

Asia – Europe X-Cultural Summer Academy

www.summeracademy-malaysia.org

Exploring solutions for intercultural challenges

Against the background of intercultural theory being preferentially oriented towards western countries and with its roots based predominantly in the USA and Europe, this Summer Academy targeted at young adults approaches the topic from a European-Asian perspective.

OBJECTIVES

This innovative two week Summer Academy is intended to be a platform for scientists, students and practitioners to engage in questions like the following:

- What are relevant topics in the area of intercultural communication, what has been done so far concerning the process of globalization, in what ways has communication changed?
- How do executives, the business world and society react to intercultural challenges in a world getting more complex?
- How are cultures built? What are their origins? How do people of different cultures view the world? How can we solve problems caused when different cultures come together?

These questions will be contemplated from a European-Asian perspective. A particularly interesting aspect is that the Summer Academy takes place in a country where integration of different ethnic groups in a multicultural society is the main focus of intercultural research.

If the implementation is successful in 2012, the Summer Academy will take place annually in the following years.



TARGET GROUP

The main target group are students and young professionals (age 18 to 35 years) from Asia and Europe with verifiable intercultural interest and prior international experience and exposure. Expected enrolment is 40 to 60 participants (app. 2/3 from Asia and 1/3 from Europe); the working language is English.

CONTENT

The offered courses contain two tracks: Track 1 for beginners (Intercultural Communication), and Track 2 for advanced learners (Culture and Society). All courses contain a theoretical part as well as practical sessions. The draft agenda looks as follows:

	<u>Week 1</u>	<u>Week 2</u>
Track 1 (beginner) Intercultural Communication	Intercultural Communication The class will be an introduction to Asian and European approaches. It aims at raising awareness of intercultural matters, and at building up knowledge and understanding about key concepts in culture.	Intercultural Conflict Resolution The class will address conflict resolution strategies in Asian and European contexts. The major topic will be the general theory on the mediation approach in conflict resolution and working with case studies of community mediation.
Track 2 (advanced) Culture and Society	Ethnic Studies The course will follow a case study approach and focus both on European and Asian issues and will be based on the curricular of the Institute of Ethnic Studies (KITA) of the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia	Human Rights and Asian Societies The aim of the class is to reflect critically on the human rights thoughts and practices in Asian countries in the context of socio-economic, political, religious and historical background of Asia with a special emphasis on Malaysia.

The participants will have many opportunities to process their experiences and to get to know Malaysian culture better through evening talks by prestigious lecturers; opportunities to spend free time with members of the international and multi-cultural participant group; and the possibility to explore Malaysian culture in other ways. An essential part of the supporting program in Malaysia is the home stay planned by the Summer Academy. Via a 7-10-day stay in the home of a Malaysian host family prior to the Course Program, each participant will have the opportunity to have immediate intercultural experiences.

Each track will be conducted by lecturers both from Asia and one from Europe. Academic teaching staff will be supported by AFS trainers for practical parts and exercises.

COURSE DURATION/DATE

August 27 to September 9, 2012

LOCATION

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia in Bangi/Malaysia; accommodation of participants on campus.

INVOLVED PROJECT PARTNERS

Institute of Ethnic Studies (KITA) of the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

Karlshochschule International University

AFS Interkulturelle Begegnungen e.V.

AFS Malaysia (Yayasan Antarabudaya Malaysia)

TUITION FEE / SCHOLARSHIPS

Participants will pay a tuition fee of 1.500 €

The tuition fee covers

- 2-week participation in the event
- Room and board
- All course material
- Additional evening lectures
- Social activities
- Insurance.

Not included are participants' visa and travel costs.

The project partners will offer partial and full scholarships to qualified candidates.

MORE INFORMATION

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