

# Recognising Racism in the Teaching Space

## What do I need to consider?

The first step to eradicating racism in our teaching spaces is to know what to look for. Racism can be expressed in many ways, both overtly and covertly, and can be both intentional and unintentional. It's important to recognise that cultural norms are often deeply ingrained in our society and education system, and it can be challenging to identify and address them.

However, it's crucial for educators to reflect on their own biases and work to create a learning environment that is welcoming, inclusive, and equitable for all students.

## How could I introduce this into my teaching?

Think about the following:

* **Are white cultural values prioritised over others**? (This can be with regard to language, culture, religion or traditions).   
  These might include acceptance of differences in areas such as body language, social behaviour, dress or appearance, use of language interpreted according to racialised stereotypes?
* **Are there cultural norms that in place in your classes and are unconsciously replicated but not challenged?** These might include the use of humour and being careful that it does not target students’ characteristics, including race.
* **Consciously reflect on any personal biases, positions, and prejudices**These might include your views on the ‘native speaker’, or why a certain student chose to study at a UK university, or why students might engage in academic misconduct.
* **Avoid assumptions about student abilities or preferences based on their ethnic group**.  
  Does your teaching practices inadvertently racialise students or be racist. For example, are students expected to speak on behalf of their race?

## Where can I find additional information and resources?

[Antiracist Curriculum Project](https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/anti-racist-curriculum-project/project-guide)

[University of Aberdeen Race Definitions](https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here/community-response-12591.php#panel13234)