

VIU
virtual
exchange

Global Virtual Exchange

June 7- July 2, 2021

1st edition

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Venice International University

Today's globalized world needs flexible minds, able to move across disciplines, capable of tackling challenges with innovative humanistic approaches while recognizing the importance of environmental and economic sustainability and natural and cultural heritage and understanding, while communicating and working with people from other cultures.

VIU programs bring together talented, motivated students from the member universities in a truly multicultural, international, and interdisciplinary environment. Students enjoy a powerful learning experience in which they develop their capacity for critical thinking, working across disciplines, creatively embracing new ideas.

What is Virtual Exchange?

It is a facilitated education, peer-to-peer program employing a variety of technologies and educational pedagogy leading to meaningful, transnational and intercultural experiences.

Aims

- **Cultivate** global awareness and global competence, and increased social and cultural openness and sensitivity.
- **Engage and connect** students in the different member universities. Cultivate global awareness and global competence, and increased social and cultural openness and sensitivity.
- **Include and diversify** participation in international opportunities in the member universities
- **Intensify exchange and collaboration** among VIU member universities
- **Disseminate** VIU opportunities
- **Promote** VIU approach: intercultural, international and interdisciplinary approaches in all activities.

Global Virtual Exchange

VIU invites students from any discipline in VIU's member universities to participate in this innovative and enriching initiative, in which will engage in interesting exchange and conversation about topics that are relevant to their lives today with a diverse group of students from around the world. It is an opportunity for peer-to-peer learning and an intercultural learning experience.

Topics

- **Communication in the “virtual exchange”**
Introduction to the challenges of interpersonal communication in encounters that take place in an international and intercultural setting.
- **Culture(s) and imagination**
How stereotypes and expectations shape the image we have about the other people's countries, languages and identities.
- **Gender and Sexuality**
Participants will discuss how gender models and ideas about sexualities change from place to place and over time.
- **Migration, race and religion**
Participants will discuss the difference of thought that can be created between people based on migratory backgrounds, and the “racial” and religious characteristics.

A facilitator will be online during the discussion to support the live sessions. The facilitator has a neutral role, s/he helps with the progress of the discussion and creates a safe space in which participants are free to express their thoughts and feelings without being judged for it.

Objective

Engage students in VIU member universities in peer-to-peer discussions on topical issues that are relevant to their lives.

Learning Outcomes

- Improved transversal (soft) skills: interpersonal and intercultural communication skills and competence relevant for employability
- Increased ability to approach difference positively, through the cultivation of global awareness and global competence, and increased social and cultural openness
- Increased capacity for critical thinking
- Increased ability of active listening
- Increased ability in creative problem-solving
- Increased ability to work in teams
- Improved language skills
- Increased confidence, empathy, curiosity

How does it work?

Over four weeks the students will engage in interesting conversations about topics that are relevant to their lives today.

The support materials - reading, video, exercises - will be released week-by-week on the VIU Moodle eLearning platform. They are selected to help stimulate the participants' reflections on the topics.

Structure

- Resources (documents, articles, videos) available on the VIU e-learning platform
- Forum for asynchronous discussion
- Real time facilitated sessions to discuss a variety of themes among peers

- Week 1 | June 7-11 |
Communication in the “virtual exchange”
- Week 2 | June 14-18
Culture(s) and imagination
- Week 3 | June 21-25
Gender and sexuality
- Week 4 | June 28-2
Migration, race and religion

There is one live discussion session per week for each group. Participants will choose one of the following, and will meet at the same time each week:

Tuesdays	3.00 - 4.30 pm (CEST)
Wednesdays	10.00 -11.30 am (CEST)
Thursdays	3.00 - 4.30 pm (CEST)
Fridays	10.00 - 11.30 am (CEST)

More information and Applications

<https://www.univiu.org/viu-life/viu-virtual-exchange/global>

Deadline: May 30, 2021

Venice International University

VIU is a consortium of 20 universities from around the world with a common campus on an island in Venice, Italy.

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Project Development

VIU collaborates with professors from Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Prof. Sabrina Marchetti and Prof. Dany Carnassale, who are giving their fundamental contribution in the project by selecting the project modules and materials.

The VIU project started in 2020 as part of the Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange project:
www.europa.eu/youth/erasmusvirtual_en

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VIRTUAL EXCHANGE

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