



UtrechtNetwork



INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL
Erasmus 'Intensive Programme'

Democracy, Inclusion and Active Citizenship (DIAC)

MINORITIES AND
PARTICIPATION

BELFAST
AUGUST 3rd–16th
2008

www.undiac.eu

www.utrecht-network.org

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Dear Student,

We invite you to attend the

International Summer School (Intensive Programme)
Democracy, Inclusion and Active Citizenship (DIAC)

'DEMOCRACY AND CIVIL SOCIETY'

which will be held in Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK from August 3rd 2008 to August 16th 2008.

The summer school is a joint initiative of the member universities of the Utrecht Network. It brings together students and academic staff from partner institutions in the vibrant, historic city of Belfast to discuss new approaches to *Democracy, Inclusion and Active Citizenship* in an intensive and interactive way. The academic staff comes from all over Europe, making the summer school a truly international and multidisciplinary experience.

The aim is to bring together 50 well-motivated, advanced undergraduate students with at least two years of academic experience from member and associated universities, regardless of their study background, having interest to get acquainted with the issue in a multidisciplinary approach. The school will provide knowledge, insight and tools for further study in the field.

In this brochure you will find information on the programme, the **Queen's University of Belfast**, the Utrecht Network, Belfast, and practical details about your stay.

If you have additional questions do not hesitate to contact the international relations office of your university. We expect you to turn in your application to the international office of your university

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: April 21st 2008

Utrecht Network Task Force Summer School

Introduction

Belfast is well suited to a study of issues relating to “Minorities and Participation”. The history of Northern Ireland has centred on conflict revolving around the different communities in Northern Ireland. The 1998 Good Friday or Belfast Agreement introduced power-sharing arrangements to give members of both main communities a say in self-government, and included innovative provisions on self-determination, trans-border political cooperation, human rights and equality. The Intensive Programme will also offer an opportunity to study the rights of other minorities in Northern Ireland, such as the indigenous Traveller minority, and immigrant communities. There have been important initiatives to foster participation of minorities in public administration, notably through mainstreaming equality, and Northern Ireland has one of the most advanced mainstreaming laws in the world.

The International Summer School will examine these questions of minorities and participation by using theoretical models from different disciplines together with case studies. The training will be methodologically oriented, equipping students with research instruments for the analysis of democratic processes in societies. It will supply students with interdisciplinary theoretical background and practical tools for facing complex problems of minorities and participation when taking up leading positions in their future careers.

Programme

The programme consists of *lectures*, *workshops/seminars* and *reading*. In order to prepare the final essay, *tutorials* and independent study sessions are organised as well.

A certificate of attendance is released to students after full time attendance of the summer school, i.e. all lectures, a workshop every day and the role game. Universities are encouraged to grant their students also *academic recognition*. In order to obtain credits it is required to submit a final essay as well. Depending on the *workload* of this essay 5 or 7.5 ECTS credits will be awarded upon successful completion of the work.

Structure and contents of the sessions

The structure of the sessions is aimed at providing a strong multidisciplinary perspective on the theme of the school. Each day is characterised by lectures and workshops in five teaching blocks. Most of the morning sessions are dedicated to presentations made by a panel of lecturers. The chair introduces the theme of the session providing a broad overview. This is followed by specific presentations from the other panellists according to their expertise. In a following session each lecturer chairs a workshop in which some of the issues discussed are deepened.

Students have to attend one of the parallel workshops offered every day and the dialogue with local actors. After each introductory session students sign up for the workshop of their choice. Additionally it is a tradition of the school to offer students the opportunity to further discuss the issues treated with the academic staff in a more informal way.

Some reading material as a preparation for a successful attendance will be made available at the summer school's website www.undiac.eu.

On this website is also available:

- application form
- final course schedule

Cluster 1: Democracy and minority participation

Academic responsible: Jernej Pikalo, University of Ljubljana

This cluster aims at presenting students with various approaches to democratic theory and issues connected with participation of minorities. As voter apathy and political alienation of various groups grow in modern democracies, societies and academia are discussing ways to revitalise democratic practices and to rethink existing concepts of democracy.

Participation of minorities is an ever present topic of discussion in liberal representative democracies, ranging from issues of formal political rights vs. actual participation and political influence to the question of democratic exclusion. Can there be justifiable democratic exclusion? On what basis? Is there a 'right to membership'? How can a tension between universal human rights and democratic self-determination be resolved? The cluster shall address conceptual and theoretical differences of standard and new approaches to the topic together with practical applications and case studies.

