

FORTHEM Collective Short-Term Mobility

Beyond Clichés – Students in intercultural exchange

Organising university: Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz (JGU)

Location of the event: Mainz

Organisers: The course is coordinated by Barbara Müller, manager of international studies (LOB project) of the Faculty 02: Social Sciences, Media and Sports. Ellen Rana, a professional intercultural communication trainer who has already inspired many JGU students, holds the intercultural training. The centre for audio-visual production (ZAP) supports the teamwork activities. The course is part of the Gutenberg International School programme of JGU.

Project description: This course invites active intercultural exchange among international and regular students of all FORTHEM partner universities. On the one hand, participants attend an intense training in intercultural communication. They reflect their cultural backgrounds and learn how it shapes their appearance and perception in international contexts. On the other hand, participants gather international teamwork experience. In small groups, they blog about their place of study and produce animated videos receiving professional support by the JGU centre for audio-visual production. At the end, participants have not only learned to engage professionally and confidently in intercultural communication but also expanded their international network.

Day by day programme:

This blended learning course lasts eight weeks (23/10-18/12/2020) and consists of a one-week comprehensive intercultural communication training at JGU Mainz (25/11-29/11/2020, detailed programme displayed in the table below) and two different types of international teamwork activities (23/10-25/11 and 25/11-18/12/2020) guided in a virtual classroom.

Day	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Wednesday (25/11/20)	Introduction and completion of group activity 1 (presentation of results)	Group activity 2: Formation of new groups, story collection	Campus tour and “Welcome to Mainz” Reception
Thursday (26/11/20)	Training: What is Culture? Elements of Culture	Training: Perception: Individual & Group Cultures	Evening off
Friday (27/11/20)	Training: Direct/indirect Communication Styles	Training: Critical reflexion of intercultural experience	Visit of Christmas market (Mainz)
Saturday (28/11/20)	Group activity 2: Creation of animated videos at ZAP	Group activity 2: Creation of animated videos at ZAP	Party Beyond Clichés
Sunday (29/11/20)	Summary, conclusion and farewell		

Eligibility criteria and selection criteria specific to this project: The course is open to students of all disciplines and experience levels. Applicants are invited to write a short motivation letter where they explain why they would like to participate in the course (max. of 150 words). The selection procedure will be based on this statement. One to two places should be reserved for exchange students of each partner university and will only be assigned at the beginning of the winter term 2020/21.