

Euroculture Erasmus Mundus Partnership: Europe in the Wider World

2006-0045 / Duration: 2 years

Summary description:

The Euroculture partnership programme intends to investigate and compare European concepts of identity and identities (its current condition, values and citizenship) with concepts held by three non-European countries and regions. Taking a distanced perspective regarding European policies and issues will stimulate and enrich critical awareness and thinking. It is also an excellent way to see how Europe in general and the European Union in particular are perceived by others: as an entity in itself or still as the sum of national identities and nations. The main objectives of the partnership programme are: (1) To develop a framework of cooperation between the Euroculture EM consortium of universities and a selected number of third country universities and programmes for outgoing mobility of EU students and scholars as an integrated part of the EM master's degree programme; (2) To develop a better understanding among Euroculture EU students of how Europe and the entity of the European Union is perceived in selected regions of the world; (3) To obtain insight and knowledge how the relations between a third country/region and Europe are taught and studied at the selected third country institutions; (4) To raise awareness of third country students and scholars of the selected partners about how Europe perceives other parts of the world through the participation of EU students and academic staff in study programmes/course units of third country institutions; (5) To discuss present European issues, such as the multicultural society, European identity (cultural, religious and social differences), the European welfare state and to compare these with key issues debated in the selected third countries. This will allow for transnational cross-over comparisons of the concepts and their understanding in different regions in the world; (6) To strengthen the research track of the Euroculture programme and to give more and better input to key learning outcomes of the degree programme.

The role of the third country partnership universities is to expand the knowledge and insight of students regarding the following topics: (1) Cultural expressions in their national and regional context, which implies topics such as culture, society, history, lifestyle, language, literature, art and their connection/relevance to those of other countries in the region (South-Eastern and East Asia for Japan, South Asia for India, Latin America for Mexico and North America for the United States); (2) the image and understanding of Europe (in the world) as produced in Japan, India, Mexico or the United States in the spheres of Humanities and Arts; (3) Theoretical and methodological approaches and concepts to obtain a better understanding of the reality of the region. This will also allow for transnational, crossborder comparisons.

The partnership programme has a duration of two academic years: 2008-2010. Members of the programme are the University of Osaka (Japan), the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (Mexico), the University of Pune (India) and Indiana University (USA). The European members are: Universities of Deusto/San Sebastian, Bilbao (Spain), Göttingen (Germany), Groningen (The Netherlands), Krakow (Poland), Olomouc (Czech Republic) and Uppsala (Sweden).

The partnership will allow 20 students per academic year to study for a 3 month period in either Osaka, Pune, Mexico or the United States. This study period, which carries a credit load of 15 ECTS, is an integral part of the research track of the MA programme Euroculture. Furthermore, 6 academics (one per European partner institution) per academic year will each participate actively in the educational programmes of the third country institutions for a two months period each. Outgoing students and scholars will be selected and distributed equally among the partners on the basis of their academic record, motivation, interest, language skills, research experience, professional experience and their career projection.

The language of instruction will be English as is the case with the regular Euroculture programme. In addition, Spanish might also be used for teaching and research at UNAM, Mexico.

The study abroad period will be included in the Diploma Supplement of the student. Furthermore, students will obtain a certificate signed by the third-country university involved, as well as the coordinator of the Erasmus Mundus MA programme Euroculture, in which credit is given for this period.

European Partners:

- (1) University of Groningen (NL)
- (2) University Palacheho V Olomouci (CZ)
- (3) Georg-August-University of Göttingen (DE)
- (4) University of Deusto-San Sebastian (ES)

- (5) Jagiellonski University In Krakow (PL)
- (6) University of Uppsala (SE)

Third-Countries Partner Institutions:

- (1) Osaka University (Japan)
- (2) National Autonomus University of Mexico (Mexico)
- (3) University of Pune (India)
- (4) Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (USA)

Contact:

Mr Robert WAGENAAR
www.rug.nl/let/onderwijs/internationalestudies
Rijksuniversiteit Groningen
Oude Kijk in 't Jatstraat 26
NL-9712 EK Groningen

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