

MEETING INTERCULTURAL BRUSSELS

9TH • 16TH MARCH 2026

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES

IHECS

Journalism & Communication

Home to around **180 nationalities**, the city continuously reinvents itself in response to its growing diversity.

It develops initiatives that bring people from different backgrounds together, foster common ground, and bridge cultural divides—making it an ideal case study for our **BIP!**



IHECS Blended Intensive Programme

Through direct contact with researchers, representatives of cultural institutions, and field actors, you will gain valuable insight into the current challenges of interculturalism in Brussels and the actions being taken to address them.

You will also take part in practical workshops led by artists from diverse disciplines, discovering creative ways to bring people closer together.

In addition, you will become an active agent of change by transforming your intercultural experience into a concrete project.

This BIP is an initiative of the IHECS International and Language Departments

TARGET STUDENTS

- Students in Communication or Social Sciences from European partner institutions (20 participants)
- IHECS MaCCS (Master in Cultural and Social Communication), pre-orientation students

IHECS PROGRAMME COORDINATORS

Inès Frère & Anne Toussaint

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

- Windesheim University of Applied Sciences.
- Anglo-American University of Prague.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION, ON-SITE WEEK, BRUSSELS 9TH • 16TH MARCH 2026

IHECS will cover all activities included in the programme (on working days only). All other expenses — such as accommodation, public transport, food, and drinks — are at the students' own cost but students will receive the *Erasmus+* grant from their home institution. Participants are responsible for booking their own accommodation.

We recommend the following hostels:

- Hotel Bruxelles Meininger City Center (Quai du Hainaut 33, 1080 Brussels, Belgium), <https://www.meiningerhotels.com/nl/hotels/brussel/hotel-brussel-centrum/>
- Auberge de Jeunesse Jacques Brel (Rue de la Sablonnière 33, 1000 Brussels), <https://lesaubergesdejeunesse.be/fr/bruxelles-jacques-brel>

TEACHING UNIT SCHEME

This teaching unit is divided into two parts, with interculturalism at the heart of collaborative projects involving international students.

- **Online component** (two sessions held between February 16 and March 6): These sessions will provide a theoretical foundation on interculturalism and its core concepts, along with key socio-demographic insights into the city of Brussels. This will ensure that all participants share a common understanding of our field of study.
- **On-site component** (Brussels, March 9–16, 2026): This part is dedicated to field visits and workshops. Through direct contact with intercultural actors, students will gain first-hand awareness of the current challenges of interculturalism and the actions that can be taken — by authorities, communities, and individuals — to address them.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

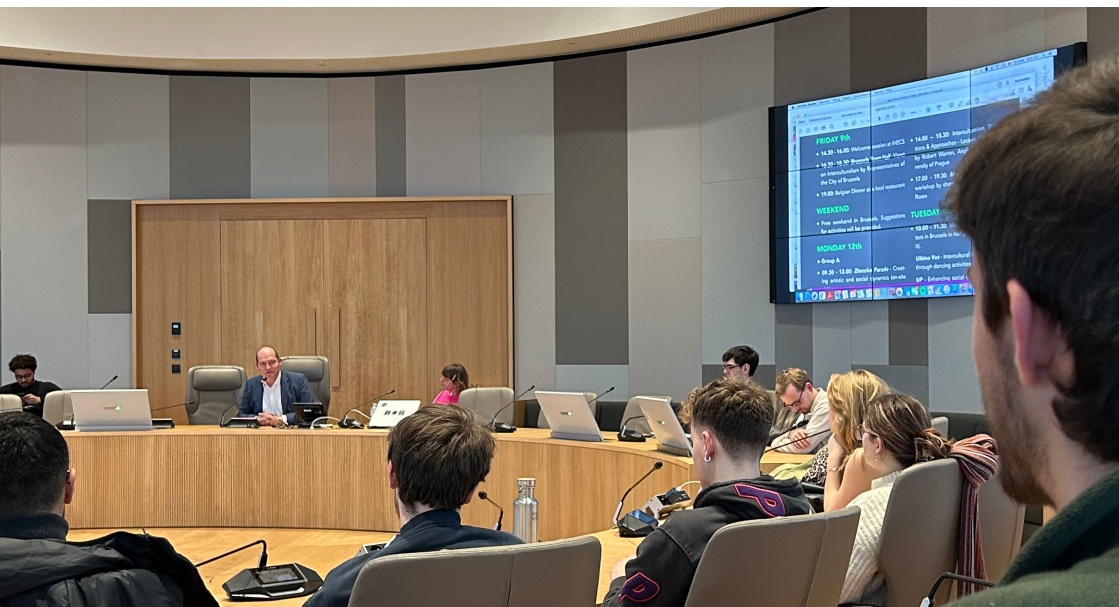
Students will:

