Objectives and methods

Research questions

Question 1: How do global competence indicators affect students' academic achievement? Question 2: Whether the impact of global competence on academic achievement changes across countries with different cultural values and economic performance?

Methods

Methods: Multilevel analysis

Software: SPSS 26 for data preparation; HLM6 for multilevel linear regression

Data description

Variables and access to data

Variables	Data link		
Student Level			
Family ESCS			
Gender			
Awareness of global issues			
Self-efficacy regarding global issues			
Attitudes towards immigrants			
Interest in learning about other cultures			
Ability to understand the perspectives of others Cognitive adaptability Respect for people from other cultures			
	PISA 2018: https://www.oecd.org/en/data/datasets/pi		
		Number of spoken languages	sa-2018-database.html
Number of foreign languages learned at school	ou 2010 damouso.htm		
Number of scenes of contact with people from other countries			
Awareness of intercultural communication			
A sense of agency regarding global issues			
Number of actions taken by students			
Country Level			

Classification of developing and developed	https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/we
countries or economies	o/2018/02/weodata/groups.htm
Flexibility-monumentalism	Minkov-Hofstede model.
	https://doi.org/10.1016/j.intman.2022.10
	0971
Individualism-collectivism	Minkov-Hofstede model.
	https://doi.org/10.1016/j.intman.2022.10
	0971

Data Preparation

The data were acquired to obtain three separate datasets at the student-level and country-level.

Selecting and recording variables

The data from the questionnaires corresponding to the target variables analyzed in this study were screened according to the study's analytical objective and the findings of previous studies. We deleted the samples of students from countries that lack cultural values and those who did not answer any of the questions related to global competence at the student level. The final samples were retained for the 54 countries or economies, with a total of 371,976 student samples.

Treatment of missing data

There were still missing value variables in the sample. Missing values were supplemented by the mean of the multiple imputation datasets using multiple imputation with m=5. Descriptive statistics for all variables are presented in Table 1.

Student weight

As required by the official PISA manual, the student weights need to be normalized, i.e. the sum of the weights is equal to the number of students in the datasets. The sum of the weights of all samples is denoted by POPWEIGHT, the number of all samples is denoted by SAMPN, and the SPSS syntax for the normalization of the final student weight is as follows:

COMPUTE W_FSTUWT=(W_FSTUWT/POPWEIGHT)*SAMPN.

AGGREGATE/BREAK=CNT/POPCNT=SUM(W_FSTUWT). COMPUTE WEIGHT=(W_FSTUWT/POPCNT)*(SAMPN/52).

 Table 1. Descriptive statistics for variables of interest.

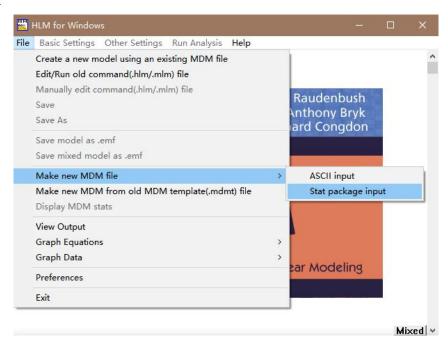
Variable		Mean	SD	Range
Gender	GENDER	0.506	0.500	0 = male; 1 = female
Index of economic, social and	ESCS	-0.307	1.097	-8.173-4.037
cultural status				
Awareness of global issues	GCAWARE	-0.024	1.073	-4.091-4.897
Self-efficacy regarding global issues	GCSELFEFF	-0.046	1.036	-3.753-3.958
Attitudes towards immigrants	ATTIMM	0.017	0.968	-4.182-3.881
Interest in learning about other cultures	INTCULT	0.116	0.977	-4.066-4.176
Ability to understand the perspectives of others	PERSPECT	0.059	1.021	-4.550-3.661
Cognitive adaptability	COGFLEX	0.008	1.022	-3.963-3.917
Respect for people from other cultures	RESPECT	-0.017	0.988	-4.550-3.661
Number of spoken languages	LANGUAGESPEAK	2.162	0.941	1-5
Number of foreign languages learned at school	LANGUAGELEARN	1.765	1.507	0-10
Number of scenes of contact with people from other countries	CONTACT	2.155	1.354	0-4
Awareness of intercultural communication	AWACOM	0.004	1.004	-4.228-4.085
A sense of agency regarding global issues	GLOBMIND	0.067	1.005	-4.603-4.754
Number of actions taken by students	BEHAVIOR	3.909	2.187	0-8
Classification of developing and	Development	0.430	0.499	0 = developing
developed countries or economies				economies;
				1 = developed
				economies
Flexibility-monumentalism	Flexibility	-3.963	83.958	-187-199
Individualism-collectivism	Individualism	-12.870	70.737	-171-119