Cluster 2: Conceptions of minorities

Academic responsible: Rebecca Pates, University of Leipzig

Persistent minorities are a problem for any democracy if democracy is taken to mean rule of the majority - for those who are members of the minority group can constantly be overruled by the majority. Now, everyone is a member of a segment of the greater population - in terms of gender, sexual orientation, religion, belief, urban or rural existence, migrant status, age and so on. Not all these segmentations lead to persistent minority status - much depends on the processes by which membership to minorities comes about, what such membership implies, and how the collectivities that make up the minority come about. In this section, we shall look at some conceptions of collective identity and identification processes, the institutions that serve to perpetuate some group identities and explore some of their political implications.

Cluster 3: Minority policies

Academic responsible: Bruno Riccio, University of Bologna

This section aims at focussing not so much on minorities' politics, but on the multiple processes informing the policies towards migrant and ethnic minorities in different national and local contexts. The first domain is characterised by conflicting ideological views and political programmes whereas the actual implementation of policies is also connected to specific organisational cultures and traditions and to the representation of minorities held by different personnel belonging to diverse institutions. In other words, the relationship between politics and policies is not mechanical and may contrast. For instance, a long-term tradition of welfare policies can last a sudden change in political leadership and rhetoric. Local variations are crucial too. Within the same national legal and political frameworks the priorities of policy-making between even neighbouring cities may considerably diverge. Furthermore, minorities' policies are connected in a complex way to institutional transformations and the consequent strengthening or weakening of policy networks, to specific and internally negotiated organisational cultures, to the contrasting forms with which minorities organize themselves in associations and to the changing social and political opportunity structure affecting the analysed local context. Lectures and workshops addressing theoretically and, overall, empirically (also with ethnographically informed case studies) these kinds of topics in different countries are welcome.

Cluster 4: Minorities in the international context

Academics responsible: Nicola Catellani, University of Bologna and Koen De Feyter, University of Antwerp

This cluster will look primarily at international involvement with minority issues. To what extent does sovereignty still act as a barrier against involvement by the international community? What factors explain whether the international community becomes involved or not?

What is the international law on issues such as the right to self-determination and minority and indigenous rights? Do minorities have direct access to international organisations, or how else can they ensure that their voices are heard at the international level? What are the main non-governmental organisations working in this area, and what is their rate of success?

The cluster may combine sessions taking a general, conceptual approach with case-studies of international involvement with a specific minority. Case-studies from the developing world may also be included here.

Cluster 5: Identity Politics

Academics Responsible: Gerrit Dielissen, University of Utrecht and Jan Ifversen, University of Aarhus

This cluster will introduce to identity politics in general. Identities are formed through the practices of social actors. Social actors produce community feelings drawn from reservoirs of past formulations such as the nation, the clan, the ethnic or religious group. We need to investigate these reservoirs to understand modern concepts of identity. Identities become political when they are used strategically in debates or battles on particular issues. States have a long experience of conducting identity politics. In this cluster we will look into various forms of identity politics from those acknowledging multiculturalism to more exclusive and more nationalistic forms. But states are not the only actors doing identity politics. Various groups claim to have particular identities through which they challenge state policies. Groups that claim or acquire a minority status use identity as a weapon in confrontations with government. We shall examine the different concepts of identity that are displayed in the heated politics of contemporary societies.

Cluster 6: A dialogue with local actors on minority issues

Academic Responsible: Rory O’Connell, Queens University of Belfast

This cluster will involve meetings and discussions with the local actors working on minority issues in Northern Ireland. There will be the opportunity to have exchanges with political and official representatives charged with developing and implementing the Northern Irish political and legal mechanisms that regulate minority and equality issues in Northern Ireland. There will also be discussions with civil society organisations that are working on the ground to deal with issues of conflict resolution. While much of the focus will be on the relationships between the different political and religious groups in Northern Ireland, there will also be opportunities to discuss other minority issues raised by indigenous minorities such as the nomadic Traveller community and the issues highlighted more recently by the immigrant communities in Northern Ireland. There will be different venues for this ongoing dialogue, allowing students to visit different locations associated with Northern Ireland's recent past and current politics.

General information

Target group

50 students from the Utrecht Network partners (European and associated members from overseas) will be selected to participate in the summer school. The target group are advanced undergraduates, irrespective of their study background though some affinity with the subject is recommended. Student representatives or those having leading positions in student councils will have some priority. Major selection criteria include maturity, motivation and the potential benefits from the programme.

Working language and language proficiency

The working language of the Summer school is English. In order to assure active participation of all students, a good command of English in all its aspects (spoken, written and comprehension) is a prerequisite.

Fees

This summer school is a joint initiative of Utrecht Network members and made possible thanks to the financial input of the EU in the framework of the Erasmus programme, the Utrecht Network, the Queen's University of Belfast together with the participating member universities as well. Subsequently, **no tuition fee** is charged for participation in this Utrecht Network Summer School. The student participants must however contribute towards the cost of the programme. The contribution for the 14-day-residential stay including accommodation, full board, course materials, cultural & social programme and excursions amounts to **600 €**. Utrecht Network member universities have been encouraged to contribute towards these costs by making an extra student grant available. Students are requested to contact the international relations office of their university in order to apply for this scholarship where possible.

