

VIU
virtual
exchange



Global Virtual Exchange

June 5 - 30, 2023

5th edition

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Venice International University

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

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?

Virtual Exchange is a peer-to-peer, facilitated education program employing a variety of technologies and pedagogies leading to meaningful, transnational and intercultural experiences.

Aims

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

Global Virtual Exchange

VIU invites students from any area of study at VIU's member universities to participate in Global Virtual Exchange, an innovative and enriching initiative in which they will engage in exchange and discussion on topics relevant to their lives in the present day with a diverse group of students from around the world. It is an opportunity for

peer-to-peer learning and intercultural communication.

Topics

- *Communication and media:*

The challenges of interpersonal communication and how social media shapes the way we represent ourselves.

- *Culture(s) and identities:*

Stereotypes and cultural identity: how much do we allow these elements to shape the image and expectation we have of other cultures?

- *Discrimination (e.g., gender, race, religion):*

Explore how gender and identity have evolved over the last few decades and how this has impacted existing divisions in our society. What do you understand about 'cancel culture' and should everything be up for discussion?

- *Topic of choice of the group:*

Each group will agree on a topic from a suggested list for the last session.

A facilitator will moderate 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 where participants are free to express their thoughts and feelings.

Objective

Engage students at VIU member universities in peer-to-peer discussions on a variety of topical issues.

Learning Outcomes

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

How does it work?

Over the course of four weeks, students will engage in discussion on topics relevant to their lives in the present day.

Supporting materials - readings, videos, exercises - will be uploaded weekly on the VIU Moodle eLearning platform. The materials have been selected to support the participants' reflection on the topics.

Structure

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

_ **Week 1** | June 5-9

Communication and media

_ **Week 2** | June 12-16

Culture(s) and identities

_ **Week 3** | June 19-23

Discrimination (e.g. gender, race, religion)

_ **Week 4** | June 26-30

Topic of choice of the group

Participants will choose one of the following timeslots and meet their group at the same time each week:

Tuesday	3 - 4.30 pm (CEST)
Wednesday	10 - 11.30 am (CEST)
Thursday	3 - 4.30 pm (CEST)
Friday	10 - 11.30 am (CEST)

Further information and application form:

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

Deadline: May 21, 2023, at 12 pm (CEST)

Project Development

VIU collaborates with Prof. Sabrina Marchetti and Prof. Dany Carnassale (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia), who are providing fundamental contribution to the project by selecting 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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