Source. PISA 2015 database.

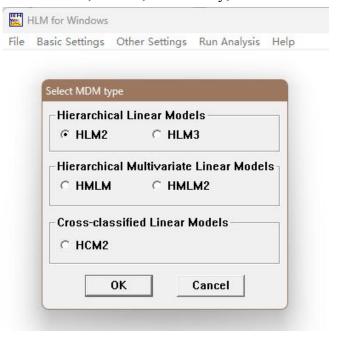
Multilevel analysis

Data entry and settings

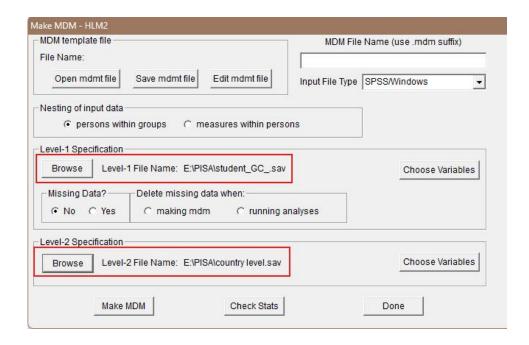
Step 1: Import data



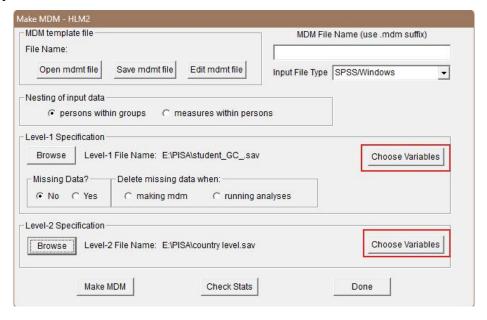
• This analysis was based on two levels, student, and country, so HLM2 was chosen.



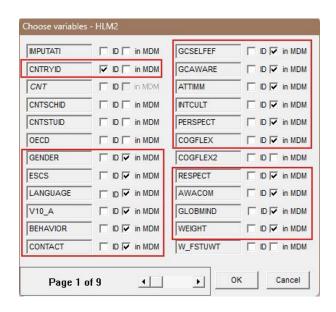
• Import two levels of data separately.

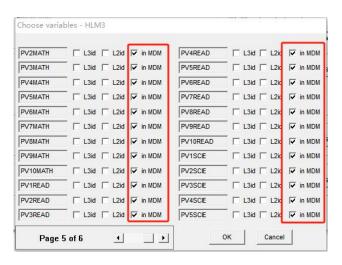


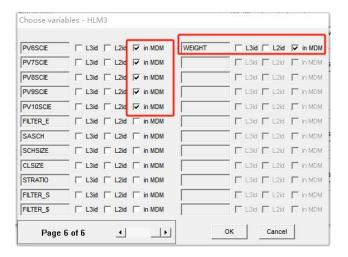
Step2: Variable selection. Select the variable data in each of the two level datasets that need to be included in the HLM analysis.



