

**Course Number:** MECA9554

**Course Title:** **Cross Cultural Understanding**

**Contact Information:** Sabrina D. Moyer

**Email:** [Sabrina@mecatraining.com](mailto:Sabrina@mecatraining.com)

## Overview:

When interacting with counterparts from other cultures you may have been frustrated by the fact that they do things in ways that are fundamentally different to your own. Perhaps their priorities in the workplace are different to yours or they seem to be sending you mixed messages. These different attitudes and behaviors are more than likely to be conditioned by culture and are instilled early on in life and expressed in the way we behave and interact. We act on our cultural preferences instinctively - in everything we do, from the way we stand and talk, to the way we deal with superiors, conflict and decision-making. Since these differences are so deep and intuitive, they can lead to substantial misunderstanding and miscommunication.

## Objectives:

- To be able to describe how the concept of culture relates to one's own experience.
- To achieve a broader perspective on one's own culture and an increased sensitivity to the customs, values, and beliefs of other cultures.
- Explore examples of how people see the world, themselves, and others in fundamentally different ways.
- To be able to distinguish between the visible and invisible aspects of culture.
- To be able to explain how the invisible aspects of culture influence the visible ones.
- To encourage individuals to practice the skill of seeing an issue from different points of view.
- To educate that understanding another culture involves being able to interpret behaviors, customs, actions, and practices from more than one point of view.
- Understanding how behavior is interpreted: the meaning given to it by the person who does the action and the meaning given to it by the person who observes the action.

