



New Zealand Centre for Global Studies

Te Pokapū Akoranga Aorere o Aotearoa

Global Citizenship and Responsibility Summary

A philosophical basis for global citizenship that links global citizenship education (GCED) to principles of universal responsibility and sets out a rationale for GCED – its purpose, practice, and aspirations.

Citizenship is defined by behavioural characteristics and responsibility, giving legitimacy to global citizenship. Legally, it can be said that no one is a citizen of the world because there is no world polity to empower rights, privileges and duties.

Cosmopolitanism is the traditional philosophical view of global citizenship that links us all in a universal moral community. While belonging to a moral community, global citizens are entitled to live differently. At the same time it is vital that we recognise the uniqueness of cultures and knowledge; communicate and take on the world's problems and opportunities together.

GCED is timely to meet current needs of young people in their future studies and endeavours; and to meet the aspirations and requirements of national curricula and international agreements.

GCED provides a framework that links all areas of school life – academic, co-curricular, and pastoral care.

A philosophical approach to teaching and learning specialises in transferrable skills and attributes – questioning, ethical decision making, critical thinking, confidence, and participation in the community for the greater good.