



Intercultural Studies

Travel/Study

Sultanate of Oman and United Arab Emirates



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Information and Registration

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Intercultural Studies at Danube University Krems

We live in a time of global flows of people, goods and ideas. The emerging academic field of intercultural studies reflects the growing demand for the expertise and skills to navigate an increasingly interconnected world; it offers a framework for orientating oneself in the midst of these ongoing processes of change.

Since 2003, the intercultural studies program at Danube University Krems has been offering seminars in real-world settings that allow participants to experience intercultural challenges firsthand, and to apply intercultural knowledge and skills.

This seminar in the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates is designed as a guided experience within a structured environment. Lecturers are Arab professors, European Middle East experts and international professionals who live and work in the region. This seminar gives participants the opportunity to immerse themselves in the complex and multidimensional social layers of a region that is of growing international importance.

> Co-ordinator

Prof. Dr. **Johann Günther**

Vice Chancellor of the University of Buraimi, Sultanate of Oman. Having spent half of his professional life in business and half in higher education, Prof. Günther has lived and worked in several countries. He holds a doctorate in philosophy from the University of Vienna, and is the author of numerous publications.



> Objectives

- To become familiar with recent political, economic, social, cultural and religious changes in the Gulf area, with a particular focus on the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates
- To gain an understanding of the region's diversity, in particular the different worlds inhabited by men and women, local citizens, foreign experts and migrant laborers; as well as the spheres occupied by rich and poor, urban and rural, young and old
- To interact with local decision makers, professors, students, entrepreneurs and expatriates
- To experience and reflect on various dimensions of life and work in the Gulf States.

> Program Content

- Lectures on Arab politics and economic policies at the University of Buraimi (Sultanate of Oman), Khalifa University (Dubai) and Sultan Qaboos University (Muscat, Sultanate of Oman)
- Exploration of living and working conditions for local citizens, expatriates and migrant workers in the Sultanate of Oman, with a special focus on gender relations
- Investigation of what Arab entrepreneurs can teach Western managers
- Guided self-study projects to learn about changes and challenges to Arab social structures and cultural traditions in the context of globalisation.

> Methods

- Examination of one's own stereotypes with regard to the region
- Preparatory reading
- Presentations (with discussions) in English at different universities
- Meetings with Arab decision makers and expatriates in their workplaces
- On-site projects for small groups; guided tours and excursions to sites of political, economic, cultural and/or religious importance
- Visits to sites and institutions of contemporary urban culture
- Structured debriefing of the academic experience and personal impressions.



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Facts

Accommodation

The first night will be spent at a four-star hotel in Dubai; the following nights in the guest house of the University of Buraimi. Special rates will be offered to all program participants.

Travel

Participants are responsible for booking their own flights; this includes arranging for the necessary visas and traveller's health insurance.

Prerequisites

Good English language skills and a serious interest in intercultural issues in general and in the Gulf states in particular.

Program Fee

The program fee is **1.200 Euros**. This includes all program materials, lecture and project fees, group transportation within the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates, as well as admission fees. It does not include flights, accommodation, meals or visa fees.



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