

Intercultural Connection: Becoming Globally Fluent

Call for applications for university students

Hello, future global citizens!

EuCA (European University College Association) is excited to present the first edition of the *Intercultural Connection: Becoming Globally Fluent*, an inspiring experience designed for university students eager to thrive in diverse cultural settings, taking place in Lugano from 26 to 29 March 2026!

This experience is an opportunity to engage with peers from diverse backgrounds, broaden perspectives, and strengthen your capacity to navigate cultural contexts with confidence. Together, we aim to foster responsible global citizenship and inspire meaningful contributions to our communities and the world.

Art.1 Event Description

The Intercultural Connection: Becoming Globally Fluent is a 4-day immersive experience designed for university students seeking to strengthen their ability to thrive across cultures in intercultural environments. Through reflection, dialogue, and experiential activities, participants explore their own cultural identities, learn strategies for navigating conflict across difference, and develop skills to foster global belonging.

Using two evidence-based frameworks, Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) and Intercultural Conflict Styles (ICS), the experience blends theory, practice, and personal reflection. Students leave with deeper self-awareness, increased intercultural empathy, and actionable commitments they can apply in academic, professional, and civic life.

Art 2 Duration, Dates & Agenda

The event will run for four days, from 26 to 29 March 2026.

Thursday morning, 26 March, is reserved for participant arrivals and settling in. The day will include a welcome session, context setting, and a pre-assessment activity.

On Friday, 27 March, activities will focus on cultural identity and self-awareness, with an introduction to the IDI continuum, small-group dialogues, and experiential exercises exploring different worldviews.

Saturday, 28 March, will be dedicated to intercultural empathy and dialogue, including interactive simulations, paired exercises on empathetic listening, and dialogue labs for cross-cultural discussions.

On the final day, Sunday, 29 March, participants will engage in integration and reflection, with group debriefs, breakout role-plays on conflict styles, and the collaborative creation of a Global Belonging Charter, concluding with final reflections and departures during the afternoon.

Art. 3 Location and Modality

The *Intercultural Connection: Becoming Globally Fluent* will be held in Lugano, Switzerland, fully in-person and conducted entirely in English, including all the activities.

Art. 4 Learning Outcomes

- Examine the impact of cultural narratives and values on shaping perspectives and interactions.
- Demonstrate awareness of the IDI continuum and personal intercultural development.
- Apply ICS strategies to navigate conflict and misunderstandings across cultures.
- Show increased capacity for intercultural empathy, inquiry, and reflective dialogue.
- Cultivate cultural self-awareness and empathetic listening through reflective storytelling and dialogue that deepen mutual understanding across differences.
- Articulate a personal action step for fostering belonging in academic, professional, or civic life.

Art. 5 Fee

The participation fee offers two options and covers 3 nights in a shared room at the Franklin University College in Lugano (26, 27, 28 of March), daily breakfast, and all programme activities and extras as listed in Art. 12:

- Non-local Students (International): EUR 650,00
- Local Students (Swiss): EUR 500,00

***VAT not applicable.**

Art. 6 Training Hours

The project includes 20 hours of certified training.

Art. 7 Target Audience

The project is designed for final-year bachelor's and master's students, recent graduates, and trainees from all fields of study who are interested in developing intercultural competencies, empathetic communication skills, and conflict management abilities in international contexts.

Art. 8 Methodology

- IDI Pre/Post: Tracks intercultural growth;
- ICS Roleplays & Simulations: Observation of flexibility in conflict styles;
- Reflective Journals/Exit Tickets: Capturing self-awareness and empathy shifts;
- Dialogue Labs: Peer + facilitator feedback on communication and listening.

The event integrates a range of activities designed to enhance and assess participants' intercultural competencies: *IDI* assessments track individual and global growth; *ICS* roleplays and simulations reveal adaptability in handling conflicts; *Reflective journals and exit tickets* capture developments in

self-awareness and empathy; *Dialogue Labs* provide structured peer and facilitator feedback on communication and listening skills, fostering deeper interpersonal understanding.

Art. 9 Innovation Aspects

The *Intercultural Connection: Becoming Globally Fluent* is innovative in combining certified U.S. trainers, evidence-based intercultural tools (IDI and ICS), and experiential learning.

