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Paper

Gul Kremer

The Pennsylvania State University

contact:

gek3@psu.edu

Shared Expectations of Design Project Outcomes: Searching for Common Ground in Global Collaborations

International collaboration on product design and development projects is a normal part of global engineering since large corporations now operate using several companies and / or subcontracting work to other companies in a decentralized fashion in more than one country. Thus, preparing engineering students to this reality is a new challenge for faculty. It makes sense to consider faculty in various countries collaborating on the necessary preparation. However, the expectations of student outcomes from such preparation may vary because of different cultural and national contexts. The challenge then is to find a set of outcomes that are enriched by rather than limited by this diversity.

This work focuses on collaborations for student design projects and investigates the expectations of faculty and students in three different locations: The Pennsylvania State University, Universite d'Artois, Bahcesehir University and University of Leeds. Expectations of these parties are gathered via interviews and questionnaires during which all parties were separated. For example, the expectations of students were gathered in a separate session than faculty's, at all locations. The objective is to find the differences and similarities in expectations relevant to design project outcomes.