



# ITLS INTERNATIONAL TEACHERS FOR TOMORROW'S SCHOOL

SYSTEM CHANGE AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INTERCULTURAL  
SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT AND MUTUAL LEARNING

## International experience in teacher education – a seminar concept

### Abstract:

The Bielefeld School of Education at Bielefeld University offers a seminar for teacher training students who are doing an internship at a school abroad. The seminar prepares them for their stay abroad and supports them.

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**Citation:** Schüssler, R., & Auner, N. (2023): International experience in teacher education – a seminar concept. <https://doi.org/10.4119/unibi/2979182>

### Type of document:

seminar concept

### Target groups:

teacher trainers

### Goals:

preparation, support  
and reflection of  
stays abroad in  
teacher education

### Keywords:

internship abroad,  
international  
experience,  
preparation,  
reflection

## International experience in teacher education – a seminar concept

### Preparation, support and reflection of stays abroad in teacher education

The Bielefeld School of Education at Bielefeld University encourages teacher training students to spend time abroad during their studies. By changing systems and getting to know a new educational system, they should critically question their own ideas of normality.

In order to integrate stays abroad into the curriculum, all practical phases of the study programme at Bielefeld University can also be completed abroad. The internships are prepared, accompanied and reflected upon in seminars so that students can have a neutral, informed and culturally sensitive view of their experiences abroad.

Various methods and materials are used to prepare the students for their internship. Here is an insight into some of the elements of the seminar:

#### ❖ Support in organising the stay

Students receive support in finding an internship placement and with questions about financing the internship. This is done through individual office hours and within the seminar. Schools of former interns and information on stays abroad are collected in the [Infopool Internationalisation](#).

#### ❖ Preparation for the educational system of the internship country

Before their stay, students deal with their expectations of the internship, the educational system of their internship country and their internship school. They can set their own thematic focuses (e.g. dealing with heterogeneity, multilingualism, etc.).

The materials *Going abroad – my mind map* and *Poster presentation of my internship abroad* are used for this purpose.

In the preparation, they work out different observation topics and a research question, which they work on during the internship. The research question is elaborated in a theory practice report.

#### ❖ Critical questioning of one's own ideas of normality and sensitisation to stereotyping and othering

In the seminar, students deal with the concept of intercultural competence and how this relates to their internship and their later work as a teacher. The material *Intercultural competence in teacher training – a reflection sheet* provides an insight.

Furthermore, an intercultural observation training is conducted with the students. This is intended to promote a critical examination of the students' own beliefs and cultural biases.

### ❖ Reflection

During the seminar, there are various opportunities for students to reflect, e.g. through portfolio tasks. During the stay abroad, there is a digital seminar session in which the students can exchange their first experiences and reflect on situations. After their stay abroad, students reflect on their experiences within a seminar session and a report. As a basis for the exchange in the seminar, the material *Poster reflection of my internship abroad* is used. This gives an insight into their internship (activities and institution), they present the results of their research question and they reflect on the extent to which the stay abroad has contributed to their professionalisation.

An insight into the different internship experiences can be found in the material *Insights into internships at schools worldwide in teacher education: a collection of experiences* (in German).

### Further information

A detailed insight into the seminars on preparing, accompanying and reflecting on stays abroad in teacher training at Bielefeld University can be found in the following articles (in German):

Auner, N. & Schüssler, R. (2017): Should I stay or should I go? Konzeptionelle Ansätze, um Mobilität im Lehramt zu fördern. In: *Journal für LehrerInnenbildung* (4), 17-21.

BiSEd. Informationspool LehrerInnenbildung. <https://www.uni-bielefeld.de/bised/internationalisierung/>

HRK (Hrsg.) 2018: *Seminar zur Vorbereitung von Praxisstudien im Ausland*. In: HRK-Expertise-Manual: Internationalisierung zu Hause in der LehrerInnenbildung. Prozessbeschreibungen aus deutschen Hochschulen. S. 4-7.