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**“Developing a deeper understanding of the EU in the Asia Pacific through virtual learning”**

The project ‘The EU in the Asia Pacific’ established a new interdisciplinary and unique course designed to provide students with a new learning experience delivering a course ‘virtually’ about the EU’s role in the Asia Pacific. The course has run successfully in its first year of delivery across two institutions with virtual lectures, using interactive video conferencing, and students participating in a virtual tutorial with online discussion forum. Virtual delivery has provided the opportunity for lectures to be delivered by a number of academics who are experts in the field and who come from a variety of institutions across New Zealand, Asia, the Pacific and Europe. The course web site hosted by the University of Canterbury’s updated online teaching and learning platform enabled the delivery of lectures and online tutorials as well as the provision of enhanced learning resources including electronic readings and web links providing students with the opportunity to participate in deeper learning related to the course. The course aimed to intellectually challenge students and encourage them to take the critical initiative for their learning using a student inquiry centred approach to teaching and learning which was further enhanced by the interactive virtual lectures and tutorial sessions. The content of the course focussed on trying to counter old perceptions of Europe by investigating the relevance of the EU to the Asia Pacific region, thus giving students the opportunity to develop new perspectives and a broader understanding of the EU. The Asia Pacific focus is exceptional and distinctive bringing together a teaching team of experts in a course not taught anywhere else in the region. It has provided students with a deeper understanding of the EU in the Asia Pacific region and incorporated perceptions of the EU’s role from both an Asia Pacific perspective and a European one.