

STUDY GUIDE | INTERCULTURAL RELATIONS AND INTERCOMPREHENSION IN MOBILITY AND IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS
COURSE INFORMATION

Course Format	Blended Intensive Programme (BIP)
Course Title	Intercultural Relations and Intercomprehension in Mobility and in Higher Education Institutions
Admission Profile	Administrative University Staff
Prerequisites and co-requisites	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To apply for this programme, applicants must be enrolled as regular students at the participating institutions; 2. Participation in the programme is open to students from any field of study related to BIP-related content; 3. Students must demonstrate English language proficiency, at B2 level, as defined by the Common European Framework of Reference
Hosting Institution	Instituto Politécnico de Viseu Polytechnic University of Viseu, Portugal
Participant Institutions	<p>Organiser Institution: Polytechnic University of Viseu, Portugal</p> <p>Co-organiser: Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg Université de Mons</p> <p>Partner Institutions: all EUNICE Consortium universities, with the result that all those taking part will be partners.</p>
Total number of participants per institution	Three participants slots are reserved for each EUNICE university. Each university may submit a selection list of up to 5 applicants to the IPV International Relations Office, with priority given to the top three candidates from each institution. Following this, participants will be chosen based on a waiting list principle. The respective EUNICE university is responsible for the internal selection process.
Total number of participants	30 participants
Language of the Programme	English

On-site component	In person, the concepts of intercomprehension and interculturality will be consolidated, which will materialise in the development of competences with regard to the perspectives of plurilingual learning and intercultural dialogue.
Virtual component	<p>The online component aims to familiarise participants with the BIP theme, familiarise them with the other participants and, above all, increase their motivation to take part. These objectives will be achieved, in a first phase, through a plurilingual approach and a didactic praxis for developing linguistic awareness, focusing on valuing all languages, based on intercomprehension exercises that will allow for the concrete realisation of a plurilingual and pluri-cultural context. In a second phase, the aim will be to make participants aware of the BIP theme (Interculturality) with the aim of stimulating not only interaction but also understanding of the theme.</p> <p>The online component will therefore focus on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Intercomprehension (exercises to emphasise the importance of aspects of culture and mother tongue in the context of mobility, above all as a motivating factor for employees involved in the BIP to feel comfortable with the possibility of making an exchange) 2. Intercultural relations (cultural awareness exercises through the visualisation of written/video documents and the collection of comments using Moodle tools).
Schedule	<p>On-site component – 3 to 7 February 2025</p> <p>Virtual component – between December 2024 and February 2025</p>
Link to Course Guide	
Course application	<p>Each IRO establishes their own internal call</p> <p>IROs send IPV's IRO the nominations from their own institution</p>

Introduction

The Polytechnic Institute of Viseu (IPV), together with Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg (BTU), and Mons University are organising a Blended Intensive Programme, with physical mobility in February 2025, as part of the activities of the European University EUNICE and the short-term mobilities of the Erasmus+ Programme 2021-2027. This programme, developed jointly by these higher education institutions, features innovative, challenge-based teaching approaches in a multicultural environment, combining short-term face-to-face mobility with virtual and collaborative learning, taking place in December and January 2025.

Course Content and Teaching Methods

1. Presentation

- Participants introduce themselves
- Discussion of participants' impressions of the intercomprehension and interculturality activities (both developed during the online component)
- Summary of the participants' impressions which will act as a teaser for the activities that follow

2. The importance of intercomprehension as a facilitator of interaction before and during the exchange

- Intercomprehension practices in intercultural dialogue
- Individual and group activities
- Critical analysis of materials

3. Interculturality in everyday life and in organisations

- Integration of concepts: curiosity, relationships with others, empathy, tolerance of ambiguity, communication
- Individual and group activities
- Critical analysis of materials

4. Job Shadowing

Use the assumptions of intercomprehension and interculturality: participants can use their familiarity with administrative programmes/procedures to explain to their colleagues how they carry out their routine, as well as using the tools they have mobilised during the course to interact with the colleagues with whom they will be job-shadowing.

Learning Resources and Tools

Written documents

Videos

Texts

Audio files

Moodle LMS (with its intrinsic tools)

Learning Outcomes

- Developing an experiential understanding of cultural diversity
- Developing and enhancing intercomprehension abilities to facilitate intercultural communication
- Understanding the role the native language and cultural values for mobility
- Understanding the other as an individual with his own values (linguistic and cultural)

Objectives

The aim of this BIP is to:

- Make participants aware of intercultural relations and intercomprehension with a view to promoting successful mobilities.
- Raise participants' awareness of how to welcome different cultures into the organisation, particularly students and staff undertaking mobility
- Provide the opportunity to meet/share best practices with colleagues from related areas, thus promoting a culture of continuous learning, exchange of professional knowledge and enrichment of their intercultural skills.
- Give staff members from EUNICE partner institutions the opportunity to take part in mixed mobility (online and face-to-face).
- Meet new people and strengthen personal and professional relationship

Assessment Methods and Criteria

N/A

Bibliography and Teaching Materials

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Contact Details

Responsible Lecturer	Isabel Oliveira Anabela Guedes Isabel Duarte
E-mail	ioliveira@estgl.ipv.pt aguedes@estgl.ipv.pt isabelduarte@estgl.ipv.pt
Other Lecturers	Christin Handrek - christin.handrek@b-tu.de Bénédicte Bouchet (UMONS) - Benedicte.BOUCHET@umons.ac.be Julie Walaszczyk (UMONS) - Julie.WALASZCZYK@umons.ac.be
Hosting Institution IRO	Ms. Rita Lopes internationaloffice@sc.ipv.pt

Other relevant information

Meal or accommodation expenses are the responsibility of the student. However, IPV offers some logistical options once the admission process has been completed.