

## **Conference Abstract**

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 23-26 June, 2005:**

**Reflective Practice – The key to innovation in international education**

**Have I offended you? Appropriate non-verbal communication in the international classroom**

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In a classroom where students from a wide range of cultural backgrounds come together to learn, the potential for unintentional offence is considerable.

This paper will report the findings from a study into reactions to non-verbal behaviour in the international classroom. Students were surveyed regarding their views of non-verbal behaviour by both their teachers and other students. Teachers were also canvassed for their perceptions of non-verbal behaviour and the ways in which it affects classroom dynamics.

The data from the questionnaires were analysed statistically. A qualitative dimension was also added by examining the comments which participants added to their questionnaires. These findings will be used during this presentation as a basis for recommendations to teachers of international students.