Don’t tell me, I’ll ask you.

Supporting global citizenship for international pre-service teachers by a question-driven practicum.

The modern society of the 21st century becomes more and more a ‘global village’. In supporting a pupil’s behavior which is crucial to participate as a global citizen, schools should open up their windows to the world and become training areas in which pupils acquire the necessary knowledge, skills and attitude. However, not only pupils but also future teachers need to be prepared for teaching global citizenship. Therefore, HAN College of Education for Primary School Teachers promotes international exchange of pre-service teacher students and organizes a special Winter Course. In this course the school practicum at a Dutch primary school aims to foster global citizenship on two levels. On the first personal level, international students are invited to exchange their cultural identity with Dutch pupils to raise awareness in both groups. On the second level, the professional identity of the students is challenged by plunging them into an inquiry-based learning process with a question-driven pedagogy in which they experience various roles as a teacher and practice innovative ways of teaching. Recent evaluations of participating international students and of Dutch pupils and their school teachers show that this question-driven practicum not only fosters global citizenship, but also gives a strong impetus for becoming “global teachers”.