



Intercultural Dialogue in a Fragmenting World

An Erasmus+ Study Programme at Apor Vilmos Catholic College

The aim of the programme is to encourage students' engagement in intercultural dialogue, to promote cultural awareness through sharing cultural values, professional knowledge and experience while developing critical thinking, communication, creativity, and collaboration.

Mandatory Modules

Developing Intercultural Competences ERASMUS005 (4 ECTS)

This course aims at facilitating effective international communication, which enables students to cooperate with people from other countries or different cultures. In our multicultural Europe, intercultural dialogue, cross-cultural empathy and behavioural flexibility are of cardinal importance. During this course, we will

- talk about the importance of symbols and values,
- talk about the different layers of our identities,
- explore the components of intercultural competence,
- understand the differences in our communication styles,
- learn about the various aspects of culture, and
- work on our emotional intelligence.

In the classroom, we will use pairwork, group discussion, games, drama activities, and short lectures. Besides, we will put our classwork into practice through interdisciplinary project work.

Social Integration ERASMUS021 (3 ECTS)

The purpose of the course is to make students familiar with the inequalities in societies worldwide; possible solutions that social politics, social work and social institutions offer through the educational and social services. Students will also get acquainted with the obstacles of social integration of the Roma minority in Hungary and in Europe. The theories of social integration will be accompanied by practical fieldwork in the form of interdisciplinary projects with fellow teachers.

The following areas will be covered:

- special integration problems of disadvantaged communities in Europe
- Christian Roma missions (e.g. charity foundations maintained by the Order of Malta and the Catholic Church)

- introduction to special pedagogical programmes for school children with disadvantaged background

Storytelling and Drama ERASMUSo22 (3 ECTS)

During the course students will get familiar with some of the most popular Hungarian folk and literary tales and will be encouraged to share stories from their own cultures and personal lives. They will get acquainted with several storytelling techniques and will learn about different ways of applying visual prompts and accompanying actions to make the stories more memorable. They are supposed to acquire how to use body language when telling a story. Students will also learn about the three key skills to story-making: imitation, innovation and invention.

The following topics will be covered:

- folk tale traditions of different cultures
- storytelling techniques
- story-making
- using different visual reminders supporting storytelling
- using kinaesthetic reminders to make a story more memorable
- dramatizing stories
- using picture books in the classroom
- difference between picture books and Kamishibai

Contemporary Psychology ERASMUSo20 (3 ECTS)

This course aims to highlight some current trends in psychological research, discussions and debates. Contemporary psychological trends are important for all pedagogy students. During the course we make students familiar with the basic scientific language of psychology, we read articles, fill in inventories, and discuss, share our thoughts on recent research findings. Besides, there is a special emphasis on students' self-awareness and wellbeing.

The course will focus on:

- Research concerning ADHD
- New understanding of Autism (ASD)
- Coping and resilience
- The effects of the Internet and the media on children
- Family psychology
- Psychology of religion
- The new generations

Hungarian Culture ERASMUSo32 (3 ECTS)

The course aims at giving a comprehensive picture of Hungarian culture. Students can explore the different aspects of Hungarian life in a colourful, creative, experience-based way, through individual projects and arts and crafts activities.

The following topics will be covered:

- Hungary, past and present
- World heritage sites
- National symbols
- Hungarikums
- Traditions, customs, cuisine
- The Hungarian language and the way of thinking
- Rhymes, proverbs, songs
- Literature
- Films
- Art
- Music

School Visits ERASMUSo29 (3 ECTS)

The aim of this course is to make international students familiar with different Hungarian educational institutions: average district schools, bilingual and international pre/primary schools will be visited. Students will observe lessons, reflect on their observations, and discuss their experiences as well as compare them to their own educational systems.

Blended Intensive Programme ERASMUSo30 (3 ECTS)

This short-term thematic programme consists of a five-day workshop with physical presence in Vác preceded by two online days of virtual learning. The programme is open to other international students as well, so this is a great opportunity for Erasmus students to put their intercultural competences into practice. Beside the workshops and lectures, thematic trips in Vác, Budapest, and the neighbouring area are also included.

Optional Courses

English Language Courses at Different Levels ERASMUSo28 (5 ECTS)

The aim of each course is to consolidate students' knowledge of English through the parallel development of the four basic skills (speaking, listening, reading and writing). By practising everyday topics and situations students can expand their vocabulary substantially and gain self-confidence in using the language in a multicultural setting.

Assessment: oral presentations, written assignments, participation in projects.

Devising Theatre for Community and Learning ERASMUSo39 (4 ECTS)

This course introduces students to the theory and practice of devised theatre as a tool for community-building and learning in school contexts. Across the semester, participants explore how stories, images and issues from children's everyday lives and from the local Hungarian and international context can be transformed into collaborative theatre that supports social, emotional and cognitive learning.

The course connects ideas from applied theatre, Theatre in Education (TiE) and drama in education with practical devising methods. Through practical workshops, project planning tasks and critical reflection, students learn to:

- use games, improvisation, image theatre and storytelling as starting points for devising;
- involve children and young people as active co-creators of performance;
- design inclusive, intercultural drama activities for diverse school communities;
- reflect ethically on power, voice, representation and safeguarding in school and community settings.

The course culminates in planning a small-scale devised project for a hypothetical (or, where possible, real) school or community-based theatre project for children.

By the end of the course, students will have a toolkit of devising strategies, planning templates and reflective questions to support them as future teachers who wish to use theatre and drama to connect schools with their wider communities.

The Montessori Method ERASMUSo36 (4 ECTS)

During the course the students will learn about the Montessori method. They will understand the basis of the approach, the pedagogical and psychological aspects of the method. They will get to know the special and unique characteristics of the philosophy. The students will learn about Dr. Maria Montessori's life and her professional work that lead to the development of her pedagogical views.

During the course the students will be introduced to the fundamental Montessori materials. They will gather practical knowledge of the teaching materials, and will acquire the theory behind them.

Practical Information

Accommodation:

In 2- or 3-bedded dormitory bedrooms: ca. 130 EUR/ month

Expenses:

No tuition fee

Cost of living is ca. 400-500 EUR / month (incl. accommodation, food, travel, insurance etc.)

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