

Winter School “Cultural Perspectives on Sustainability” at the University of Mannheim *Call for Teaching*

I. General information about the Winter School

The ENGAGE.EU Winter School “Cultural Perspectives on Sustainability” is a two-week intensive program with a mix of virtual and in-person elements for bachelor’s students from all fields, hosted by the University of Mannheim in January 2027. Faculty from at least three ENGAGE.EU partner universities are invited to teach. The Winter School equips students with state-of-the-art knowledge and skills on sustainability across Europe and beyond. Interdisciplinary academic exchange and intercultural experiences are core to the program, aligning with ENGAGE.EU’s mission to prepare responsible future leaders.

Anchored in SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), the Winter School addresses ecological and social sustainability from a humanities perspective. Mannheim, as the host city, enables participants to engage both theoretically and practically with multiple dimensions of sustainability, connecting local characteristics to global questions.

Preliminary Schedule:

- Online Kick-Off Event (December 18th 2026): Students are briefed on their arrival in Mannheim, the course schedule, and further information.
- Week 1 (January 11th – 15th 2027): Students are introduced to theory and context on (labor) migration, inclusion, disability, and environment, including their digital dimensions (e.g., digital communication, artificial intelligence) in urban and virtual spaces. The first week features a common kick-off and several workshops offered by lecturers from ENGAGE.EU partner universities providing research- or country-specific insights into sustainability, as well as social/team-building events.
- Week 2 (January 18th – 22nd 2027): The second week is dedicated to field work, excursions into Mannheim’s urban and cultural landscape, and social/team-building formats that foster intercultural exchange and link local with global issues. Students will prepare group presentations during the second week.

Language of instruction: English. Target cohort size: approximately 45 students.

II. Teaching invitation for ENGAGE.EU faculty members

The University of Mannheim invites faculty from ENGAGE.EU partner universities to offer a workshop during the Winter School. We especially welcome contributions that approach sustainability from **cultural** (linguistic, artistic, literary, filmic, musical, historical, mediatic, performative, or related) perspectives, including **but not limited to**:

- SDGs, especially SDG 11, and sustainable urban societies
- (Labor) migration, linguistic plurality, transculturality/multiculturalism, and cultural heritage
- Disability, participation, and inclusion
- Environment, nature, and ecology (in urban contexts)
- Gender- and sexuality-based equality
- Digital dimensions of sustainability (e.g., digital communication, AI biases, ethics of AI use, ...)
- Social, political, or economic aspects related to one of these aspects
- Country- or discipline-specific perspectives related to these themes

Parameters:

- Audience: 15-25 bachelor's students per workshop
- Duration: the same 4-hour workshop repeated on two consecutive days (8 hours total)
- Format: interactive in-person workshop with space for exchange and discussion, and activating methods such as group work or case analyses; please avoid lecture-only formats
- Timing: January 11th–15th 2027
- Optional: involvement of non-academic organizations to provide practical insights
- No grading/reviewing of coursework required
- **Please arrange your travel and accommodation through your home institution under the Erasmus+ Staff Mobility program.**

Faculty from all schools and departments of ENGAGE.EU partner universities are encouraged to apply. Each workshop will be remunerated with **€600**. Additionally, you will be awarded a teaching certificate from the University of Mannheim.

III. Application instructions

If you are interested in teaching a workshop during the Winter School, please **send the following documents (in one consolidated PDF) to winterschool.phil@uni-mannheim.de by June 15th 2026:**

- Your curriculum vitae, including research activities
- Detailed workshop agenda outlining the session structure, applied teaching methods, and how the intended learning outcomes will be achieved
- If part of your idea: Details of the organization giving practical input during your workshop
- Information on teaching preferences:
 - Available date(s) between January 11th and 15th 2027 (two consecutive days)
 - Time(s) that you would be available on those days (flexible or specific)

We will contact you regarding the outcome of your application by July 4th 2026.

For any questions regarding the application or the program, please reach out to Nico Stab at winterschool.phil@uni-mannheim.de.