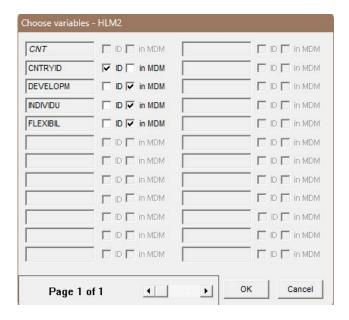
• Variable selection for student-level: ID is the linking identifier for country-level and student-level, here CNTRYID (country-region ID in PISA data) was selected. After selecting the linking identifiers for each level, select the independent variable, dependent variable, and sample weight (WEIGHT) for student-level.



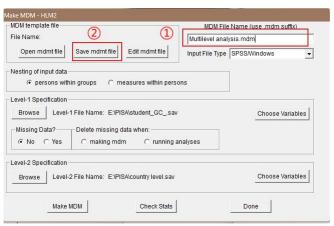




• Country-level variable selection:



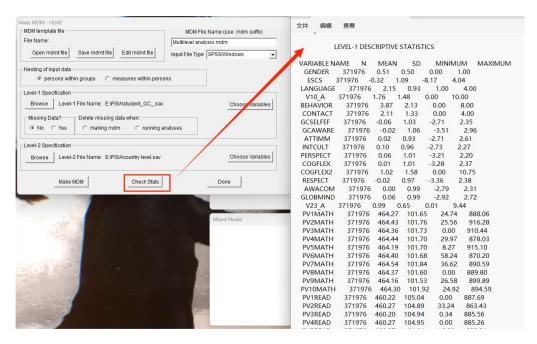
Step 3: Save and create MDM file.



• Create MDM file.



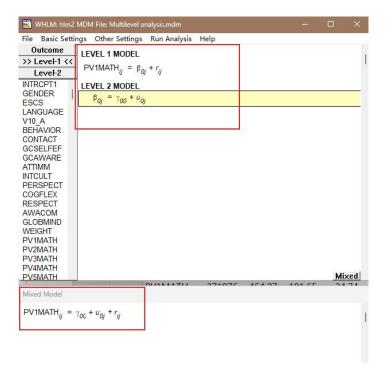
■ After the MDM file was created successfully, *Check Stats* button was tapped to view the data overview. Finally, tap *Done* to complete data entry and MDM file creation.



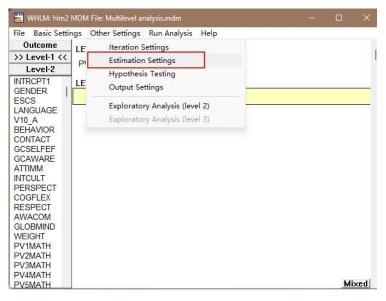
Step 4: Settings of weights and dependent variable Plausible Values (PV).

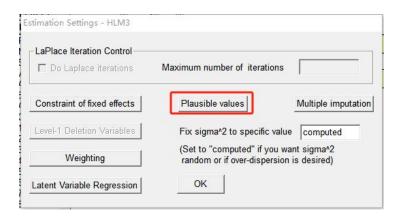
 Setting of the dependent variable: in the case of maths achievement, PV1MATH was chosen as the dependent variable.





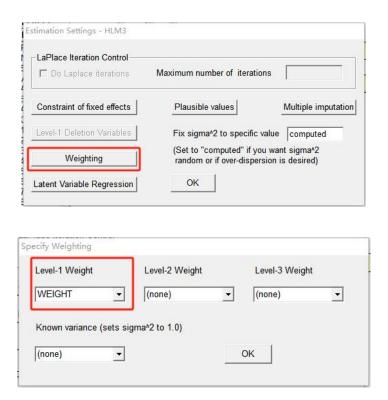
• Setting of PV1-PV10: According to the official PISA data analysis operational documentation recommendations, regression analyses should be performed on the basis of 10 PV values, which can be achieved in the HLM6 software.





PV1MATE	1
uble-click to move va	ariables between col
Possible choices	Plausible values
WEIGHT	PV1MATH
PV1READ	PV2MATH
PV2READ PV3READ	PV3MATH PV4MATH
PV4READ	PV4MATH
V4READ V5READ	PV6MATH
V6READ	PV7MATH
V7READ	PV8MATH
PV8READ	PV9MATH
PV9READ '	PV10MATH
PV10READ PV1SCIE	
PV2SCIE	

• Setting of weights: WEIGHT has been normalized.



