



Dear Students,

PIASTA's intercultural training courses are intended to impart fundamental skills which are both necessary and useful when people from different cultural backgrounds communicate and interact. This could involve a culturally-mixed group project at Universität Hamburg, a semester in Mexico, or a career requiring work in intercultural teams. Intercultural training is general, meaning non-specific to any one culture.

These skills include the ability to see things from a different perspective, to reflect upon your own and other people's behavior, to empathize, to stay flexible, to be open and tolerant, to be aware of and deal appropriately with your own prejudices and stereotypes (which we all have), intercultural sensitivity, and the ability to communicate. Intercultural proficiency cannot be acquired in a single seminar, but the seminars do provide a very good opportunity to develop your skills and to find inspiration for further intercultural development.

Basic knowledge of cultural difference (e.g., cultural views of time) is also useful and forms part of our teaching. It can also lead, however, to stereotyping. Our goal, therefore, is to strengthen your own intercultural communication skills and abilities, to allow you to adjust your perspective as you encounter others with curiosity and openness and as you learn new things and exchange ideas constructive to all.

As trainers, we place a lot of value on practical experience and use things such as role play to give you some real intercultural experience in the training situation itself.

All courses in the PIASTA program are conceived to meet the criteria for Building Block A for the Certificate Intercultural Competence (CIC). For more information about the CIC, please see www.uni-hamburg.de/cic