- Gain insight into interculturalism and demonstrate openness to listening and engaging in dialogue between cultures;
- Develop critical thinking on the role of different actors — from institutions to grassroots organizations — in developing relevant and effective actions;
- Reflect on how to act as agents of change, capable of mobilizing others and intervening practically on specific issues;
- Apply the knowledge and skills acquired to the creation of a group project.

STATUS

Prerequisite: English B1 (CEFR)

Credits: English 5 ECTS



ON-SITE WEEK, BRUSSELS 9TH · 16TH MARCH 2026

Participants will experience intercultural Brussels through encounters and workshops with local actors and collaborate on a project. Some activities will be carried out with the whole group, while others will take place in smaller groups or in mixed teams of 3–5 international and IHECS students. Depending on the total number of participants, mixed teams of 5–6 students may have the opportunity to choose from a range of activities and encounters with intercultural actors.

MONDAY 9th

- **14.30 - 16.00:** Welcome session
- **16.30 - 18.30:** Brussels Town Hall - Views on Interculturalism by Representatives of the City of Brussels.

TUESDAY 10th

- **09.00 - 10.00:** Project work Experiencing Intercultural Brussels - Instructions and assessment details.
- **10.15 – 12.15:** Introduction to Brussels
- **13.15 – 14.30:** Guest speakers:
Interculturalism, Definitions & Approaches - Lecture & workshop by Robert Warren.

Introduction to Diplomatic Communication Skills - Lecture and workshop by Dinand Warringa.
- **15.00 – 18.00:** Meeting intercultural actors in Brussels (representatives of local authorities, cultural institutions, and grassroots organisations).

WEDNESDAY 11th

- **09.30 – 13.00:** Round Tables with researchers of the academic field and representatives of intercultural organisations/projects.
- **13.30 – 17.00:** Meeting intercultural actors in Brussels (representatives of local authorities, cultural institutions, and grassroots organizations).

THURSDAY 12th

- **09.30 – 12.30:** Meeting intercultural actors in Brussels (citizens, grassroots organizations, representatives of local authorities and cultural institutions).
- **14.00–15.00:** Project work: Experiencing Intercultural Brussels - Instructions and assessment details.

FRIDAY 13th

- **09.30 – 18.00:** Finalization of the project work.

PROGRAMME

WEEKEND

Free weekend in Brussels. Suggestions for activities will be provided. Students will also have the possibility to finalize their project work.

MONDAY 16th

- 09.30 – 12.30 / 13.30 – 15.30:
Presentation of the students' projects
and closing session.



PROGRAMME

ASSESSMENT

Evaluation is based on the project submitted by the students.

The objective of this project is to use the students' experience on the field to foster discussion, give their imagination free rein and come up with a creative project.

The assessment will focus on the students' insight into Interculturalism in Brussels and their ability to convince the audience in a 15-minute presentation.

The assessment criteria involve the content and relevance of the projects as well as the students' communication skills. A detailed assessment grid will be made available with the instructions of the project work.

Moreover, participation in all activities (including the online session) is compulsory and will be taken into account in the final evaluation.

We look forward to welcoming you to
our beautiful city and our institution!

If you have any question on the programme please contact

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the European Union