Two-level modelling

The following analysis process is based on the example of maths achievement.

Null model

The null model, which incorporated no variables, was principally constructed for the purpose of calculating the intraclass correlation coefficients (ICCs) values. The equation in the null model can be

expressed as follows:

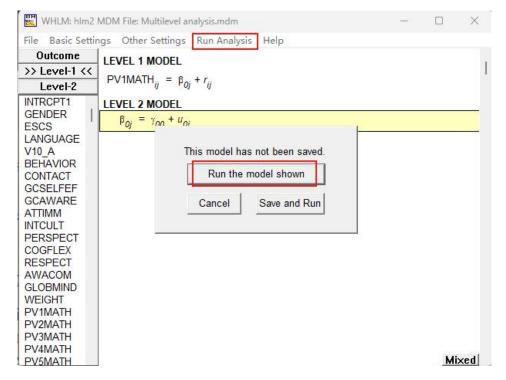
$$Y_{ijk} = \gamma_{000} + r_{0jk} + \mu_{ook} + e_{ijk}$$
 (1)

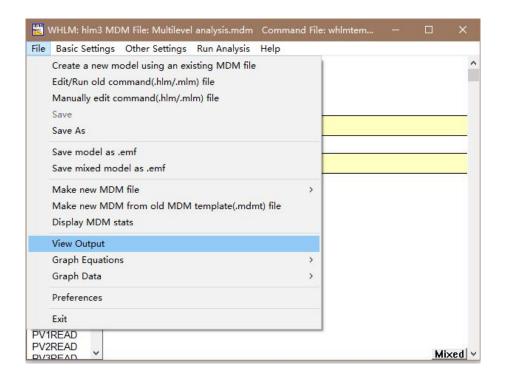
In the context of multilevel linear modeling (HLM), ICC serves as a pivotal metric for evaluating the degree of intra-group correlation. The ICC is utilized to ascertain the extent to which individual members within a group share similarities, that is, the degree to which measurements of individuals in the same group are similar. Specifically, the ICC is a measure of the ratio of within-group differences to total differences when aggregating data, and has a value between 0 and 1. When the ICC is close to 0, it indicates that the proportion of inter-individual variation to total variation is small, i.e., individuals are almost unaffected by the group to which they belong; when the ICC is close to 1, it indicates that the proportion of inter-individual variation to total variation is large, i.e., individuals are almost entirely determined by the group to which they belong.

The variances at the student-, and country-level are respectively σ_e^2 , and $\sigma_{r_0}^2$. The method (Davis & Scott, 1995) defines the ICC values at the country level as:

$$\rho_{\text{country}} = \frac{\sigma_{\text{r}_0}^2}{\sigma_{\text{e}}^2 + \sigma_{\text{r}_0}^2} \tag{2}$$

In this context, the between-group variance is defined as the variance attributable to differences in means between groups, while the total variance is the sum of the between-group variance and the within-group variance. The larger the ICC value, the larger the proportion of the total variance accounted for by the between-group (e.g., school, class, etc.) variance, suggesting that the between-group variance is contributing more to the total variance, which usually suggests that the use of the HLM model is appropriate.





Results:



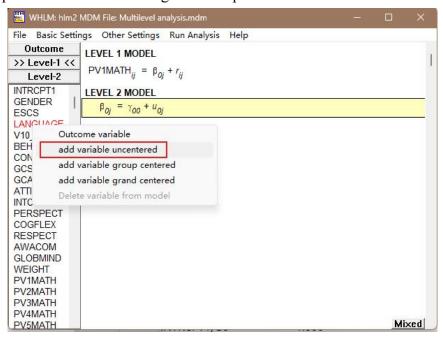
total unexplained variance $\sigma_{r_0}^2 + \sigma_e^2$ was 10554.94. The intraclass correlation coefficients for country was:

$$\frac{\text{between country variance}}{\text{total vairance}} = \frac{\sigma_{r_0}^2}{\sigma_e^2 + \sigma_{r_0}^2} = 0.251$$

