

Intercultural Studies

Introductory week Intercultural Studies Fall 2021



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Welcome!

Welcome to Intercultural Studies at Aarhus University!

In this folder you will find the most relevant information for your beginning of studies on August 30th. From city advice to online portals or rules, keep this document around in your arrival to AU.

But do not worry! It is not only rules and academic regulations that we will explore in this week, but we will also fill your timetables with social activities, intercultural concepts and tips and tricks to make your stay smooth.

We also encourage you to join this Facebook group where we will share important information about timetables and activities soon as the intro week begins. You can find it here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1235483030246024/>

We hope you find this week very welcoming and please do not hesitate to contact the study tutors if you have any questions, as we would love to help you!

We look forward to seeing you all at the end of August,
Lydia and Gitte

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Practical information

- **Finding your way around**

On the first day, we will meet at “**Nobelparken**” in room **1481-341** at **9:00**. Nobelparken is the Faculty of Arts, and it is characterized by its big red buildings. Most of your seminars will be conducted there, so we want you to familiarize yourself with the campus.

You can find Nobelparken on Google Maps by searching for the address “**Jens Chr. Schous Vej, 8200 Aarhus N**”. The number ‘1481’ refers to the number of the building and ‘341’ to the specific room in that building. To make it easier for you to find the different rooms and buildings on campus these first days, we encourage you to download the [AU Find App](#). With it, you can simply type a building number and you will find directions to it.

- **(No) Expenses**

Do not worry about any expenses! The intro week at the university is free, and Aarhus University will provide everything necessary for your welcome at no cost.

However, we do suggest that you bring money around in case you want to buy yourself some lunch throughout the day, or in case you decide to keep socializing after the planned activities at university at the end of the day.

- **Food and lunch packs**

We know getting up early is not the most enjoyable thing. For that reason, on the first day we will provide you with breakfast for when you arrive, so you do not have to worry about making coffee beforehand!



As well as this, we will make sure that the first meal of the day will be suitable for everyone, with vegan, gluten free and other dietary restriction options. In this [survey](#) you can indicate what your preference is.

That being said, it is likely that we will get hungry along the way, so feel free to pack some lunch or buy some in the cafeteria! Nobelparken is also the home of a big canteen in which you can find many options for foods, beverages and - most importantly- coffee. Each day it has a different selection of sandwiches, wraps and warm dishes (we personally recommend its falafel sandwiches!).

- **Packing your rucksack**

You might want to bring something to write down on the first days, as there will be loads of new information you might want to remember; a phone, a computer or perhaps even your phone will do.

Besides that, there is nothing you are required to bring, aside from a purse or bag if you want to carry your belongings around if we hang out afterward. And do not worry about the dress code! We know you might want to impress the new people with your best clothes and fit in at Aarhus University but remember to be yourself and dress comfortably as we will be on campus for a while and there might also be some outdoor activities (however, we will inform you about this along the way).



- **Alcohol policy**

Please remember that you are not allowed to drink alcohol or hold any alcohol events in the perimeter of Aarhus University, and alcohol events cannot be held before 16h.

We have attempted to create a program that everyone can enjoy, and where meeting each other and getting to know your studies is the main priority. We have ensured - and will continue to do so - that all activities and events, even the participation in Friday bars or other such meetings outside the university, can be attended without drinking alcohol.

- **Contact persons**

As we mentioned earlier, you can reach us through our email or get in contact with others through the Facebook group. But here are some other helpful contacts that could be useful on your stay at Aarhus University:

- [Student counselors](#): Counselors can help you regarding your studies or exam issues. For instance, deciding on what to do in your third semester, reminding you of academic regulations or advising what to do in case of illness through your studies. They will provide more information about their services during the intro week, but it is important to highlight the fact that they can help you with exams or teaching in case of mental illness, as well as providing directions to solve [harassment or abuse cases](#).
- [Student chaplains](#): The chaplains are specifically trained in counselling and offer free conversations to students who find themselves in a position where they need someone to talk to. While the chaplains are protestant in faith, the students who come to see them need not be Christian or religious in any way, as the conversations focus on whatever issues the student decides to open up about.

Program for the week

Without further ado, this is the program for the intro week:

(Please note changes may occur, in that case you will get notified through our Facebook group)

Monday (August 30th):

9:00-9:15

Room 1481-341

Welcome by the tutors and department

Presentation of area-coordinators and teachers

9:15-10:45

Room 1481-341

- Breakfast in groups with presentations: where do we come from, what are our interests in ICS, what is our background...
- Ice-breaker exercise
- Nice to know and need to know

10:45-11:00

Small break

11:00-12:00

Room 1481-341

What is Intercultural Studies and why? Overview of the MA in Intercultural studies by program coordinator: Mette Zølner

12:00-12:30

Lunch/break

12:30-13:30

Track coordinators and teachers present program specializations

- English – Room **1451-416**
- Spanish – Room **1453-215**
- French – Room **1453-313**
- German – Room **1453-513**