Application procedure

Please complete the application form and send it in together with a short c.v. and a motivation letter to the international relations office of your university **before April 21st 2008**. Your university will assist the academic committee of the summer school in Belfast in profiling suitable applicants. After selection a confirmation letter will be sent to all students.

Location and accommodation

The summer school is set up as a residential seminar where students and teaching staff are living and working together throughout the whole duration of the school. The venue of this year is the Queen’s University of Belfast, Northern Ireland.

All participants will be accommodated in the Elms student accommodation residence: full details at:

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/StudentAccommodationServices/>

This is a short walk from the main campus at Queen’s University.

A social and cultural programme is offered and includes movies, concerts, and excursions.

Sports facilities include: A recently refurbished and modernised sports centre.

Students from the following UN member institutions: **Aarhus, Antwerp, Belfast, Bologna, Brno, Cork, Graz, Leipzig, Lille, Ljubljana, Lund, Reykjavik, Utrecht and Vilnius** will be partially reimbursed for their travel expenses out of the funds of the Erasmus Intensive Programme.

Belfast can be reached by plane from many major cities in Britain, Cork, Galway, Rennes, Verona, Paris, Amsterdam, Berlin, Prague, Venice, Pisa, Rome, Murcia, Barcelona, Krakow, Katowice, Warsaw, Gdansk, Toulouse, Chambéry.

More detailed travel information is available on the website <http://www.qub.ac.uk/home/TheUniversity/Location/TravellingtotheUniversity/>

Belfast

Queen's is located in a safe area in a vibrant, compact city with easy access to some of the most spectacular scenery in the British Isles and with good links to the rest of the UK.

Today Belfast is the thriving, bustling, increasingly cosmopolitan capital city of Northern Ireland. No visitor to Belfast can fail to be impressed by the warm welcome it gives to visitors, or the many facilities available. These include a state of the art concert hall (Waterfront Hall), the Grand Opera House, many cinemas (including the arthouse Queen's Film Theatre), two universities, magnificent public buildings, extensive shopping areas and a host of restaurants, pubs and clubs. It is home to the only pub in the UK that is owned by the National Trust.

Culturally, Belfast is the centre of many events during the year, including the Festival at Queen's in October, the West Belfast Festival in August, and the marching season parades in the summer months. One of the most successful Hockey teams in the UK is based at Belfast's Odyssey stadium and entertainment centre.

Belfast and its environs offer many examples of natural beauty. The Botanic Gardens adjacent to Queen's University offers a peaceful respite from city life. One can go for a hike on Cave Hill, or visit the World Heritage listed Giant's Causeway on the north coast (a trip to the Causeway is often combined with a visit to the famous Bushmills distillery).

Belfast well connected: it is only two hours from Dublin by train, and only one hour by plane from London.

Today Belfast is the home of the Northern Irish Assembly, a power sharing executive created by the 1998 Good Friday or Belfast Agreement. Since devolution was restored in 2007, this is now the fully functioning Assembly for Northern Ireland. The magnificent Assembly building at Stormont will be one venue the Summer School will visit.

The dramatic upturn in the Northern Ireland economy, many of the cultural events and of course the creation of a devolved Assembly are related directly or indirectly to another facet of Belfast's history: as a divided city in one of the most enduring conflicts in Western Europe in the 20th Century. The conflict in Northern Ireland centred around divisions that were political, religious and economic, and the process of moving beyond that conflict has been a slow one. As part of the Summer School, there will be opportunities to visit parts of Belfast where the history of division and conflict has left its mark, most strikingly in the many murals that have been painted on walls across the city, and in the "peace lines" which still divide parts of the city.

As part of the transition, Northern Ireland has developed imaginative institutional and normative innovations to manage division, promote equality and respect diversity. For these reasons Belfast is an ideal location to study "Minorities and Participation".

The Queen’s University of Belfast

Queen's University Belfast has a record of academic achievement which stretches back more than 150 years.

Founded by Queen Victoria, the Queen's University in Ireland, was designed to be a non-denominational alternative to Trinity College Dublin. The University was made up of three Queen's Colleges - in Cork, Galway and Belfast.

Founded in 1845, Queen's opened in 1849 when the first students entered the magnificent new college building designed and built by Charles Lanyon. The first batch of students numbered 90. Today there are some 24,000.

In 1908 the three Queen’s colleges were dissolved and replaced by the Queen’s University of Belfast and the National University of Ireland in what is now the Republic of Ireland.

Throughout the 20th Century, Queen's continued to expand and develop. It has become one of the most respected universities in the British Isles, recently joining the twenty members of the Russell Group of research intensive universities, and its research tradition has gained it an international reputation.

