



BEST-Exchange

Summer School 2021
Virtual Exchange for Future Teachers

16.08.2021- 20.08.2021

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Do you have questions?

Check the FAQ or get in touch with:

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BEST-Exchange

BEST Exchange is a project supporting international experiences for student teachers hosted by the University of Göttingen. It runs from January 2021 until December 2024 and is funded by the DAAD, the German Academic Exchange Service. BEST stands for Brazilian, Belgian, Estonian and Swedish Teacher Exchange, since those are the partner countries Göttingen is cooperating with within this project. Our partners are the Instituto Ivo in Brazil, the University of Gent in Belgium, the University of Tartu in Estonia, and the University of Uppsala in Sweden.

Throughout the four years of the project, BEST Exchange will foster the ties between the partner universities through student mobility, virtual joint classrooms, virtual network meetings for the staff and an annual summer school for teaching students held in Göttingen.

THE BEST EXCHANGE SUMMER SCHOOL 2021: VIRTUAL EXCHANGE FOR FUTURE TEACHERS

While the summer schools will usually follow a blended format consisting of virtual preparations and meetings on Göttingen Campus, we have slightly different plans for 2021. Due to the current situation, we will welcome all participants of the summer school online in a virtual summer school. Fortunately, this year's topic – Virtual Exchange – is very suitable for this format.



HEADS OF BEST EXCHANGE



Susanne Schneider

Prof. Susanne Schneider studied physics, mathematics and German for the teaching profession at secondary schools at the University of Göttingen, where she also received her doctorate. She is head of physics education for teachers at the University of Göttingen and dean of teacher education. She is also one of the directors of the BEST exchange. Her research interests include subject-integrated learning and the use of digital methods in teaching, according to the TPACK model.



Carola Surkamp

Prof. Carola Surkamp is the Head of English Language Teaching at the University of Göttingen. She studied English, French, and Spanish for teaching at grammar schools at the Universities of Cologne and Nantes (France) and also taught at the University of Giessen from where she received her PhD. Her research interests include teaching literature and film in the EFL classroom and at university, theatre methods in language teaching, (inter)cultural learning and teacher education. Since 2021 she is one of the Heads of BEST Exchange.



SCHEDULE

Time (CEST)/Day	Monday 16.08.	Tuesday 17.08.	Wednesday 18.08.	Thursday 19.08.	Friday 20.08.
10:00-11:30 <i>Preparation</i>	Discussion Groups	Discussion Groups	Student Group Work	Student Group Work	Student Group Work
Coffee Break					
12:00-13:30 <i>Main Lecture(s)</i>	Mentoring and Supporting your Students in Virtual Exchange (O'Dowd)	Parallel Sessions: VE in Humanities (Ekin)/ VE in Natural Sciences (X-LAB) (choose one)	Group Discussion: Using VE for my teaching	Networked Teachers and Learners (Verswijvel/Blazic)	Interactive Panel: VE in Teacher Education
Lunch Break 13:30-14:30					
14:30-16:00 <i>Debriefing on content</i>	Workshop: Erasmus+ eTwinning (Giese)	Parallel Sessions: VE in the Natural Sciences (Go! Global) / VE in Humanities (Teletandem) (choose one)	Group work: Using VE for my Teaching	Workshop: A Virtual Project with Students from Sweden and Tanzania (Bruun)	Closing Event with Student VE Project Presentations
16:00-16:30 Coffee Break					
16:30-18:00 <i>Social Activities</i>	Culture Evening	Movie Night	Researching VE (Duran & Krengel)	Time for Group Work	Farewell

COLLABORATIVE AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Since an online event lacks opportunities to socialize in a more informal way, we offer a variety of activities surrounding the summer school to provide occasions of informal intercultural interaction between our students and staff members. Our goal is to strike a balance between informal exchange and project-based group work.