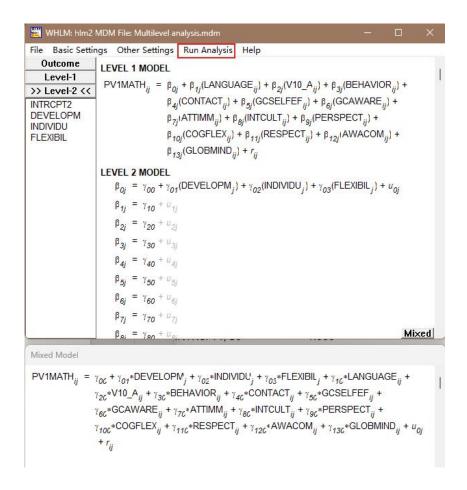
According to the result, ICCs of the two levels for all disciplines were all above 0.059, which indicated the existence of variations in student academic achievement between countries and proved the validity of conducting HLM analysis (Cohen, 1988).

Model 1

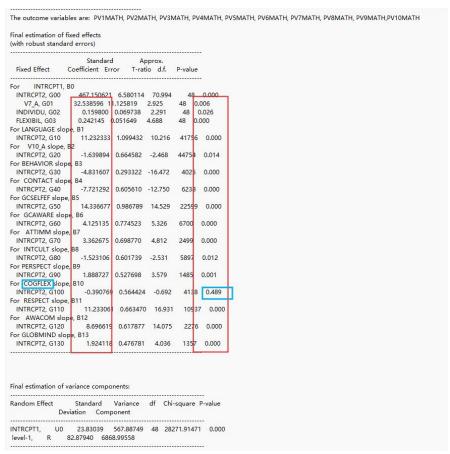
Model 1: Incorporation of indicators of global competence and the variables at the country level.



Following the addition of the explanatory variables at each level, the complete model 1 was constructed, as illustrated below:

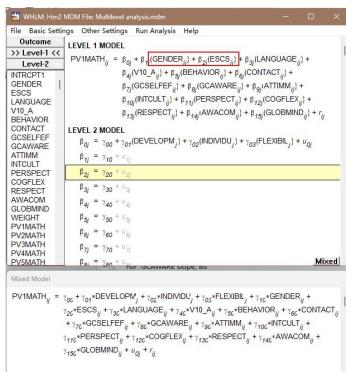


After building, click 'Run Analysis', then click 'File' and 'View Output'. The results are shown in the figure below: All variables except for COGFLEX showed significance.

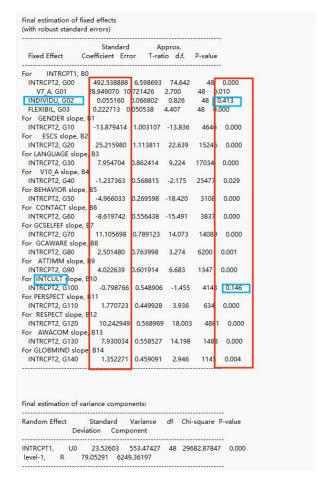


Model 2

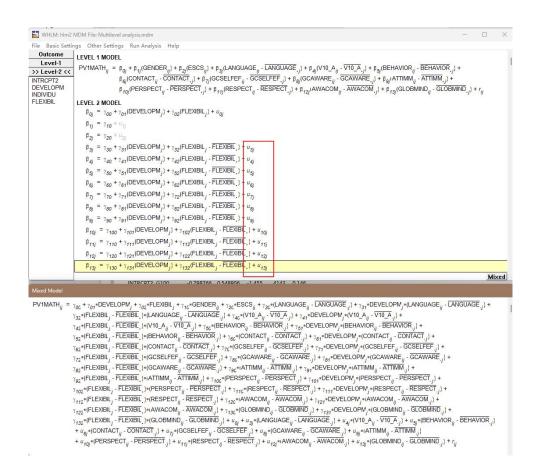
Model 2: To assess the robustness of the models, the control variables were incorporated.