It uniquely fosters real-time cultural exchange between students from Italy, the U.S., and Switzerland.

This approach develops measurable intercultural competence, empathy, and conflict management skills in a global context.

Art. 10 Liability and Safety

Participants are recommended to have personal travel insurance to cover health and travel risks.

EU students are required to carry a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) during the trip.

Non-EU students must ensure they have comprehensive travel insurance.

Art. 11 Application Timeline and Procedure

Step 1- Apply: The application period runs from 12 November 2025 to 16 February 2026. To apply, please complete the online form and upload both your CV and Motivational Letter. Please note that uploading your CV is mandatory: [Application Form: Intercultural Connection: Becoming Globally Fluent](#)

Step 2 - Get your official confirmation: After submitting your application, you will receive a confirmation email. Please don't buy your plane tickets before you receive the official confirmation and before getting specific information from EuCA staff.

Step 3 - Stay connected with us: The EuCA team will guide you through the process and support you during the event.

Step 4 - Stay updated on logistics! Keep an eye on our communications via email about the event logistics and get ready to book your tickets!

Step 5 - Mandatory online onboarding & Infopack: All participants must attend a 1-hour online onboarding session, where we will go over the agenda, logistics, and project expectations. After attending the session, participants will receive the Infopack with all practical information for the event.

Step 6 - Join the event: Take part in the event and enjoy the experience!

Art. 12 What's Included and Not Included

Included:

- Accommodation for three nights in a shared room at the Franklin University College in Lugano with breakfast included.
- Admission to the Intercultural Connection: Becoming Globally Fluent;
- Training from international experts and professionals;
- Intercultural exchange with U.S. and Swiss students attending the event;
- 3 coffee breaks, 2 lunches, 1 dinner;
- Certificate of training hours;

- Infopack with all essential information about the event;
- Onboarding session prior to the event.

Not included:

- Travel to/from Lugano;
- Transfer from the airport to the city center;
- Local transport;
- Additional meals outside of those provided.

Art. 13 Partnership

This event is organized by EucA, Franklin University, IDI (Intercultural Development Inventory), and ICS (Intercultural Conflict Styles), in collaboration with the EucA members.

Art. 14 Registration Policy

Registration is open until 16 February 2026 or until all 40 participant spots are filled.

Art. 15 Cancellation Policy

To ensure clarity and transparency, our cancellation policy is structured in phases:

- Until 31 December 2025: 100% refund of the amount paid;
- 1 January 2026 – 15 January 2026: 50% refund;
- From 16 January 2026 until the first day of the event: No refund.

Name changes are allowed until 30 January 2026. Any additional costs will be calculated by EucA and covered by the participant. EucA reserves the right to approve or deny name changes due to logistical constraints.

Art. 16 Budget and Funding

This event is funded by EucA and its members. Financial resources are managed transparently to ensure high-quality programming.

Art. 17 Code of Conduct

Participants are expected to adhere to a respectful, professional, and collaborative code of conduct, reflecting the values promoted by EucA and the project, including: respect and professionalism, active participation, punctuality and attendance, compliance with instructions provided by EucA organizers, facilitators, and venue staff.

Any behaviour contrary to these values, such as disrespect, exclusion, or actions misaligned with the project's ethos, may result in disciplinary action, including formal warning from organizers, removal from specific activities, and, in severe cases, dismissal from the project at the participant's expense.

The objective is to create a safe, positive, and inspiring environment for all attendees.

Art. 18 Data Protection and Privacy

Personal data collected will be processed in full compliance with GDPR regulations and used exclusively for purposes related to the event.

Art. 19 Risk Management

- Incident Reporting: All emergencies or incidents will be documented and reviewed by EuCA to improve safety and prevent future incidents.
- Emergency Procedures: Participants are expected to follow the venue's procedures, which will be shared in advance, and comply with local regulations and guidance from relevant authorities.

Art. 20 Post-Event Feedback and Mobility Certificate

At the conclusion of the event, participants will be invited to complete a Feedback Form to help enhance future events. Upon successful participation, students will receive an official EuCA Mobility Certificate recognizing 20 training hours.

Project contact person

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