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Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service



„What better way to learn about other cultures than with people from different cultures?“

(original student comment in the evaluation of a virtual seminar in 2024)

You are invited to participate in our Blended Intensive Programme (BIP)

Discovering Diverse Perspectives - Dealing with Differences: Intercultural and Interreligious Learning through Research-based Exploration

June 21-25, 2027 / Justus Liebig University Giessen (Germany)

This Blended Intensive Programme brings together students from diverse cultural, national, and religious backgrounds to explore how perspectives on everyday life are shaped by social, cultural, and religious contexts. The frame is given by the [IMPACCT project](#) (International Mobility with Partners Abroad for Culturally Competent Teachers). The BIP is grounded in the assumption that what we notice, how we interpret situations, and what we consider meaningful is not universal, but deeply influenced by our lived experiences, cultural and religious backgrounds, and positionalities.

Participants are introduced to basic principles and methods of ethnographic research, with a particular focus on structured observation and fieldnote writing. Working in small, internationally and religiously mixed groups, students conduct guided ethnographic field studies in everyday settings. They observe everyday social situations (e.g. at a market, in a restaurant, in a mosque/church, in a museum...), document what they find noteworthy, and reflect on why certain aspects catch their attention while others remain unnoticed.

A central component of the program is the comparative reflection within the groups. By sharing and discussing their notes, students become aware of differences in perception, observation, and interpretation. They experience firsthand how the same situation can be understood in multiple, sometimes contrasting ways, depending on cultural, religious, and personal backgrounds. Based on their collaborative analysis, each group develops a short presentation of their findings. The presentation format is intentionally open and may include creative and experimental approaches (e.g., visual storytelling, short videos, performative elements, or digital formats). The program encourages critical self-reflection, openness to ambiguity, and respectful dialogue across differences, while fostering research-based learning in an international and interdisciplinary environment.

Feel free to ask any questions, please contact:

impacct@uni-giessen.de

Please fill in this form until October 23 after your home university confirms your nomination:

https://eveeno.com/impacct_bip

Schedule

**Virtual
component 1:** tbd

**In-person week
in Giessen:**

June 21-25, 2027

**Virtual
component 2:** tbd

**Required
language:** English
B2

Assessment: E-
Portfolio (3 ECTS)

Target group:
Bachelor, Master &
Teacher Training,
PhD