

Intercultural Studies

Introductory week - Intercultural Studies Fall 2022



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Welcome!

Welcome to Intercultural Studies at Aarhus University!

In this folder you will find the most relevant information for the beginning of your studies on August 29. From city advice to online portals or rules – so keep this document around for your arrival at AU.

Do not worry! Besides the rules and academic regulations that we will explore during the week, your timetables will also be filled with social activities, intercultural concepts and tips and tricks to make your stay at AU smoother.

We also encourage you to join our Facebook group – here we will share important information about timetables and activities when the intro week begins. You can find it here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/279592544286362>

We hope you find this folder helpful and the week welcoming! 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.
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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 here, 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 on 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 end.

- **Food and lunch packs**

Getting up early is not the most enjoyable thing, therefore on the first day we will provide you with breakfast when you arrive, so do not 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 requirements or preferences are.

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 the home of a big canteen in

which you can find many options for food, beverages and – most importantly – coffee. Each day its selection of sandwiches, wraps, and warm dishes changes.

- **Packing your backpack**

You might want to bring something to write on the first days, as there will be loads of new information you might want to remember; a phone, a computer or notebook – whatever you prefer. Besides that, there is nothing you are required to bring (aside from a purse or bag to carry your belongings around if we hang out afterwards).

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 comfortable as we will be on campus for a while and there might also be some outdoor activities (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 on the perimeter of Aarhus University, and alcohol events cannot be held before 16 o'clock.

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 us through the Facebook group. But here are some other helpful contacts that could be useful for your stay at Aarhus University:

- [Student counsellors](#): Counsellors 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 throughout 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 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, here is the program for the intro week:

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

Monday (August 29th):

9:00-9:15

Room 1481-341

Welcome by the tutors and department
Presentation of area-coordination and teachers

9:15-10:45

Room 1481-341

- Breakfast together in groups
- 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? An 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 specialisations

- English – Room 1484-204
- Spanish – Room 1481-224 (from 13:00-14:00)
- French – Room 1484-200
- German – Room 1484-202

Tuesday (August 30th):

Room 1483-344 (9:00-12:00)

- 9:00-10:15** **Presentation of Study Groups & IT systems**
Members and group numbers to be announced on Facebook.
Announcement of library tour and workshops to come in the following weeks. As well as a small introduction to Brightspace and academic life.
- 10:15-10:30** **Small Break**
- 10:30-12:15** **Presentation by Student Counsellors**
Information on what Student Counsellors can help you with, practicalities with exams, planning your MA and speaking about expectations and desires for the program.
- 12:15-13:00** **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 (August 31st):

Room 1441-010

- 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

Thursday (September 1st)

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

In the evening **Potluck dinner**
(Information will follow both in person and on Facebook)

Friday (September 2nd)

Rooms 1467-515 & 1467-215

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

- Small break around 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 investigate aspects of cultural studies that you find most interesting, which means that the Intercultural study program really is what you make it.



Academic program

During the first and second 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 analyse 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 investigate 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, 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](#). And of course in the fourth semester, where you will write the master thesis.

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 either 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 intro week, 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 during the intro week. 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 areas and study areas for group work, and a big study hall in which you can study alone 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 in the intro week. Study groups in the Danish education system serve to help one another to 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.

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. However, should a problem arise the study group division you receive in the intro week is not definite!

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 out 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 a learning management 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.](#)
- [Digital exam](#)
This is the platform where you will hand in your exams.
- [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.
- [Software for students](#)
Please note that a range of free or discounted software is available for AU students, these can be found on this site.
- [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:

- [International Centre](#)
International Centre provides services for international students at Aarhus University. They can among others help with exchange agreements, visa support and housing.
- [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!