Tuesday (August 31st):

Room 1441-010 (9.00 – 12.00)

- 9:00 – 9:30** **Presentation of Study Groups**
Members and group numbers to be announced on [Facebook](#).
Brief announcement on **library tour** coming the following weeks
- 9:30 – 9:45** **Introduction to Brightspace**
Software for studies and how to navigate it
- 9:45 – 10:00** **Small break**
- 10:00 – 11:45** **Presentation by the Student Counselors**
Information on what Student Counselors can help you with, practicalities with exams, planning your MA and speaking about expectations and desires for the program.
- 12:00 – 13:00** **1482 - Lunch together in the canteen**
- 13.00 –** **Presentation of student life and activities**
Walk and talk to [Studenterhuset](#), and coffee/tea gathering with a talk about their events and services.
Personal recommendations and wrap up

Wednesday (September 1st):

Room 1451-219

- 9:00-10:30** **Concepts and Sites**
With Ushma Chauhan Jacobsen and Mette Zølner

10:30-11:00 **Presentation of the Intro-Project**
By Mette Zølner)

Rest of the day **Group work on the pilot project**
(Feel free to stay on campus or go to your favorite spot)

Thursday (September 2nd):

Whole day **Group work on the presentation of the pilot project**
(Feel free to stay on campus or go to your favorite spot)
Teachers will be attached as supervisors to groups

In the evening **Potluck dinner** (more information will follow)

Friday (September 3rd):

Rooms 1451-416 & 1453-227

12:00-15:00 **Presentations of the projects**
Group distribution in rooms will be announced

- Small break from **13:15 – 13:30**

15:00 - 15:30 **Recap and final welcome to Intercultural Studies**

The life of a student

What does studying Intercultural Studies at Aarhus University look like? This is not set in stone, and in fact, you will have the ability to look into the aspects of cultural studies that *you* find the most interesting, which means that the Intercultural study program really is what you make it



Academic program

During the first semester, the basis for the program will be set. Yes, there will be theory, but also tons of debates and conversations that will help you figure out what interests you the most within this wide side of academia. From history to media, to postcolonialism or intercultural management, these courses will give you the essential concepts to navigate interculturality.

The second semester will utilize and build on a lot of the concepts you will learn during the first semester. Here, you will learn how to analyze real-life cases of e.g., multinational companies, international conflicts and media discourses. One clear perk of our program is the freedom you will experience in choosing your exam's topics or focus. Even within a defined task, you have the possibility to look into whatever interests you and you will be able to explore it through different lenses that connect your background or academic interests.

This ability especially manifests itself during the third and fourth semester, where you will be able to choose between doing an internship (in Denmark or abroad), study abroad or taking courses to further learn about cultural issues. But do not worry, this

will be further explained on the first days, and you can find more information in the [course catalogue](#).

Syllabus and the Danish education system

Since this is a very international program, it could be challenging to know how to get ready for classes or exams. In Denmark, you are expected to read some texts that will be later commented on in class. Those can be found in each subject's syllabus and will serve as the starting point in each class. Teachers will provide you with the document or a link to the [online library](#) to download them.

However, some courses may require books or other multimedia materials where you will be the one responsible for obtaining them. There are multiple libraries in Aarhus where you might be able to find such pieces. Some of these are public, such as DOKK1, while others belong to AU. During the first time of your study, you'll be able to sign up for a meeting in which we will teach you how to loan books, seek out materials and find other useful information on the university's libraries. In case you need to buy books, or perhaps get some stationary, the option closest to campus is [Stakbogladden](#) (under Studenterhuset) where you will get a 10% student discount. However, you are free to find your preferred local or online bookstore. If you are feeling extra environmentally friendly, you can also check out [second-hand Facebook groups](#).

Study areas



If studying at home is very tedious or not convenient for you or your study group, there are plenty of rooms and spots to study. Of course, you might know of a café or a park, but did you know there are plenty of study areas at Nobelparken? We will show you some of

them. The Library at Nobelparken also has great spots for group work as well as a small, silent study hall.

[The Royal Library](#) is another great option, as it has both closed and study areas for group work, and big study hall in which you can study in silence. Not only can you loan books or study in groups there, but they also have a great selection of cakes and food at great prices - and microwaves if you feel like bringing your own lunch. And if you are feeling stressed or need a break, be sure to visit the underground floor 😊.

If your group wants to work in a more private setting, it is also possible to [book study rooms](#) and classrooms at Campus in which you can immerse yourself in the syllabus without being interrupted.

Study groups

You will first hear about your new study buddies on the intro week. Study groups in the Danish education system serve to help one another understand theory, support one another, prepare small tasks and even make common exams together. Student counsellors will be holding a workshop to introduce you to those study groups and how to work within them, as they will be a thing for your whole studies.

The study group division you receive in the intro week is not definite! You can always move around later in the semester if you find better study pals. However, we have made an effort in joining people from different tracks and different nationalities that you might not be used to being around for the experience to be more enriching. This possibility of working with someone with a different cultural background than your own is pretty unique for intercultural studies, so please consider this a potential to broaden your horizons and learn something new.