Results: The regression coefficients for the all variables at the two levels can be seen in the figure below, where the p-value indicated that the results of INDIVIDUAL and INTCULT were not significant.



Model 3: To explore whether variables at the country level moderated the relationship between students' global competence and their academic achievement, Model 3 was constructed. Interaction terms for country-level variables and student-level variables were included in the model. It is essential to note that when incorporating interaction terms in a multilevel model, variables at lower levels (e.g., student level) need to be group-centered, and variables at higher levels (e.g., school level and national level) need to be grand-centered. The full model is shown below.



Results: The results showed that the impact of GCSELFEFF, GCAWARE, and AWACOM on mathematics academic achievement differed between developed and developing countries or economies. Regarding cultural values, the interaction terms between GCSELFEFF and social flexibility, as well as between RESPECT and social flexibility, were significant.

Fixed Effect		Coefficient	Standard Error	T-ratio	Approx.	P-value
or INTRCPT	1, B0					
INTRCPT2, G00		461.911649	5.955242	77.564	49	0.000
DEVELOPM, G01		42.387761	7.901091	5.365	49	0.000
FLEXIBIL, G02		0.214737	0.043905	4.891	49	0.000
or GENDER slop	e. R1	0122.707	0.0.000			0.000
INTRCPT2, G10	c, DI	-14.477753	1.212140	-11.944	364765	0.000
or ESCS slop	o B2	14.4///33	1.212140	11.544	304703	0.000
INTRCPT2, G20	e, bz	25,212124	0.895054	28.168	364765	0.000
	- 02	23.212124	0.093034	20.100	304703	0.000
or LANGUAGE slop	е, вз	0.004055	0.000560	11 164	264765	0 000
INTRCPT2, G30		9.864055	0.883560	11.164	364765	0.000
DEVELOPM, G31		-3.368616	1.780937	-1.891	364765	0.058
FLEXIBIL, G32		-0.002747	0.013400	-0.205	364765	0.838
or V10_A slop	e, B4					
INTRCPT2, G40		-2.414102	0.617916	-3.907	364765	0.000
DEVELOPM, G41		1.811461	1.014413	1.786	364765	0.074
FLEXIBIL, G42		-0.010986	0.005685	-1.933	364765	0.053
or BEHAVIOR slop	e. B5					
INTRCPT2, G50		-5.311628	0.350926	-15.136	364765	0.000
DEVELOPM, G51		0.806891	0.638264	1.264	364765	0.206
FLEXIBIL, G52		-0.001483	0.003669	-0.404	364765	0.686
or CONTACT slop	o D6	-0.001403	0.003003	-0.404	304703	0.000
	е, во	0.740022	0.746200	11 714	264765	0.000
INTRCPT2, G60		-8.740832	0.746209	-11.714	364765	0.000
DEVELOPM, G61		1.756525	1.256082	1.398	364765	0.162
FLEXIBIL, G62		0.006442	0.008319	0.774	364765	0.439
or GCSELFEF slop	e, B7					
INTRCPT2, G70		8.648007	0.905762	9.548	364765	0.000
DEVELOPM, G71		6.041173	1.298422	4.653	364765	0.000
FLEXIBIL, G72		0.017836	0.008141	2.191	364765	0.028
or GCAWARE slop	e, B8					
INTRCPT2, G80	31. 5 1	5.673997	0.836116	6.786	364765	0.000
DEVELOPM, G81		-8.612101	1.597761	-5.390	364765	0.000
FLEXIBIL, G82		0.010312	0.007903	1.305	364765	0.192
or ATTIMM slop	e RQ	0.010312	01007303	11303	304703	0.132
INTRCPT2, G90	c, b3	4.522663	1.116682	4.050	364765	0.000
DEVELOPM, G91		-0.464595	1.326701	-0.350	364765	0.726
FLEXIBIL, G92		0.010858	0.009580	1.133	364765	0.257
or PERSPECT slop						
INTRCPT2, G100		2.416096	0.668584	3.614	364765	
DEVELOPM, G101		-2.634104	1.095155	-2.405	364765	0.01
FLEXIBIL, G102		0.011182	0.006862	1.630	364765	0.10
or RESPECT slop						
INTRCPT2, G110		10.635975	0.805017	13.212	364765	0.00
DEVELOPM, G111		-1.250315	1.235547	-1.012	364765	0.31
FLEXIBIL, G112		0.023219	0.008820	2.633	364765	0.00
or AWACOM slop						
INTRCPT2, G120		6.164920	0.926295	6,655	364765	0.00
DEVELOPM, G121		4.039063	1.357884	2.975	364765	
FLEXIBIL, G122		-0.007182	0.006089	-1.179	364765	0.23
			9.000009	-1.1/9	304/03	U. 23
or GLOBMIND slop			0 420101	4 200	264765	
INTRCPT2, G130		0.604503	0.438101	1.380	364765	
DEVELOPM, G131 FLEXIBIL, G132		1.314625	0.722629	1.819	364765	0.06
		-0.022275	0.004285	-5.199	364765	0.00

