

## **COIL as a Low-Cost Strategy for Internationalizing Higher Education in Emerging Economies**

Internationalization has become a strategic priority for higher education institutions worldwide. However, traditional internationalization models based on physical mobility often reach only a small proportion of students, particularly in emerging economies where financial constraints, language barriers, and limited institutional resources restrict access to international experiences. This presentation discusses Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) as a low-cost and scalable alternative for promoting internationalization at home.

The presentation introduces the COIL methodology, originally developed by the State University of New York (SUNY), and examines how collaborative online projects can connect students and faculty from different countries without requiring international travel. Particular attention is given to the potential of COIL to expand access to global learning opportunities, foster intercultural competencies, strengthen digital skills, and promote international collaboration among students from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds.

The presentation also explores the main challenges associated with COIL implementation, including differences in time zones, language proficiency, technological infrastructure, and pedagogical coordination. In addition, the role of artificial intelligence in supporting international collaboration will be discussed, highlighting both opportunities, such as translation and communication support, and challenges related to academic integrity and ethical use.

The central argument is that COIL represents an effective, inclusive, and sustainable strategy for internationalizing higher education institutions, especially in emerging economies, where expanding international experiences to a larger number of students remains a critical challenge.