ASYNCHRONOUS PREPARATION (07.-15.08.2021)

The participating students will exchange information before the summer school starts through asynchronous preparation via an online platform. Here, students will get to know each other while working on small activities and tasks that prepare the participants for the intercultural groupwork during the summer school. Further, they will introduce their university, region and cultural aspects to the other students. This interaction of the students is facilitated by our university's staff. Students will further be instructed in how to collect the content needed for their reflective portfolio, based on which each student's participation is graded.

SOCIAL EVENINGS (16., 17. & 20.08.2021)

During the week of the summer school, there will be three different social evenings where students as well as the staff of the five BEST Exchange universities can get to know each other. There will be a cultural evening with student presentations, a movie night as well as a big farewell event on the last night of the summer school. During all events, the coordinators will facilitate the interaction of students and staff.

GROUP WORK (THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER SCHOOL)

To ensure meaningful interaction between the students, they will collaboratively create their own first concept for a virtual exchange project that they would like to do with their own pupils one day. Creating this together with peers from abroad provides an authentic experience and a network of possible partners for the future.



GUESTS AT THE BEST EXCHANGE SUMMER SCHOOL

To provide an appropriate overview of the topic of virtual exchange we have invited several experts from the field who will present their knowledge on the topic in several lectures and workshops which make up the core of our summer school.



Monday
12:00-13:30

Robert O'Dowd

Dr. Robert O'Dowd is Associate Professor for English as a Foreign Language and Applied Linguistics at the University of León, Spain. He has taught at universities in Ireland, Germany and Spain and has numerous publications on the application of Virtual Exchange in university settings. He was the founding president of the *UNICollaboration* academic organization for telecollaboration and virtual exchange (www.unicollaboration.org) and is currently coordinating the Erasmus+ European Policy Experiment *Virtual Innovation and Support Networks for Teachers (VALIANT)* (<https://valiantproject.eu/>).

Further readings: [Bibliography](#)



Monday
14:30-16:00

Heidi Giese

Heidi Giese works as a teacher for French and Social Studies at an Integrated Comprehensive School in Eschwege, a small town about an hour away from Göttingen. She has been a facilitator for Erasmus+ with a focus on eTwinning since 2012. In her "previous" life, she taught German as a Foreign Language for seven years at an Italian grammar school and was employed by Deutsche Lufthansa for ten years. To sum it up: She is a lifelong learner and citizen of Europe.

Further readings: [Bibliography](#)



**Tuesday
12:00-13:30**

Semih Ekin

Semih Ekin is a PhD candidate and research assistant in the English Language Teaching program at Hacettepe University, located in Ankara, Turkey. For his PhD dissertation he has conducted a Virtual Exchange project with Swedish and German partner universities on Global Education, Lesson Planning and Virtual Exchange. One of his main research areas is conversation analysis and he uses this methodology and its tools for the analysis in his dissertation project.

Further readings: [Bibliography](#)



**Tuesday
14:30-16:00**

Johanna Lochner

Johanna Lochner coordinates Go! Global, a virtual school exchange programme which gives pupils the possibility to share their experiences and thoughts on different topics (such as the Sustainable Development Goals) across national borders. The programme addresses schools worldwide and thus contributes to a valuable exchange on a global level. Johanna Lochner is writing her PhD at the Humboldt Universität zu Berlin about Virtual School Garden Exchanges and works as a freelancer in the field of Education for Sustainable Development.

Further readings / Selected publications: [Bibliography](#)



**Tuesday
14:30-16:00**

TBA

Teletandem is a service by the Franco-German Youth Office that helps teachers to connect their classes with teachers and students from classes abroad for the purpose of Language and Cultural Learning. The organization and its online platform will be presented by a staff member yet to be assigned.

