

Preparing Japanese University Students for an Increasingly Diverse Workplace

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Abstract : Japanese university students have traditionally shown antipathy towards English due to a generally unsatisfactory language-learning experience at the secondary level with a focus on grammar and translation rather than communication. The situation has become urgent, however, due to the rapid decline in the Japanese population, which will present both difficulties and opportunities as employees will increasingly be forced to use English in the workplace. For university lecturers, the challenge is to overcome the students` apathy and convince them of the need for English in the increasingly diverse workplaces they will be entering. This article will illustrate how English teachers and content teachers at a private science university came together to address this quandary.

Keywords : student motivation, CLIL, globalization, demographics

Conference Title : ICHE 2024 : International Conference on Higher Education

Conference Location : London, United Kingdom

Conference Dates : February 12-13, 2024