs/groups may decide to increase this if necessary. In addition to Skype, the pairs/groups may choose to communicate via email or other electronic platforms.

Stage 2 debrief
Staff at the respective institutions meet with participants to check and motivate their progress during Stage 2 and to prepare for Stages 3 and 4.

Stage 3
This is a final meeting between pairs/groups of students to finish off the task and to build in any suggestions made from the previous meeting. After this meeting the task is submitted.

Final prep for Stage 4
Staff meet with the groups of students at each institution to check their preparations for the final presentations.

Stage 4 - Final presentations
Students present either a shared document which represents their achievement of the task or present a series of powerpoint slides. This meeting is attended by all students and both staff members via Skype.

GLOBAL LEARNING ONLINE (GLO): MIGRATION

Participants:

5-10 Undergraduate students at the University of Kent and 5-10 Undergraduate students studying at Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU)

Task:

Identify ways in which migration has impacted on your local city and environment. Consider both cultural and economic consequences and the different ways in which people are affected. Devise a series of recommendations which leaders in your region could implement in order to maximise possible benefits from migration in future.

You will need to work in pairs in order to research and deliver a joint 10-minute multi-media presentation of your recommendations. This presentation should be delivered to a group of students from both institutions via Skype at a scheduled final session, which will also be attended by staff from both universities. During the presentations, time and content will be equally divided between each student from the two institutions. In each pair, the student from HKBU will need to present on the recommendations identified by their student partner from Kent and the Kent students will need to present on the recommendations as identified by their student partner from HKBU.

Learning outcomes:

Through completing this task it is intended that you will:

- deepen your understanding and international awareness of an area of study
- gain an insight into how academic problems or tasks can be approached from different cultural perspectives
- discuss areas of learning and alternative cultural norms or expectations through working with students from another country
- use electronic resources to communicate and work collaboratively with students overseas in order to complete a series of tasks and present findings
- enhance students' key skills of time management and organisation
- introduce students to the concept of the international classroom and learning environment
- To develop specific academic and study skills, in particular giving presentations, team and group work
- To enhance and apply your international communication skills in both verbal and written contexts

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