

Göttingen Intercultural Connections Virtual Exchange

University of Goettingen, Göttingen International and Intercultural Learning Lab

Objectives

The current global situation makes it difficult for students to go abroad, as physical mobility frequently gets delayed or even cancelled. Responding to this, we now offer students of Göttingen University and partner institutions around the world the opportunity to meet virtually! Participating in the “Göttingen Intercultural Connections Virtual Exchange” students will have an authentic intercultural experience as they will learn and discuss together with their global peers, e.g., about culture, stereotypes, and campus life. What makes this exchange unique is that students will not only build their intercultural competencies and connections through facilitated dialogue and reflection but also through movement.

In this interactive workshop, students will have the opportunity to develop, practice and demonstrate their intercultural communication and online collaboration skills including

- fostering cultural self-awareness,
- practicing active listening and empathy,
- preparing a final reflective presentation.

The workshop helps students prepare for a later (academic) stay abroad, and in the long term enhance their employability. Students’ achievement will be presented in a digital reflective portfolio. Students will be awarded with a certificate of participation and can obtain 3 ECTS.

Organization

The virtual exchange workshop will run for five weeks, with an expected workload of three hours per week for the synchronous video sessions and asynchronous online assignments.

The exchange will run in two badges, the first with a regional focus on the Americas and the second with a focus on Asia. For the (optional) kick-off meeting and final showcase both groups will come together.

Göttingen Intercultural Connections – Americas

Kick-off: October 21, 2021, 15:00-16:00 CEST

Workshop: October 28, 16:30-18:00 CEST, November 4 / 11 / 18 / 25, 2021, 16:30-18:00 CET

Showcase: March 24, 15:00-16:00 CET

Göttingen Intercultural Connections – Asia

Kick-off: October 21, 2021, 15:00-16:00 CEST

Workshop: February 15 / 22, March 1 / 8 / 15, 2022, 12:30-14:00 CET

Showcase: March 24, 15:00-16:00 CET

Trainer team: Johanna El Ouardy, intercultural trainer, and Jan Hartling-Knaak, dance instructor

Technical note: All meetings will be held on Zoom, and participants will be asked to speak and turn on their camera for specific activities. For smooth participation, if possible, please use a computer with working microphone and camera, and log in from a place where you feel comfortable to speak up and stand up.

Schedule

A series of steps allow students to become familiar with both the technology and with one another. Activities will be planned for each step and align with the learning outcomes defined earlier on.

- Access & motivation, online socialization, information exchange (1 week)
- Information exchange, knowledge construction (3 weeks)
- Collaboration, development (3 weeks)

Methods used will be individual and group assignments, Dancempro / movement, inputs and video, facilitated discussion and reflection, as well as intercultural learning activities.

