

Diversity and Inclusion in the Classroom 2024 Program Description

The seminar, conducted in collaboration with the esteemed College of Education and Human Ecology at **The Ohio State University** in Columbus, Ohio, offers a unique and enriching opportunity for professional development in a hybrid format. It is designed to provide up to 30 scholarship recipients with valuable insights into American educational policies and the social and cultural considerations that shape pedagogical concepts of "equity, diversity, special education, and inclusion."

The program encompasses two parts:

The first part consists of an online preparatory course conducted virtually from March to May 2024. This online course aims to equip participants with foundational knowledge prior to their arrival at Ohio State University. **Components of this online course will be both synchronous and asynchronous and include 6 online evening sessions stretched over the period March to May 2024.**

The second part of the program consists of the in-person on-site experience in the United States at the Ohio State University in Columbus in October 2024. During the program at OSU, participants will have the opportunity to engage in professional conversations with local teachers, take part in practical workshops that expand and build upon topics covered in the online seminar, visit schools to gain insights into inclusive teaching put into practice, and immerse themselves in cultural experiences and excursions that showcase the rich heritage of the region of Columbus, Ohio.

By combining online instruction with hands-on experiences in the U.S., the program aims to provide a comprehensive and well-rounded learning journey that enhances participants' knowledge, skills, and cross-cultural understanding in the field of education.

The program offers:

- An overview of American educational policies and the structure of the school system in the USA.
- An introduction to the political, historical, cultural, and social influences on pedagogical concepts of equity, diversity, special education, and inclusion in the American education system.
- Engaging discussions and workshops on diversity, equity, and inclusion; special education; MTSS; linguistic diversity in classrooms; and culturally responsive instructional planning.
- An overview of teacher education and professional development at American universities.
- Opportunities for professional exchange with American scholars, teachers, and students, including visits to a variety of diverse schools in the US.
- Cultural exploration through excursions and events, providing a chance to immerse in the culture and history of the Ohio region.

By actively participating in this seminar, educators contribute significantly to their professional development and the internationalization of teaching practices. The comparative exploration of both the German and US-American educational systems enables participants to broaden

their pedagogical perspectives and to access practical examples to integrate into their own teaching design, particularly in the realm of "culturally sustaining pedagogies." Furthermore, participants get the opportunity to enhance their skills in project management, collaborative teamwork, impactful presentations, and English language proficiency.

This program empowers participants to actively engage in diverse opportunities aimed at cultivating a deep interest in Germany and its education system, thereby serving as a catalyst for fostering an ongoing dialogue between German and American educators.

The Ohio State University's main campus in Columbus, Ohio is home to one of America's largest and most comprehensive universities. As a land-grant university, Ohio State has a physical presence throughout the state, with campuses and research centers located around Ohio including eighteen distinct colleges and schools spread over six campuses in Columbus, Lima, Mansfield, Marion, Newark, and the Agricultural Technical Institute in Wooster. The university offers 218 undergraduate majors, and 277 master's, doctoral, and professional degree programs. The total enrollment for Autumn 2022 was 65,795 with 51,377 undergraduate students and 14,418 graduate and professional students. 5,813 were international students. The total number of degrees conferred by Ohio State for the 2020-2021 academic year was 17,528, 11,730 of which were bachelor's degrees, 2,802 were master's degrees and 942 were doctorate degrees. Ohio State University is a comprehensive university and serves a large, diverse constituency. For further information, you can do a virtual campus tour [here](#).

The participants of the 2022 "Diversity and Inclusion in the Classroom" program have documented their experiences on [Instagram](#).

In collaboration with Ohio State University, we are pleased to announce that the program will be conducted in a hybrid format. The first part is scheduled to take place virtually from March to May 2024, followed by an in-person component in Columbus, OH, USA, in October 2024. In the event that the in-person segment cannot be held in the USA, the entire program will be conducted virtually.