Exploring intercultural Pe(e)rpectives

Especially in culturally diverse learning or more informal social settings, tutors take a very special role as hierarchically equal peers and potentially more approachable contact persons for local and international students and ultimately as facilitators of intercultural dialogue in higher education. When thinking about characteristics, skills or qualifications that such tutors should possess, the first thing that comes to mind is probably “intercultural competence”.

“Intercultural competence”, however, is a large and at times somewhat vague concept. In the framework of this course, we want to look more closely at what it can mean for you to act interculturally sensitive within your role as a tutor. Reflection and dialogue will be the guiding principles of our joint work. This will enable workshop participants to reflect on their own (inter-)cultural assumptions, beliefs and practices when engaging with their fellow students. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss the variety of roles that tutors can assume in different contexts such as tutorials or workshops, face-to-face or group mentoring, or activities in more informal buddy-programmes, student-run initiatives, etc. in a transnational setting.

Seeing difference and conflicting ideas as learning opportunities rather than as something negative that should be avoided is another core principle of this workshop. The aim is to create a safe space for participating tutors from the universities of Padova, Caen and Wuerzburg, in which challenging or otherwise memorable experiences can be shared and negotiated & strategies can be developed collaboratively.

Duration and workload

The TEP (transnational exchange project) will take Place from 19 November to 3 December 2020. There will be weekly synchronous online facilitated dialogue sessions (19 & 26 Nov; 3 Dec) from 5 to 6.30 pm (CET). Participants should expect to invest about 90 Minutes per week for the asynchronous activities on Moodle.

Who can take part in this TEP?

Students, who are engaged in peer-teaching or mentoring activities at the universities of Padova, Caen or Wuerzburg.
Recognition

Participants who have completed the workshop will receive a digital badge via Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange.

For (writing) tutors at the University of Wuerzburg, this TEP is an advanced training course (Aufbauschulung) within the qualification framework of KOMPASS and the Writing Center.