Further information on the organization can be found on their [Website](#)



Thursday
12:00-13:30

Arjana Blazic

Arjana Blazic is a Language Arts teacher, Education Technology consultant and an external expert at European Schoolnet, where she contributes to EU CodeWeek by developing teaching and learning resources that aim at scaling up innovative use of digital technologies in schools. Further, she is a co-author of the Croatian National Curriculum for the Use of ICT as a Cross-Curricular Topic. She has written articles about teaching and learning with technology and an ICT book for children. Her research interests focus on Technology Enhanced Teaching and Learning and the impact of digital technologies on teacher professional development.

Further readings / Selected publications: [Bibliography](#)



Thursday
12:00-13:30

Bart Verswijvel

Bart Verswijvel is a Belgian educator and expert trainer who works as a Senior Pedagogical Adviser for European Schoolnet in Brussels. He is the pedagogical lead of the Future Classroom Lab, the concept of a flexible learning space and he is active in a range of European funded projects. He works with Ministries of Education, schools, and communities of teachers. His special interest is in whole-school approaches to stimulate active learning and innovative practices in a context of innovative learning spaces with the support of technology. Bart's power is to spread the joy of learning. *Store your knowledge in friends*, is his favourite quote.

Further readings / Selected publications: [Bibliography](#)



Sara Bruun

Sara Bruun is a language teacher, author, and lecturer from Sweden. She teaches English at a secondary school and is also a development manager in Höör. 2017 she was awarded "The best Swedish EdTech of 2017". Ms. Bruun has written two books about the use of digital tools in the classroom and has published several articles on the topic.

Further readings on the person: [Bibliography](#)

Thursday
14:30-16:00



Juan Albá Duran

Juan Albá Duran is a lecturer of Spanish Proficiency in the Department of European Languages and Cultures at the University of Groningen, in the Netherlands. He has been a teacher and a researcher in the KA3 project EVOLVE (Evidence-Validated Online Learning through Virtual Exchange) which aimed at mainstreaming Virtual Exchange (VE). He has contributed to the EVOLVE research study on students' disciplinary learning through VE and co-authored the report on the institutionalization of VE in European HE institutions. As a VE practitioner, Juan Albá Duran has developed VE projects linking students of Teacher Training, Journalism and Second Language Learning from universities in Spain, Chile and the Netherlands.

Further readings / Selected publications: [Bibliography](#)

Wednesday
16:30-18:00

UNIVERSITY STAFF INVOLVED AT THE BEST EXCHANGE SUMMER SCHOOL

Several staff members and lecturers from the five BEST Partner universities will be involved in the summer school.



Fabian Krengel (University of Göttingen; English as a Foreign Language, Geography/ VE Lecturer)

Fabian Krengel holds a Master of Education degree from the University of Göttingen and has experience teaching at schools and universities in Germany, the United States, and Norway. He works as a research assistant (English Language Teaching) and an international coordinator (Teacher Education) at the University of Göttingen. His PhD research focuses on the intersection of Virtual Exchange, Global Education, and English Language Teaching.



Franziska Brinkmann (University of Göttingen; International Exchange Coordinator/ VE Lecturer)

Franziska Brinkmann, who holds an Erasmus Mundus master's degree in cultural studies from the Universities of Göttingen and Kraków, has been working as an international coordinator at the University of Göttingen since 2015. She is currently teaching Virtual Exchange courses for future teachers and coordinating the BEST Exchange program.



Sandra Järv (University of Tartu; Junior Lecturer of Teacher Education)

Sandra Järv has a master's degree in Educational Innovation from University of Tartu and has worked in the university for two years, working on the topic of multicultural education and training teachers on the topic of Culturally Responsive Teaching. Besides that, she has been a multidisciplinary teacher for over three years, having just had her first group of students "fly out of the nest".



Barbara Ritter (XLAB; Lecturer for Chemistry and Neurobiology)

Barbara Ritter holds a PhD in Neurophysiology. In addition to her work for the XLAB since 2002, she taught Chemistry for grades 9-12 at the Free Waldorf School in Göttingen (2003-12). At the XLAB, she develops experimental courses in Chemistry, Biology, and Neurobiology for high and middle school pupils.



