

Intercultural Exchange Cohort Program for Doctoral Students

GUSI Network · January–March 2026

1. Introduction

The Global Universities for Societal Impact (GUSI) network, which comprises Emory University, Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HUJI), University of Bonn, University of St Andrews, and Waseda University, will offer a five-session, online intercultural exchange program for doctoral students from any discipline, open to all five universities in the network. This initiative aims to strengthen intercultural communication, deepen cultural awareness, and foster international research networks. It provides doctoral students with a unique opportunity to connect with peers across global institutions, exchange perspectives, and develop competencies essential for thriving in diverse academic environments.

2. Program Overview

- **Format:** 5 interactive online sessions (60–120 minutes each)
- **Timeline:** Tuesdays at 9 or 10 AM, January – March 2026
- **Topics:** Cultural self-awareness; Understanding others' values; Intercultural competencies
- **Facilitators:** Intercultural Training Experts from Emory University and the University of Bonn

3. Session Plan & Provisional Dates

Session	Date	Duration	Topic
1	Jan 27	60 min	Opening session; introductions & program preview
2	Feb 10	90 - 120 min	Cultural Self-Awareness
3	Feb 24	90 - 120 min	Understanding others & cultural values
4	Mar 17	90 - 120 min	Intercultural awareness / suspending judgement (competency building)
5	Mar 24	90 min	Wrap-up & reflection

4. Learning Outcomes

- Understand what defines culture, intercultural communication, and competence
- Reflect on personal cultural values and communication styles
- Recognize how intersectionality and cultural lenses shape perceptions
- Distinguish between cultural stereotypes and generalizations
- Identify sources of intercultural misunderstanding
- Practice empathy, flexibility, and open-mindedness in cross-cultural settings

5. Eligibility & Cohort

- Doctoral students from all subject areas (preferably 2nd–3rd year, but open to others)
- A small group of students from each institution, selected by each university.

6. Application Details

Applications will close on December 5th, 2025. Applicants will be notified by mid-December. If applications exceed capacity, we will prioritize representation across the five universities and disciplines. [Apply here!](#)

7. Contact Information and More Information

For more details, please contact Natalie Cruz at Natalie.cruz@emory.edu. Visit our [website](#) to view more details about the GUSI Network.