



Universität Vechta
University of Vechta



**Certificate of
Intercultural Competence**

Wanderlust,
but no money?

Keen to try **something new,**
but no ideas?

Wishing to boost your **CV**
and make **friends** along the way?





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What is the Certificate of Intercultural Competence (ZIK)?

The Certificate of Intercultural Competence (Zertifikat "Interkulturelle Kompetenz" - ZIK) is an extracurricular offer for students of the University of Vechta who have gained expertise in the fields of internationality and interculturality. It recognises intercultural competences, international mobility, language skills and commitment regarding the support of international students as well as the organisation of events and projects that promote intercultural exchange.

What are your benefits?

Interacting in a diverse environment will be a crucial part of your future work routine. The Certificate of Intercultural Competence offers the opportunity to enhance your skills and it creates a solid basis for handling intercultural situations in work life. The certificate is also a useful testimony of your skills for future applications. Furthermore, you will gain new experiences, you will have the opportunity to engage in planning and organising events and you will get to know new people and countries.





What exactly is intercultural competence?

Clothes, architecture, music – all of that is part of culture. However, culture also includes gestures, facial expressions, behaviour, social manners, values and basic attitudes. Intercultural competence is the ability to successfully interact and communicate with people from different cultural backgrounds. This does not mean to know another culture as well as one's own, but being able to use certain methods which allow successful cross-cultural communication even in a cultural context that is not familiar.





How to receive the Certificate of Intercultural Competence

In order to receive the certificate, you must **complete at least 4** of the following modules.

Module A	Individual support for international students	Individual support for an international student within one of the International Office's peer-mentoring programmes for at least one semester
Module B	Supporting international students within the student initiative „InterMento“	Commitment to the work of the student initiative „InterMento“ with regular, active participation for at least two semesters
Module C	Intercultural awareness	Participation in an intercultural training offered by the University of Vechta
Module D	Intercultural events and projects	Organisation of an intercultural event or project in cooperation with the International Office (e.g., Brown Bag Lunch, individually planned event, etc.) OR Assistance with regard to the organisation of at least three events/ projects offered by the International Office (e.g., Brown Bag Lunch, International „Stammtisch“, Tour d'Horizon, international advent calendar)



Module E	Study-related experience abroad	Study-related stay abroad of at least 4 weeks
Module F	Foreign language / Tandem language learning	Completion of a foreign language course (worth 5 credit points) OR Participation in the “Tandem language learning” programme for at least one semester
Module G	Ambassador of the University of Vechta	Presentation of the University of Vechta abroad (e.g., at a university or school outside Germany)

In order to register for the certificate, please complete the respective form, which can be found on the website of the International Office. Participants will be added to a mailing list, through which they will regularly receive information about upcoming events for the Certificate of Intercultural Competence. All activities that you take part in will be documented in a form. As soon as you have completed the required number of modules, you will receive a certificate stating the modules that you have completed.

<https://www.uni-vechta.de/en/international-office/internationalisation-at-home/certificate-of-intercultural-competence>



The International Office organises various peer-mentoring programmes that promote intercultural exchange and offer individual support to international students.

Vechta's International Mentoring Programme (VIP)

The mentoring programme VIP offers international exchange students the chance to get a personal mentor (a regular student of the University of Vechta) who helps them to settle in to the social and academic life in Vechta. The mentors are contact persons for questions and they support their mentee in case of challenges and problems. Joint activities are usually also part of the programme. For the mentors, the programme offers a chance for intercultural exchange and networking.

<https://www.uni-vechta.de/en/international-office/mentoring-programs/mentoring-programs-for-exchange-students>

Mentoring programme for international degree-seeking students

This programme offers international first-semester degree-seeking students as well as students in the "An-passungslerngang" (adaptation period) for teachers the opportunity to get a personal mentor from their field of study. This programme is usually offered in the winter semester.

Tasks of the mentors may include:

- Support with regard to preparing and learning for courses
- Answering questions concerning academic life and culture, examination types, etc.

Of course, mentors can always rely upon the International Office for support. No previous experience or special expertise is required.

