

APPENDIX C: DEVELOPMENT OF INTERVIEW GUIDE

In section 4.6.4 the development of the interview guide used for the interviews with students was discussed. It was stated that following engagement with existing literature and discussions with key informants within the research environment a list of interview questions was compiled to guide the initial interviews. These questions were grouped under nine themes. These themes and the questions underpinning them are listed below. Following the presentation of the initial interview questions the changes made to the interview process are discussed.

Theme 1: Participant Information

- Questions:**
- What course and year are you in?
 - What age are you?
 - What culture would you say you are?
 - Why did you choose DCU?
 - What is your social network like here in DCU?

- Probes:**
- Who do you hang around with?*
 - Who are you friends with in DCU?*
 - What is your social life like in DCU?*
 - What do you do on campus when you are not in class?*

Theme 2: Perceptions of Cultural Diversity in DCU

- Questions:**
- Do you think there is cultural diversity within the DCU student body?
 - Is there cultural diversity within your course?
 - Is there much cultural diversity within your faculty?
 - How are these students culturally different to you?

- Probes:**
- What types of cultural diversity are there?*
 - Where are these students from?*
 - You mentioned ______. Could you talk to me a bit more about that?*

Theme 3: Thoughts on Attending a Culturally Diverse University

Questions: What are your thoughts on attending a university with students from other cultures?

Do you feel that having diversity on campus impacts in any way on the learning environment?

Probes: *Does having students from other cultures in your class impact upon how you learn? If so, how?*
Is it relevant to your education in any way?

Theme 4: Contact with Culturally Different Students

I am interested in your relations with students you identify as culturally different...

Questions: Do you have contact with students from other cultures in DCU?

Where are these students from?

If so, can you talk me about how you first met them?

Probes: *Are these students in your course?*
When did you first meet them?
Who initiated the contact?
Did someone introduce you to them?

What is your relationship with these students?

Probes: *Would you consider them your friends?*
Where would you have most contact with them?
Would you have contact with them outside class?

Is your relationship with these students different to your relationship with Irish students? If so, in what way is it different?

If you don't have contact, why do you think that is?

Is it easier or more difficult to meet and engage with Irish students rather than students from other cultures in DCU? Why is this?

Would you consider some students to be more culturally different to you than others? If so, can you talk to me about this?

Theme 5: Factors hindering contact with culturally different students

Questions: What might reduce the likelihood of meeting students from other cultures in DCU?

Are there any difficulties associated with maintaining contact with these students?

Probes: You mentioned _____. Could you talk to me a bit more about that?

Why is that a factor?

Apart from _____, are there any other factors that might hinder contact?

So, overall, the main factors that hinder contact with students who are culturally different are...?

Is there anything that culturally different students do that reduces the likelihood of mixing with them?

Theme 6: Factors facilitating contact with culturally different students

Questions: What factors or conditions might facilitate you meeting students from other cultures in DCU?

What things make it easier to communicate with culturally different students?

Probes: Do you think you need any particular skills to communicate with culturally different students which you do not need when communicating with students from your culture? If so, what skills?

Apart from _____, what else might facilitate contact with these students?

What increases the likelihood of you maintaining contact with culturally different students?

Theme 7: Past Experiences of Intercultural Contact

Questions: Did you have any contact with students or people from other cultures before coming to DCU?
If so, can you talk to me about this?
Do your past experiences in any way affect your contact with culturally diverse students in DCU?
If so, in what way?

Theme 8: Environmental Support for Intercultural Contact on Campus

Questions: Does DCU promote contact and interaction between culturally different students? If so, how does it do this?
If not, do you think it should?
Do your lecturers encourage contact between the students? If so, in what ways do they do this?

Probes: *Do they encourage you to do group work together?*
 Do they encourage you to sit together?

Theme 9: Motivations for Intercultural Contact

Questions: Do you want to have contact with students who are culturally different? If so, why?
If not, why not?
In general, would you say students who are culturally different want to have contact with Irish students?
If so, why do you think they might like to have contact with you?
If not, in your opinion why not?

Probes: *You mentioned _____.* Could you talk to me a bit more about that?

END.

As stated in section 4.6.4, the interview questions changed over the course of the data collection process. This is in keeping with grounded theory research. Therefore, as issues emerged, questions were added which explored these issues in greater depth. Examples of some of the questions which relate to the emerging themes are listed below.

Emergent Theme	Examples of Questions
Anxiety	Several students have talked about being concerned about offending students from other cultures when talking with them. What are your thoughts on this?
Compromising Identity	Some students have said that they cannot be totally open when interacting with students who are culturally different. What are your thoughts on this?
Cultural Distance	<p>If you perceive some students to be more culturally similar or dissimilar to you than others, does this impact on how you interact with them?</p> <p>Which students would you view as being very different to you? Why?</p>
Curriculum	<p>Lots of students have said that their course of study is important for who they are friends with. What are your thoughts on that?</p> <p>Does group work help you have more contact with students who are culturally different? If so, why?</p> <p>Some students have said that lab work facilitates contact with other students. What are your thoughts on this?</p>
Effort	<p>Several students have referred to intercultural contact being an 'effort'. What are your thoughts on this?</p> <p>When someone says "It's not 'worth' the effort". What exactly is the 'effort'?</p>
Group Size	If students are in a group does this in any way affect the prospects of you engaging with them?
Homophily	<p>Why might students 'stick' to their own cultural group?</p> <p>Why do people tend to gravitate towards people they view as similar to themselves?</p>
Host Approach	Where do you sit in lecturers? Why do you sit there?
Language	<p>When you are communicating with a student who is culturally different, would you change the way you speak? If so, why?</p> <p>If you change how you speak, does this have any impact on you?</p> <p>How do you feel about changing the way you speak?</p> <p>Are there any topics you would avoid when talking with students from other cultures?</p>

Maturity	<p>Several students have talked about students who are culturally different being more 'mature'. Does that mean anything to you?</p> <p>Several students view international students as similar to mature students. What are your thoughts on this?</p> <p>Do students from other cultures have a different approach to academic work?</p>
Time	<p>How quickly do you form friendships in university?</p> <p>Several students have said that the first week of college is really important in terms of making lasting friendships. What are your thoughts on this?</p> <p>It is harder to engage with students you do not know after a long period of time?</p> <p>If an international student has been here a long period of time does it make it easier to communicate with them? If so, why?</p> <p>Does it take longer to get to know culturally different students than Irish students?</p>

The above questions are only some examples of the types of questions which emerged over the course of the entire interviewing process. Furthermore, as mentioned in section 5.2, the wording of some questions also changed in the course of the interviewing process. This was particularly true with regard to the question on defining culture (Theme 1).

In order to further explore how the interview questions developed over the course of the interviewing process it may be useful to refer to Appendices F, G and H, each of which provide coded transcripts from interviews conducted at the different points in the overall process.