The final collation of the results from all the models is presented in Table 2 and Table 3. Models for reading and science follow the same process as mathematical model-building.

Table 2. Fixed effects and random effects of HLM models for students' achievement in Mathematics, reading and science.

	Mathe	Mathematics Reading			Science		
	Model 1	Model 2	Model 1	Model 2	Model 1	Model 2	
Fixed effects							
Student-level factors							
Gender		-13.879***		15.047***		-8.972***	
		(1.003)		(0.941)		(0.964)	
ESCS		25.216***		24.749***		23.410***	
		(1.114)		(1.045)		(1.097)	
LANGUAGESPEAK	11.232***	7.954***	10.321***	7.130***	9.987***	7.001***	
	(1.099)	(0.862)	(1.192)	(0.965)	(1.156)	(0.945)	
LANGUAGELEARN	-1.640*	-1.237*	-1.937*	-1.740*	-1.461*	-1.137	
	(0.665)	(0.569)	(0.772)	(0.660)	(0.717)	(0.628)	
BEHAVIOR	-4.832***	-4.966***	-6.646***	-6.458***	-5.598***	-5.640***	
	(0.293)	(0.270)	(0.311)	(0.285)	(0.278)	(0.257)	
CONTACT	-7.721***	-8.620***	-8.528***	-9.172***	-7.937***	-8.658***	
	(0.606)	(0.556)	(0.641)	(0.596)	(0.648)	(0.581)	
GCSELFEFF	14.337***	11.106***	13.183***	11.061***	15.693***	12.975***	
	(0.987)	(0.789)	(1.059)	(0.944)	(1.112)	(0.942)	
GCAWARE	4.125***	2.501***	6.389***	4.600***	5.360***	3.920***	
	(0.775)	(0.764)	(0.864)	(0.805)	(0.776)	(0.748)	
ATTIMM	3.363***	4.023***	7.149***	6.921***	4.778***	5.170***	
	(0.699)	(0.602)	(0.739)	(0.633)	(0.696)	(0.601)	
INTCULT	-1.523*	-0.799	2.221***	1.412**	-0.485	/	
	(0.602)	(0.549)	(0.604)	(0.545)	(0.626)		
PERSPECT	1.889**	1.771***	4.049***	3.594***	2.691***	3.177***	
	(0.528)	(0.450)	(0.578)	(0.491)	(0.505)	(0.435)	
COGFLEX	-0.391	/	-4.476***	-4.052***	-1.542***	-2.908***	
	(0.564)		(0.645)	(0.572)	(0.548)	(0.528)	
RESPECT	11.233***	10.243***	17.745***	14.945***	12.696***	11.826***	
	(0.663)	(0.450)	(0.670)	(0.636)	(0.651)	(0.568)	
AWACOM	8.697***	7.930***	12.453***	10.908***	9.736***	8.969***	
	(0.618)	(0.559)	(0.765)	(0.700)	(0.695)	(0.639)	
GLOBMIND	1.924***	1.352**	0.952 (0.540)	/	1.554**	1.054*	
	(0.477)	(0.459)			(0.497)	(0.474)	
Country-level factors							
Development	32.539**	28.949*	32.028**	29.073**	30.367**	26.867*	
	(11.126)	(10.721)	(11.372)	(10.604)	(10.598)	(10.374)	
Individualism	$0.160^*(0.070)$	0.055 (0.067)	0.223**	0.119 (0.072)	0.171^{*}	0.076 (0.070)	
			(0.074)		(0.070)		
Flexibility	0.242***	0.223***	0.103*	0.082 (0.050)	0.150**	0.131**	
	(0.052)	(0.051)	(0.051)		(0.048)	(0.048)	
Random effects	Variance	Variance	Variance	Variance	Variance	Variance	
Student level (e _{ijk})	6868.996	6249.362	6975.477	6392.091	562.441	5923.476	
Country level (µ00k)	567.887	553.474	699.735	677.595	6433.457	577.073	

