

Intercultural communication

The field of "Intercultural Communication" covers social interactions between people from different cultures. The focus is on modes of expression and behaviours such as pitch, tone of voice, facial expressions and gestures, and their effects in an intercultural environment. We have put together enjoyable, informative sessions (3 x 90 minutes each) for you as part of two courses (Gestures and movement or Cultural diversity in groups).

20 September 2017, 13.30 – 15.00

21 September 2017, 13.30 – 15.00

21 September 2017, 13.30 – 15.00

Note: Online registration is necessary to participate in either of the two courses. Registration is open until 11 September 2017.

Description of course: Gestures and movement

The objective of these three sessions, which build on one another, is to boost intercultural communication skills. This is done by:

- **emphasizing the factors that connect people and**
- **exploring cultural differences while promoting respect for diversity.**

Content:

We focus on activities that support living (together), that inspire feelings of joy and therefore overcome boundaries. Music and movement are a universal language. We follow our instinct to explore and connect with other people through the mediums of dance and theatre. The simple gesture of smiling, of giving someone your hand, is understood in every culture.

Through play we exchange ideas and information about the culture, the historical, religious and social backgrounds of students from all the countries represented. Our understanding and compassion are awakened. In this way we reduce obstacles to engaging with the unknown. This may help us to prevent or detect misunderstandings, for example, which can be caused by different modes of expression, presentation and behaviours such as pitch, tone of voice, facial expressions, gestures, degree of politeness and degree of friendliness. The intention is to counteract prejudices which could cause problems. A simulation game orientates us within the University and the city of Magdeburg.

Bring a cushion or blanket with you to sit on and wear loose, comfortable clothing. Bring a couple of photos of where you are from and of your loved ones. Two women born and bred in Magdeburg look forward to getting to know people of other nationalities.

Description of course: Cultural diversity in groups

Intercultural communication skills can be strengthened beyond (language) boundaries and group discussions can be encouraged through the means of outdoor experiential education and play.

Content:

In a playful way we will discover things that the group have in common as well as differences, and will use our various skills and viewpoints to get to know ourselves better, as well as the University and Magdeburg. In the process there will be some challenges to overcome through fun, teamwork and creativity – both indoors and outdoors. This shared encounter will provide the initial experiences that connect us and help us to deal with different people and new challenges, and to use this as an opportunity. Please wear comfortable clothing that enables you to move freely and, depending on the weather, something wind- and rainproof for outside. We will also need something from your home town / country (e.g. a photo, an object or a short story).