Remember to be respectful of different backgrounds and perceptions and we are sure you will find some of your best friends within them!

AU Studypedia:

[AU Studypedia](#) is a study tool which you will be using throughout your degree programme. You'll find a lot of good advice and useful tools here, including good study habits, note-taking techniques and the formalities involved in writing assignments.

AU Studypedia has devoted a whole section to new students, where you'll find exercises and good advice to help you get off to a good start: [AU Studypedia for new students](#).

Study environment

Studying at AU is not only about reading papers and preparing for class. There are plenty of activities to explore not only within our [campus](#), but also in other [faculties](#). For instance, you can visit our “fredagsbar” (Friday bar, a Danish concept we will introduce you during the Intro Week) called [Esperanto Friday Bar](#). You are free to visit other Friday Bars around University to check their differences and grab a drink or play some board games. Furthermore, the International Staff has designed a [form](#) you can fill up so that they can help you find a club that meets your needs.

[The Student House](#) is another great place to meet people and hang out. We recommend you follow them on [Facebook](#) even though they will make a presentation on the intro week, since they usually post relevant content (student jobs, events, parties, excursions) that you surely do not want to miss!



There are plenty more activities around the city and University that take place seasonally, so keep an eye on [AU's socials](#) and in our own Facebook group, since we will encourage you to take part in events and organize your own.

IT systems

New students at AU have to cope with a lot of different IT platforms for different purposes. You may find this a bit confusing at first. Please don't worry – you'll quickly get the hang of these systems. And we'll be giving you an introduction to our IT systems during the introductory week. Here's a brief list of the most important systems:

- mystudies.au.dk
This is your main point of access to information about your degree programme and teaching, and to the self-service systems. It's where you will find your weekly timetable, your AU email, important messages, links to sites and systems, and much more. In fact, once you have logged onto "mit studie", you will gain access to everything you may need.
- [Brightspace](#)
This is an e-learning platform to which your teachers upload materials and other relevant information for your teaching. You will be provided with an introduction to the software the first weeks.
- [Student self-service system \(STADS\)](#)
This is where you can see your exam results and order exam transcripts, etc. It's also where you register for courses and exams during your degree programme. [Check out the guide on how to use STADS.](#)
- [Study portal Arts](#)
This is where all the relevant information about teaching, exams, rules and supervision is collected.
- [Eduroam](#)
The wireless network at AU is called Eduroam. Before you can use Eduroam, remember that you need to install it. You can find a guide on how to [here](#).
- **Zoom at AU**
This is the main technical system used by AU to conduct digital teaching and exams. You must always use the official AU Zoom version, not the free version. Use AU's [guidelines for Zoom video meetings](#).

- [Software for students](#)
Please note that a range of free or discounted software is available for AU students.
- [IT Support](#)
If you have any technical problems, Arts IT Support can help. They are often quite busy during the first few weeks of the semester, so please be patient.

Guidance and advice

Students at Aarhus University have a wide range of options when it comes to finding help, support, inspiration, and guidance – no matter how long you have been a student here:

- [Student Counsellors' Office](#)
All our degree programs have their own student counsellors. These counsellors are fellow students who are employed to help and advice other students. The student counsellors are bound by a duty of confidentiality, and you are welcome to come and talk to them about the rules and formalities of your degree program, any doubts about your course, any personal challenges you are facing and much else besides. You will meet your student counsellor during the introductory week, and in the weeks that follow he/she will be talking to you about a variety of topics – for instance about working in study groups.
- [The university chaplains](#)
The university chaplains in Aarhus are happy to discuss various issues with you – either alone or in a group – no matter what your faith or religious conviction might be. They also have a quiet room at Aarhus University where you can pray, meditate, or just find a bit of peace and quiet. The university chaplains also arrange a variety of lectures and debates.
- [The Student Counselling Service](#)
are experts in offering short-term therapy for students on courses of higher education. For instance, they can help you with issues such as exam anxiety, perfectionism, and stress.
- [Student telephone helpline](#)
This is an anonymous helpline offering support for students by students.
- [The Danish Students' Grants and Loans Scheme Office](#)
This is where you can get advice about your personal grant/loan situation.

- [Arts Karriere](#)
This is a careers advice center for students at the Faculty of Arts. They provide an individual advisory service and arrange a wide variety of events all year round.
- [AU Elite Sport](#)
offers help for students involved in elite sports while they study.
- [AU Entrepreneurs](#)
offer help to all students who dream of being entrepreneurs and want to develop their own company while they study.

Special support

The [Special Educational Support Team \(SPS\)](#) provide information and guidelines for students who need special support owing to dyslexia, mental health issues, ADHD, chronic pain, hearing or visual impairments and other issues.

You are welcome to contact SPS straightaway – for instance if you are in doubt about whether you belong to the target group.

Receive a kind welcome from Aarhus University!

