

CALL FOR EUROPEAN PARTNERS

BLENDED INTENSIVE PROGRAMME (BIP/ ERASMUS+): Mapping Taste: Food Across Cultures

This interdisciplinary summer course by the University of Mannheim/ Germany will take place in June 2026 in Mannheim and explores food not only as a physical necessity, but as a central cultural symbol, a medium of identity formation and sustainable transformation.

The course is designed for students from various disciplines – including cultural studies, history, languages, media and communication studies, philosophy, design, sociology, anthropology, political science, and related fields – who are interested in examining the social, cultural, historical, and political dimensions of food. The course aims to deepen both theoretical understanding and practical research skills across disciplinary boundaries.

The course is divided into two phases: two digital preparatory days and a hands-on, project-oriented in-person phase in Mannheim (five days). During the digital days, participants will meet via Zoom, get to know each other, and learn about key concepts and frameworks through keynote speeches and theoretical inputs. This phase also provides time for initial coordination of individual or group projects. The core of the course lies in the intensive week in Mannheim. Here, participants work in interdisciplinary teams on specific topics related to food cultures, food and sustainability, and food and mobility. Group work, collaborative projects, and practical exercises form the backbone of the program. A strong emphasis is placed on experiential learning and cross-cultural exchange.

During the Mannheim phase, visits to food producers, migrant communities and food tastings are planned. Local excursions and special program elements will be funded by the ERASMUS resources of the University of Mannheim. Incoming participants only need to cover travel and accommodation expenses, which can usually be financed through ERASMUS mobility funds from their home institutions. All participants will receive a certificate from the University of Mannheim recommending the recognition of 3 ECTS for a non-graded course by their home university.

Why Mannheim?

Located at the heart of Europe, Mannheim offers the perfect environment to explore the intersections of food, culture, identity, and sustainability. The city is a hub of diversity, shaped by decades of labor migration and a vibrant multicultural population representing over 170 nationalities. This diversity is visible – and tastable – in Mannheim's rich and dynamic food culture, which serves as a living laboratory for questions of belonging, transformation, and everyday

practices. Mannheim's unique urban layout – known as the “city of squares” – symbolizes both structure and openness. Just beyond the city center lie the fertile plains of the Palatinate (Pfalz), a region known for its wine, agricultural heritage, and growing movements for sustainable food production. Together, the city and region offer a unique combination of urban diversity and rural proximity, making Mannheim the ideal place to engage with the cultural, political, and ecological dimensions of food.

The University of Mannheim is one of Germany's leading institutions in the social sciences, humanities, and economics, with a strong international profile and extensive experience in interdisciplinary, ERASMUS-funded programs. Its commitment to academic excellence, combined with a collaborative and student-centered approach, makes it an ideal host for this hands-on, research-oriented summer school.

Summary/ Key facts

Targeted period:	15.-19.06.2026
Duration:	2 days online classes, 5 days physical phase in Mannheim
Coordinating University	University of Mannheim, School of Humanities / International Cultural Studies
Partner Universities	2 European Universities (tbd)
Course level	Undergraduate & Masters
Credit Points	min. 3 ECTS
Semester hours (total)	28
Number of Participants	At least 5 from each Partners (necessary minimum: 10 mobile students from European Partners)
Contact Persons	Eva Breitbach, Dr. Ana-Sofia Uhl virtualmobility.phil@uni-mannheim.de

We are currently looking for European partner universities interested in collaborating on this Blended Intensive Program (BIP)/Summer School. Since the program is designed to be interdisciplinary with a strong emphasis on cultural studies, we warmly welcome partners from a variety of academic backgrounds and research fields. The detailed content and structure of the program will be developed jointly with participating institutions, allowing for the integration of specific academic profiles and thematic priorities.

If you are interested in joining the project, please let us know by November 15th 2025!

More information on Blended Intensive Programmes can be found [here](#).