

CALL FOR EUROPEAN PARTNERS

BLENDING INTENSIVE PROGRAMME (BIP/ ERASMUS+):

Exploring Intercultural Competence: Language Diversity and Cultural Exchange

This Blended Intensive Program, organized by the Department of Romance Languages at the University of Mannheim, offers an immersive academic experience that combines linguistic diversity, cultural exploration, and intercultural learning in one of Germany's most dynamic multicultural cities. By bringing together formal study and field-based engagement in Mannheim, the program creates a unique opportunity to explore language, migration, and identity in a real-world context. The course is aimed at students of Italian Studies or Italian-speaking students (at least B2 level) who are interested in topics related to intercultural competence.

Program Content

The curriculum is built around the development of intercultural competences in multilingual and culturally diverse contexts. Through cultural exchange, direct interaction, and ethnographic observation, students will deepen their understanding of how identities, communication styles, and social practices are shaped by migration and cultural contact. Particular attention will be given to the Italian community in Mannheim as an example of cultural integration and exchange.

The course aims to strengthen students' ability to navigate intercultural environments critically and sensitively – an essential skill in today's globalized academic and professional world. By connecting theoretical perspectives with real-life experiences, the project bridges the gap between academic learning and the practical application of intercultural communication.

Target Group

This program is specifically designed for students who seek to deepen their cultural literacy through immersive field experience. It offers a unique academic opportunity for participants to strengthen an intercultural understanding in a real-world setting. Language of BIP: Mainly Italian. Participants should study Italian Studies or have at least a level of B2 in Italian.

Why Mannheim

Mannheim provides an ideal setting for this Blended Intensive Program due to its vibrant transcultural environment and its historical significance as a city shaped by migration. The city offers participants a living laboratory in which linguistic diversity, cultural exchange, and social integration can be studied firsthand. By situating the program in Mannheim, the project bridges the gap between formal language acquisition and the dynamic realities of intercultural communication.

Summary/ Key facts

Date	23.-27. November 2026
Duration:	1 online session beforehand, 5 in-person days in Mannheim
Coordinating University	University of Mannheim, School of Humanities / Department of Romance Languages / Italian Studies
Partner Universities	2 European Universities (tbd)
Course level	Undergraduate & Masters
Course language	Italian (B2-Level required)
Credit Points	3 ECTS
Semester hours (total)	28
Number of Participants	At least 5 from each Partner (necessary minimum: 10 mobile students from European Partners)
Contact Persons	Mariateresa Cecalupo (Department of Romance Languages/ Italian Studies), Eva Breitbach (Coordinator Virtual Mobility) virtualmobility.phil@uni-mannheim.de

We are currently seeking European partner universities interested in collaborating on this Blended Intensive Program (BIP). In particular, we welcome partners who would be interested in coordinating a follow-up BIP in the subsequent semester, thereby building on this initiative and fostering a sustainable long-term partnership.

If you are interested in joining the project, please let us know by July 15th, 2026

More information on Blended Intensive Programs can be found [here](#).

** Program coordination and organizational costs will be covered through Erasmus+ funding, while participants' travel and accommodation must be financed by the partner institutions through their Erasmus+ mobility funds.*