



Module Description

27-Neo-1 NEOLAiA – Focus Academy: Eyes Wide Open: Learning to see possible inclusive worlds

Faculty of Psychology and Sports Science/Department of Psychology

Version dated Feb 11, 2026

This module guide reflects the current state and is subject to change. Up-to-date information and the latest version of this document can be found online via the page

<https://ekvv.uni-bielefeld.de/sinfo/publ/modul/633723272>

The current and valid provisions in the module guide are binding and further specify the subject-related regulations (German "FsB") published in the Official Announcements of Bielefeld University.

27-Neo-1 NEOLAiA – Focus Academy: Eyes Wide Open: Learning to see possible inclusive worlds

Faculty

Faculty of Psychology and Sports Science/Department of Psychology

Person responsible for module

Dr. Stefanie Riedel

Bastian Simon

Regular cycle (beginning)

The dates vary and are announced in the course catalogue (EKVV).

Credit points

3 Credit points

Competencies

A Focus Academy

- is a specially designed Blended Intensive Programme (BIP) within the framework of the European University Alliance 'NEOLAiA'
- is a structured, short-term, financially supported mobility abroad that is integrated into the curriculum, at least via the Individual Complementary Area (free elective area).
- is developed and implemented by at least three higher education institutions from at least three EU member states and third countries associated with the programme.
- is an excellent way of gaining (initial) international study experience and developing your own language skills.
- consists of a virtual and a physical component: Students from the different universities work together the whole time. The highlight is the joint physical phase on site, which lasts at least 5 days.
- deals in particular with transversal and interdisciplinary topics in order to be of interest to many students of different disciplines.

This programme was developed with university partners of the European University Alliance 'NEOLAiA' (<https://neolaiacampus.eu/>).

This Focus Academy targets NEOLAiA's diversity and inclusion pillar, aiming to engage learners in tasks that will enable them to:

- develop intercultural competences while engaging in reflective dialogical processes
- Understand and appreciate the complexity of the multi-perspective nature of knowing things in our world through the use of possibility thinking
- engage in authentic problem solving art-based methods of inquiry
- be mindful of visual inquiry strategies that can expand the moment of looking

Upon completion of the course, students are expected to:

- analyze diverse cultural perspectives critically, identifying underlying assumptions, biases and implications, to enhance inclusive dialogue and interaction
- critically assess one's own assumptions and biases by actively incorporating alternative viewpoints to enrich collaborative decision-making and problem-solving.
- evaluate current practices and theoretical frameworks for fostering possibility thinking
- apply innovative, inclusive strategies that actively integrate multiple perspectives, encouraging 'wide-awareness' (Green, 1997)
- use art-based and visual methods to envision equitable and inclusive trans-professional communities
- effectively synthesizing diverse insights and experiences to foster meaningful civic engagement.
- collaborate in diverse groups and develop discussion skills
- make connections, evaluate ideas and give feedback to other students

Content of teaching

'Eyes Wide Open: learning to see possible inclusive worlds' is an FA course designed to deeply explore diversity and inclusion through visual and art-based methodologies. Participants will immerse themselves in reflective dialogical processes aimed at cultivating intercultural competences by fostering possibility thinking, and understanding the complexities inherent in multi-perspective knowledge and perception. Through strategic visual and art-based inquiry, imaginative exploration, and authentic problem-solving activities, learners will significantly broaden their perspectives and engage meaningfully with diversity and ambiguity.

Participants will actively engage in creative tasks such as taking apart everyday objects to appreciate complexity of how small pieces come together to form a large whole, use Photovoice to cultivate empathy, engage in creative writing using narrative pictures/wordless picture books and embodied inquiry in non-formal settings.

Recommended previous knowledge

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Necessary requirements

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Explanation regarding the elements of the module

The course of the module is offered in English. It is offered in a combination of face-to-face and virtual phases with the participation of other international partner universities and can also take place in the form of block dates.

Full participation is required to complete the module. Nominated students travelling to the venue can be funded via Erasmus+. Detailed information on the programme and how to proceed can be found in the course catalogue (EKVV).

Module structure: 1 SL, 1 bPr¹

Courses

Title	Type	Regular cycle ⁵	Workload ⁵	LP ²
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Course of the Focus Academy	seminar	The dates vary.	90 h (30 + 60)	3
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Study requirements

Allocated examiner	Workload	LP ²
Person responsible for module is examiner <i>Participation in the activities of the Focus Academy usually expressed by the (ERASMUS+) confirmation of participation of the offering university.</i>	-	-

Examinations

Allocated examiner	Type	Weighting	Workload	LP ²
Person responsible for module is examiner <i>Online Tasks: Engage in dialogue in asynchronous forum discussion boards. The prompts can be open-ended questions, reflective prompts analyzing videos (i.e. wordless animated movies, TED talks), posing what-if questions in Padlet, etc. BIP program tasks (on site): individual and group tasks and Presentation of a group project</i>	Portfolio	1	-	-

Further notices

Further information: <https://neolaiacampus.eu/for-students/focus-academy-courses/>

Legend

- 1 The module structure displays the required number of study requirements and examinations.
- 2 LP is the short form for credit points.
- 3 The figures in this column are the specialist semesters in which it is recommended to start the module. Depending on the individual study schedule, entirely different courses of study are possible and advisable.
- 4 Explanations on mandatory option: "Obligation" means: This module is mandatory for the course of the studies; "Optional obligation" means: This module belongs to a number of modules available for selection under certain circumstances. This is more precisely regulated by the "Subject-related regulations" (see navigation).
- 5 Workload (contact time + self-study)

SoSe Summer semester
WiSe Winter semester
SL study requirement
Pr Examination
bPr Number of examinations with grades
uPr Number of examinations without grades