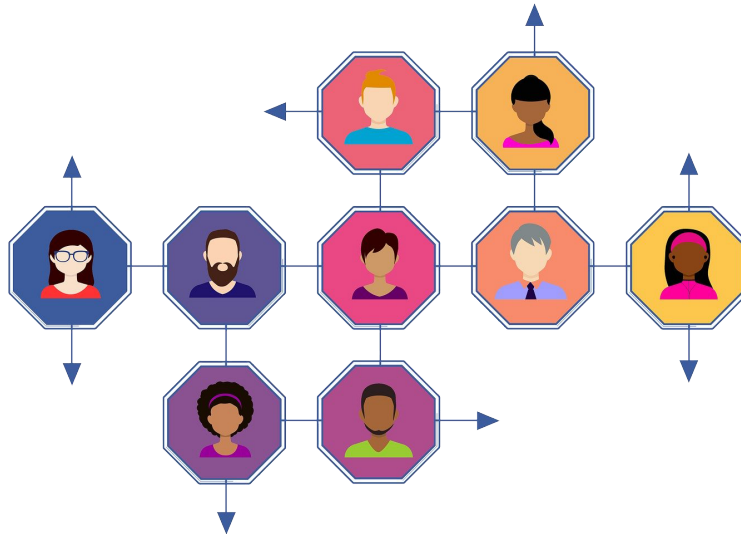
<https://www.uni-vechta.de/en/international-office/mentoring-programs>

Supporting international students within the student initiative „InterMento“

The local ERASMUS+ initiative, an initiative of student volunteers, aims to make international students feel welcome and to support them during their time in Vechta.

The participants organise study trips and events, which enable students from different countries to meet each other and to exchange experience. Moreover, students of the University of Vechta have the chance to get inspiration for future stays abroad.

<https://www.uni-vechta.de/en/international-office/internationalisation-at-home/intermento>



Intercultural training

What is culture?

What is intercultural competence?

How do I communicate successfully in intercultural situations to avoid and solve misunderstandings?

These topics are explored in the two-day intercultural training offered by the University of Vechta. Thus, it allows you to strengthen essential and interdisciplinary skills. The training also offers plenty of opportunities for practical exercises and to discuss your own experiences.



The International Office organises various intercultural events and projects, for example:

Brown Bag Lunch

International students and guests present their home country and offer traditional snacks.

Thus, all members of the University of Vechta get an opportunity to embark on a lunchtime journey abroad.



International "Stammtisch"

International topics and exchange in a laid-back atmosphere:

The International "Stammtisch" is a regular discussion group for students who want to go abroad as well as for students who have already been abroad and want to pass on tips and experiences.

Tour d'Horizon

At this event, students of the University of Vechta who have spent a semester abroad share their experience and answer questions from fellow students.



International advent calendar

Every December, the International Office publishes insights into international Christmas traditions in the form of a digital advent calendar. You are more than welcome to submit your own contribution.

Further events and projects

The International Office appreciates support for all of its events and projects. New ideas for intercultural events and projects organised in cooperation with the International Office are also very welcome.

As a student, you have unique possibilities to spend some time abroad – an experience from which you will benefit greatly.

It will not only enable you to improve your foreign language skills, but the encounter of intercultural situations, different education systems and societies will also shape you as a person.

An exchange semester, practical trainings/placements abroad, research stays or language courses - the International Office offers different international opportunities and it also provides support regarding the search for a suitable university abroad or grants and scholarships for the place of interest.

<https://www.uni-vechta.de/en/international-office/going-abroad>



Language courses

Foreign language skills are essential for an active participation in cultural diversity and intercultural experience. The Language Centre at the University of Vechta offers a great range of language courses, which allow you to start learning a language or to consolidate existing language skills.

Tandem language learning

The tandem language-learning programme organised by the Language Centre matches two people with different native languages who wish to learn the native language of the tandem partner.

<https://www.uni-vechta.de/sprachenzentrum>



Ambassador of the University of Vechta

As an ambassador of the University of Vechta, you present the university to students or pupils abroad. You will thus give these students or pupils an insight into studying at the University of Vechta.

The International Office is happy to support you (e.g., provide presentation slides).



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