Principles of Integrative Education

Holistic learning. We work with a broader notion of knowing than simply the cognitive and the rational. The knowing that comes with emotion and feeling and the knowing associated with embodied action are equally important. We work actively and in different ways with this expanded notion of knowing in our three domains of activity.

Deep Learning. Deep learning is achieved through experiential and problem-based approaches to learning. It is enabled through engaging with complexity and real-world practice. Deep learning also invites the participation of the whole human being and multiple ways of knowing.

Transformative learning. In our view, education is not just about acquiring new knowledge and skills, it also has the possibility to bring about profound transformation at the personal, political and social levels. Central to our approach is the recognition that taking risks and not-knowing are fundamental if education is to have the potential to be transformative as well as integrative.

Transdisciplinary learning. When separate disciplines meet and mix then new insights can arise that are not necessarily found in any one single discipline. Hence the name 'Crossfields'. This is particularly the case for the arts, sciences and humanities.

Lifebased and lifelong learning. With the shifting and fluid nature of life today, traditional boundaries between life, work and leisure are blurring. Our approach is to see life in all its aspects as the context for 'learning' in the deepest sense, and of course this extends over the whole of life, not just the first three decades. Technology has also greatly expanded the possibilities of what can count as a 'classroom' and how and where formal and informal learning can take place.

Diversity and inclusion. Deep learning is enabled through a rich mix of perspectives and experiences. In all our activities we aim to be as inclusive as possible, meaning that no one is excluded from participation on the basis of gender, race, sexual orientation, age or disability.

Care for nature and the environment. We aim to nurture love and care for the environment, whether urban or natural, and we seek to promote environmental responsibility wherever possible.