

Innovation in the Classroom 2026 Program Description

The program, 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 will provide participants valuable insights into American educational policies and the social and cultural considerations that shape a variety of pedagogical concepts for a safe, supportive learning environment, aimed at improving innovation and excellence in the classroom.

The program encompasses two parts:

The first part consists of an online preparatory course conducted virtually with five evening workshops, both synchronous and asynchronous, taking place over the period from May to September 2026. This online course aims to equip participants with foundational knowledge prior to their arrival at Ohio State University.

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 2026. 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 program, visit schools to gain insights into innovative 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 US, 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 in the American education system.
- Engaging discussions and workshops on creating a safe, supporting learning environment; special education; linguistic awareness; and innovative pedagogies in the classroom.
- An overview of teacher education and professional development at US universities.
- Opportunities for professional exchange with American scholars, teachers, and students, including visits to a variety of schools including specialized 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 program, 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. Furthermore, participants get the opportunity to enhance their

skills in project management, collaborative teamwork, impactful presentations, and English language proficiency.

This program empowers the German participants to actively engage in innovative opportunities aimed at cultivating a deep interest in the USA 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 more than 200 undergraduate majors as well as 278 graduate, doctoral, and professional degree programs. The total enrollment for Autumn 2024 was 66,901 with 52,269 undergraduate students and 14,632 graduate and professional students. 6,305 of all students were international. The total number of degrees conferred by Ohio State for the 2024 academic year was 12,555. Ohio State University is a comprehensive university and serves a large, manifold constituency. For further information, you can do a virtual campus tour [here](#).

Since it is a group program, participants cannot pursue individual projects during the program and are expected to attend all program-related events. Upon successful completion of the program, participants will receive a certificate of participation from Fulbright Germany.