Table 3. Interaction effects of variables at the country level and students' global competence on academic achievement (Model 3).

	Mathematics	Reading	Science	
Interaction term				
Development*GCSELFEFF	6.041*** (1.298)	8.053*** (1.537)	8.942*** (1.842)	
Development*GCAWARE	-8.612*** (1.598)	-7.660*** (1.440)	-6.795*** (1.219)	
Development*ATTIMM	-0.465 (1.327)	1.690 (1.208)	1.666 (1.369)	
Development*INTCULT	/	2.257 (1.053)	/	
Development*PERSPECT	-2.634* (1.095)	-1.982 (0.839)	-3.019** (0.932)	
Development*COGFLEX	/	-1.193 (0.976)	-0.095 (1.270)	
Development*RESPECT	-1.250 (1.236)	1.846* (1.116)	1.078 (1.248)	
Development*AWACOM	4.039*** (1.358)	4.346*** (1.187)	5.084*** (1.529)	
Development*LANGUAGESPEAK	-3.369 (1.781)	-4.851 (2.010)	-4.808* (1.953)	
Development*LANGUAGELEARN	1.811 (1.014)	0.807 (1.116)	/	
Development*CONTACT	1.757 (1.256)	1.749 (1.437)	-0.181 (1.390)	
Development*GLOBMIND	1.315 (0.723)	/	1.471 (1.060)	
Development*BEHAVIOR	0.807 (0.638)	0.947 (0.789)	-0.033 (0.674)	
Flexibility*GCSELFEFF	$0.018^* (0.008)$	/	0.001 (0.010)	
Flexibility*GCAWARE	0.010 (0.008)	/	0.005 (0.008)	
Flexibility*ATTIMM	0.011 (0.010)	/	0.003 (0.008)	
Flexibility*INTCULT	/	/	/	
Flexibility*PERSPECT	0.011 (0.007)	/	0.015** (0.006)	
Flexibility*COGFLEX	/	/	-0.009 (0.008)	
Flexibility*RESPECT	$0.023^{**} (0.009)$	/	0.014 (0.008)	
Flexibility*AWACOM	-0.007 (0.006)	/	-0.013 (0.008)	
Flexibility*LANGUAGESPEAK	-0.003 (0.013)	/	0.005 (0.012)	
Flexibility*LANGUAGELEARN	-0.011 (0.006)	/	/	
Flexibility*CONTACT	0.006 (0.008)	/	0.011 (0.009)	
Flexibility*GLOBMIND	-0.023 (0.004)	/	-0.022 (0.006)	
Flexibility*BEHAVIOR	-0.001 (0.004)	/	0.002 (0.004)	
Random effects	Variance	Variance	Variance	
Student level (e _{ijk})	6230.403	6360.595	5895.990	
Country level (μ_{00k})	604.770	845.040	693.697	

All indicators of global competence and variables at the country level, as well as control variables, were included in Model 3, but not all coefficients are shown here. *p < 0.05; **p < 0.01; ***p < 0.001.