Birgit Drabent (XLAB; Lecturer for Chemistry)

Birgit Drabent has a PhD in Biochemistry. At the XLAB, she holds experimental courses in Chemistry, Biology, and Physics. In Chemistry, she developed courses for both upper and middle school pupils. As a tutor, she looks after pupils at the International Science Camp held at the XLAB.



Jasper Ole Cirkel (University of Göttingen; Teaching Physics)

Jasper Ole Cirkel is a PhD student in the field of Physics Education at the University of Göttingen. His interest lies in interdisciplinary, integrated teaching of the natural sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics) in high schools on which he has published several journal articles in Germany.



Caio Flores-Coelho (Instituto Superior de Educação Ivoti; Lecturer)

Caio Flores-Coelho who holds a Social Anthropology master's degree from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, is currently a PhD candidate in History at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul. He has been working as a lecturer at Instituto Ivoti since 2018, helping prepare future teachers of History, Geography and English Studies, especially in the field of Environmental Humanities.



Ângela Musskopf (Instituto Ivoti; Head of the English Department / Lecturer)

Ângela Musskopf who holds master's degree in Languages from Feevale University, worked as teacher in Elementary and High School for more than 25 years and now has been working as a lecturer in Instituto Ivoti since 2015. She is currently teaching educational technology courses for future teachers and coordinating the Language Centre. She has been involved in the BEST Exchange Network for lecturers since the beginning and is currently teaching a Virtual Exchange project with her colleague Fabian Krengel from Göttingen.



Meike Sudbrack (Instituto Ivoti; Portuguese/English Teacher)

Meike Elke Jacobsen Sudbrack who holds an undergraduate degree in Portuguese/ English Language from UNISINOS university, in São Leopoldo, Brazil, and a postgraduate degree in Neuroscience from Instituto Ivoti, has been working as an English teacher at Instituto Ivoti since 2004. She is currently teaching English in the basic education and the Language course in Instituto Ivoti and is one of the teachers hosting online interns from Göttingen in their courses.



Laura Kirss (University of Tartu; Research Fellow in Educational Sciences)

Laura Kirss holds a Master of Arts degree in Public Administration from the University of Tartu (UT). Prior to joining UT, she was employed at the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research as well as worked for an Estonian think tank Praxis Centre for Policy Studies. Laura's research is focused on multilingual and -cultural education; she teaches methodology courses to students.



Joseph Grannum (University of Tartu; Educational of Technology)

Joseph Grannum holds an MD in Medicine (Ukraine) and a Certificate in Medical Education (AMEE). He has participated in Erasmus Plus with the Tartu Health Care College: He is a Dora Plus Ph.D. scholar at the Institute of Education, University of Tartu, Estonia where he focuses on the impact of 3D dynamic visualizations on spatial thinking and Anatomy Education. He is a Peer Tutor for the MA in Educational Technology.



Ailim Schwambach (Instituto Ivoti; Biology Teacher)

Ailim Schwambach is a Biology teacher at the Instituto Ivoti in Brazil with a focus on Education for Sustainable Development and Women in the Natural Sciences. She has been participating in several international congresses and lectures on those topics.



Eric Roldan Roa (University of Tartu; Educational Technology)

Eric Roldan Roa is a PhD student at the University of Tartu researching in the field of Educational Technology. He was involved in the Project MusicMath which won an award from the European Association for Practitioner Research on Improving Learning. Currently, his research focuses on the relationship of teachers and technology.

FAQ

WHY SHOULD I PARTICIPATE?

During the summer school, future teachers will have the chance to talk to experts from the field of virtual exchange from various disciplines and learn how they can integrate virtual exchange into their teaching. They will do so in a fun and interactive environment together with students from four other countries and many different subjects.

