The Project Aladdin and BAU’s International Summer University for Intercultural Leadership is an annual program supported by UNESCO and the European Commission. It brings together students from Europe, the Middle East, Africa and the Americas for two weeks every summer. Its aim is to develop students’ intercultural skills and give them the opportunity to study key issues in international affairs that are linked to coexistence, diversity, the rule of law and good governance.

2022: “The Effects of Inequalities on Society”

This year’s IUIL program will be looking into the impact of inequalities on society. There are many aspects to the challenges posed by inequality. Inequality tends to reduce the pace and durability of growth. Inequalities can also undermine social cohesion and increase the risk of violent conflict. Inequality undermines social justice and human rights, and the interconnectedness of inequalities means some groups have consistently worse opportunities than those of their fellow citizens. Among the most common group identities resulting in exclusion are gender, race, caste, ethnicity, religion, region, and disability status. Income inequality often leads to uneven access to health and education. In recent decades, inequalities between classes have widened both within and between countries. The course will include some discussion of key literature and major debates on the subject of inequalities from a number of disciplinary perspectives in the social sciences. During the two weeks, students will arrive at a deeper understanding of the wide-ranging impact of inequalities on our societies, and possible remedies. Our international panel of lecturers will be discussing inequalities in both contemporary and historical settings.

UNESCO will organize a workshop to introduce the students to its new “Toolkit for Intercultural Dialogue”, while field trips will enable students to express a basic understanding of the major ethnic and religious groups in Istanbul.

PROGRAM

- **Date & duration:** 17-31 July 2022
- **Theme:** The Effects of Inequalities on Society
- **Location:** Istanbul, Turkey
- **Who can participate:** 3rd year undergraduate and MA students

UNESCO will organize a workshop to introduce the students to its new “Toolkit for Intercultural Dialogue”, while field trips will enable students to express a basic understanding of the major ethnic and religious groups in Istanbul.

**PARTNER UNIVERSITIES**
- Ain Shams University (Egypt)
- Academy of Public Administration (Azerbaijan)
- Al Quds University (Palestinian Authority)
- American University of Iraq (Iraq)
- American University Afghanistan (Afghanistan)
- Augsburg University (Germany)
- Autonomous University of Madrid (Spain)
- Bahçeşehir University (Turkey)
- Bahrain University (Bahrain)
- Baku State University (Azerbaijan)
- Bogazici University (Turkey)
- Boston College (USA)
- Cadi Ayyad University (Morocco)
- Columbia University (USA)
- Florida International University (USA)
- Freie Universität Berlin (Germany)
- George Washington University (USA)
- Georgetown University (USA)
- Johns Hopkins University (USA)
- Graduate Institute (Switzerland)
- Harvard University (USA)
- Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Israel)
- Sciences Po Paris (France)
- Mc Gill University (Canada)
- Mohamed V University (Morocco)
- New York University (USA)
- Sabanci University (Turkey)
- Saint-Joseph University (Lebanon)
- Salahaddin University – Erbil (Iraq)
- Sapienza University of Rome (Italy)
- Sao Paulo University (Brazil)
- SOAS / University of London (UK)
- Sofia University (Bulgaria)
- Stockholm University (Sweden)
- Tbilisi State University (Georgia)
- Tel Aviv University (Israel)
- UCLA (USA)
- University of Montpellier (France)
- Université de Tunis Manouba (Tunisia)
- Université Paris-I Panthéon-Sorbonne (France)
- Université Polytechnique (Senegal)
- University of Oslo (Norway)
- University of Cologne (Germany)
- Ural Federal University (Russia)
- UAE University (United Arab Emirates)
- Univeristy of Southern California (USA)
WHAT STUDENTS SAID

- “The summer university is definitely one of those experiences which in some way changed my life. I am so grateful”
  Bastien Charaudeau, Sciences-Po Paris, France

- “I have been able to devise some insightful thoughts from all the lectures that I attended as a part of the summer course (...) I think all of them were thought provoking and engaging. (...) Another axis of learning was the numerous interactions— both in formal space of group-work and in informal spaces. I consider these moments, stretched across the summer school, to be tremendously valuable as they helped me participate in a truly ‘intercultural’ dialogue”.
  Rishav Kumar, Graduate Institute for International Studies and Development, Switzerland

- “I learned to see and hear others. I want to share this experience with my family and my community and teach them to listen to and learn from one another”
  Ayoub Khatib, Al Quds University, Palestinian Authority

- “I learned how to better cooperate and work in a multilingual, multicultural environment while understanding more deeply the power of images which create and alter perceived reality”
  Chen Reuveni, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

- “I have not only made great friends and received incomparable insights into other cultures but also felt the actual intercultural experience”
  Sinan Usta, Sabanci University, Turkey

PROGRAM CONTENT

The course is designed for students who already have a background and/or a strong interest in the following disciplines: social science, political science, international relations, sociology, international law, anthropology, and peace and conflict studies. Lectures and workshops will be conducted in English by professors and academics who will come from partner universities.

The course includes:

MORNING LECTURES

AFTERNOON WORKSHOP AND SITE VISITS
- Small group research / study of selected issues addressed during morning lectures
- Visits of Istanbul and its UNESCO World Heritage sites
- A range of social and cultural activities

RESEARCH PROJECTS
Students will be equally divided into groups reflecting different countries and cultural backgrounds, to work together on a common research project. Each group will have to present a draft plan by the end of the summer university. Final research projects are to be completed after the two-week program and submitted to an international panel of academics in October 2022.

APPLICATION

Students who wish to apply must be senior Bachelor students (third year undergraduate) or Master students, preparing a degree. Candidates must be proficient in English and will be selected on the basis of their level of education (third year undergraduate, Masters) and their academic performance, with special emphasis on their leadership qualities (their role in student organizations, or their involvement in civil society, for example).

Application must include
- A curriculum vitae
- A letter of reference and / or a cover letter

CERTIFICATE

Participants who take part in the program will receive certificates from the organizing institutions.