The Law School at Queen's www.law.qub.ac.uk

Law has been studied and taught at Queens since 1845. The years since have seen many changes and challenges for lawyers in Belfast. Legal and political developments have drawn a great deal of interest to law throughout the United Kingdom and Ireland, as well as to the distinctive aspects of the Northern Irish legal system. In more recent years the impact of globalisation has led to a growing interest in European, international and comparative law. Many of our graduates have gone on to prominent careers in the legal profession in Northern Ireland and elsewhere.

Legal research undertaken at Queens includes research conducted through our research centres in Governance, Criminology and Criminal Justice and Human Rights.

The School of Law at Queens seeks to interact with the wide community of people who have an interest in the study of law, whether it be locally, nationally, regionally or globally. We very much welcome any further queries you may have about any aspect of our work.

QUB Human Rights Centre www.law.qub.ac.uk/humanrights

The Human Rights Centre aims to support a community of researchers in the area of human rights and to promote other academic and human rights organisations, so as to produce scholarship of excellence in this field. The members of the Centre have experience of working for the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, the United Nations Working Group on Minorities; Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young Persons, the Inter American Court of Human Rights, the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Council of Europe and Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, the Women in Politics programme and the Geneva based Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions.

The Human Rights Centre organises many academic events each year, including conferences and a speaker series. The Centre is also the focal point for the Law School's postgraduate programme in Human Rights, consisting of four popular and rewarding degrees:

LLM in Human Rights

LLM/MSSc in Human Rights and Criminal Justice

LLM in Human Rights (Cross Border)

LLM in Human Rights and Criminal Justice (Cross Border).

The Cross Border degrees are run in collaboration with the Irish Centre for Human Rights, National University of Ireland, Galway. They are the only joint international LLM degrees in human rights law.

Utrecht Network

The Utrecht network is a group of 30 universities from almost all European countries, co-operating in the area of internationalisation in the broadest sense of the word. It belongs to the 5 large institutional networks operating on the European continent.

The members of the group are prominent and comprehensive Higher Education Institutions, which assume a cultural responsibility alongside their educational and research tasks.

The international activities of the Utrecht Network cover the entire range of internationalisation of higher education. The network has been very successful in the development of student mobility among its partners but assumed some responsibilities for the management of international projects as well.

The Utrecht Network is associated to the *Mid American Universities International (MAUI)* Consortium in the US and the *Australian European Network (AEN)* in Australia.

<http://www.utrecht-network.org>

The universities of the Utrecht Network

Antwerpen	Belgium	Universiteit Antwerpen
Aarhus	Denmark	Aarhus Universitet
Basel	Switzerland	Universität Basel
Belfast	United Kingdom	The Queen's University Belfast
Bergen	Norway	Universitetet i Bergen
Bochum	Germany	Ruhruniversität Bochum
Bologna	Italy	Alma Mater Studiorum–Università di Bologna
Bratislava	Slovak Republik	Univerzita Komenského v Bratislave
Brno	Czech Republic	Masarykova Univerzita
Budapest	Hungary	Eötvös Loránd Tudományegyetem
Coimbra	Portugal	Universidade de Coimbra
Cork	Ireland	National University of Ireland - Cork
Graz	Austria	Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz
Helsinki	Finland	Helsingin Yliopisto
Hull	United Kingdom	The University of Hull
Iasi	Romania	Alexandru Ioan Cuza Universitatea
Krakow	Poland	Uniwersytet Jagiellonski Kraków
Leipzig	Germany	Universität Leipzig
Lille	France	Université des Sciences et Technologies de Lille
Ljubljana	Slovenia	Univerza v Ljubljani
Lund	Sweden	Lunds Universitet
Madrid	Spain	Universidad Complutense de Madrid
Msida	Malta	L-Università ta' Malta
Reykjavik	Iceland	Háskóli Íslands Reykjavík
Riga	Latvia	Latvijas Universitāte
Strasbourg	France	Universités Strasbourg (ULP/UMB/URS)
Tartu	Estonia	Tartu Ülikool
Thessaloniki	Greece	Aristotéleio Panepistimio Thessaloníkis
Utrecht	The Netherlands	Universiteit Utrecht/Hogeschool voor de Kunsten
Vilnius	Lithuania	Vilniaus Universitetas

MAUI : Mid American Universities International

Baylor University
Iowa State University
Kansas State University
University of Kansas
University of Missouri- Columbia
University of Missouri-Kansas City
University of Missouri-Rolla
University of Missouri-St.Louis
University of Nebraska Kearney
University of Nebraska Lincoln
University of Nebraska Omaha
University of Oklahoma
Oklahoma State University
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
University of Texas at Austin

AEN: Australian European Network

Edith Cowan University
Deakin University
Griffith University
Macquarie University
University of Tasmania
University of Western Sydney
University of Wollongong

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