Further, students from the University of Göttingen will be awarded **4 ECTS** (B.Erz.920, Key Competences/ Lehramt PluS) for their participation and submission of a reflective portfolio, while students from the partner universities will receive a **certificate**. Students who study to become English teachers at the University of Göttingen can further have their participation recognized as part of their **"Ersatzleistung"** for their mandatory stay abroad if they are eligible for this.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Students of all subjects from the field of teacher's education (Bachelor and Master level) from all five BEST universities (Göttingen, Gent, Ivoti, Uppsala and Tartu), who are fluent in reading and speaking English and interested in using virtual exchange for their teaching, can participate. Students from the natural sciences and humanities are especially encouraged to register, since there will be special talks for them. There is **no participation or registration fee**. Participants can join the summer school via their computer from the comfort of their home but should make sure to have a good internet connection as well as a camera and microphone.

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

Students sign up via our website. Please only sign up if you are available and seriously interested in participating. If there are more applications than spaces available, we will have to select participants.

<https://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/registration+best+exchange+summer+school/645998.html>



FAQ

WHEN DOES THE PROGRAM START?

On **August 7th**, the program starts **asynchronously** via an online platform where the students will get to know each other, are introduced to the readings for the summer school and prepare short presentations for the Culture Evening on August 16th. This will happen asynchronously, so students can schedule it according to their own availabilities. The first completely **synchronous** meeting will take place on **August 16th**.

WHO ARE THE GUEST SPEAKERS?

We invited several experts from different countries (Germany, Spain, Belgium, Sweden, ...) and subjects (Natural & Life Sciences, Languages, Humanities, ...) as guest speakers to present the variety of possibilities in virtual exchange. A list with more information can be found in this brochure.

DO I NEED TO PAY FOR ANYTHING?

No, there are no fees for the Summer School. Everything is covered by the DAAD and the BMBF. But you do need to take care to have all equipment which is needed to participate as this will not be provided.

WHO ARE THE FACILITATORS?

To support the students learning during the summer school there are several members of teaching staff from the BEST partner universities who act as guides and mentors. A list of them can be found in this brochure.



FAQ

WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF GÖTTINGEN?

The University of Göttingen is an internationally renowned research university. Founded in 1737 in the Age of Enlightenment, the University is committed to the values of social responsibility of science, democracy, tolerance, and justice. It offers a comprehensive range of subjects across thirteen faculties: in the natural sciences, humanities, social sciences, and medicine. With over 30,000 students and offering 212 programs, the University is one of the largest in Germany.

WHAT IS THE ZEWIL?

The Central Institute for Teacher Education and Research (ZEWIL) at the University of Göttingen offers a study program for future teachers in secondary education (Gymnasium). Students pick two out of our 20 different subjects: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Computer Science, Geography, German, English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Latin, Greek, Philosophy, Ethics, History, Politics, Religion and Physical Education. Our study program starts with mostly subject-related studies in the first years and students will graduate from this with a bachelor's degree. Afterwards, students enter a consecutive master's program. Here, they concentrate more on didactics and educational science as they work towards their Master of Education degree.

Most courses in teacher education are taught in German. A few selected courses, among them our annual BEST Exchange Summer School, are taught in English.



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[e-Portfolio](#), eTwinning, a Teacher Network in Europe”, [International Handbook of Teacher Quality and Policy](#), Eds M. Akiba and G.K. LeTendre, Section II, Chapter 11

Bart Verswijvel

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Heidi Giese

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Further readings on the person: [Publications](#).

Robert O'Dowd

[Publications](#)

Sara Bruun

Further readings on the person: [website and publications](#).

Semih Ekin

[Motivational orientations of secondary school EFL learners toward language learning; A Comparative study of career motivations and perceptions of student teachers](#)

Image Sources

Matthias Falck (page 3), Martín Espinosa-Molina (page 7)

<https://unsplash.com/s/photos/video-conference>

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