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GROUP OF UNIVERSITIES
GRUPO DE UNIVERSIDADES

“VIRTUAL MOBILITY” PROGRAMME

Training and teaching innovation course on virtual mobility

Introduction

The Compostela Group of Universities (CGU) promotes the academic approach of teachers and students through virtual mobility in the university classroom.

The training and teaching innovation course on 'Virtual Mobility' responds to the objective of learning at home, familiarising teachers with the tools to apply virtual mobility in their classrooms and showing the opportunities it offers for the development of their students.

The activity is implemented within the framework of the Impulsa Programme of the CGU, an initiative designed to promote the internationalisation of teaching at member universities, strengthen their academic links and contribute to their projection through the exchange of teaching talent.

The initiative is sponsored by the Secretariat-General for Universities of the Xunta de Galicia for the support of the Galician University System (SUG) and with the collaboration of the Organisation of Ibero-American States (OEI).

Academic data

1. OBJECTIVES AND CONTENT

The main **objective** of the programme is for participating teachers to learn this methodology and apply virtual mobility to their classrooms throughout the academic years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

To this end, at the beginning of the academic year, teachers will be paired up to carry out the virtual mobility during the aforementioned period.

The **specific objectives** include learning the following aspects:

1. To design, organise and effectively incorporate virtual mobility into their university teaching;

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2. To define a programme and timetable for virtual mobility with the academic partner assigned to them;
3. To coordinate the group and academic work in the university classroom through virtual mobility;
4. To present the results of the virtual mobility and their evaluation;
5. To identify and solve the main problems that arise in virtual mobility.

The **content** of this programme is divided into three main blocks:

- Online training course;
- Elaboration of the virtual mobility project with the academic partner;
- Implementation of the project in the university classroom.

2. PROGRAMME OF THE COURSE

The following programme will be addressed throughout the course:

1. Characteristics of the virtual mobility methodology:
 - What is virtual mobility methodology.
 - Advantages of the virtual mobility methodology:
 - Teamwork and interculturality.
 - "Administrative" convenience.
 - How to articulate teaching work teams: institutional strategy and aspects to take into account.
2. Design of the virtual mobility module:
 - Learning outcomes.
 - Guidelines for the building of working teams (students).
 - Design of virtual mobility module: synchronous and asynchronous activities:
 - Ice-breaker activity.
 - Collaborative activity: types of collaborative strategies.
3. Evaluation and self-evaluation:
 - What is evaluation.
 - When to evaluate.
 - The signature of the evaluation.

3. TEACHING BODY

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- **Academic direction and technical coordination:** Prof. Dr María Teresa Carballeira Rivera, Professor of Administrative Law at the University of Santiago de Compostela (USC) and Executive Secretary of the Compostela Group of Universities (CGU).
- **Teaching:** Prof. María Fernández Flecha, Head of Academic Internationalisation at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP).
- **Monitoring of academic partners:** Mr Juan José Santos, Higher Education and Science technician at the Organisation of Ibero-American States (OEI).
- **Academic collaboration:** Prof. Brenda García Portillo, Director of Internationalisation Projects and COIL Coordinator at the University of Monterrey (UDEM).

4. LANGUAGE

The training course will be held in **Spanish**.

The presentation of the virtual mobility project, as well as its monitoring and evaluation will be done in Spanish.

This is without prejudice to the fact that the academic partners may carry out the virtual mobility in the classroom in Spanish, English or the language they choose by mutual agreement.

5. DURATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The course will have a duration of 10 hours distributed into **8 teaching hours** of the training course and **2 practical hours** dedicated to the revision and evaluation of the projects that the academic partners will be making.

The training will take place in **sessions of two hours per week** concentrated in one day over a period of five weeks. The course will begin in mid-October 2023.

On the first day, the academic staff, the programme and the methodology of the course will be presented. Likewise, the academic partners will be officially introduced, which will be definitive and cannot be changed.

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Academic partners must work together throughout the course to design the virtual mobility project. This task must be cooperative and activities developed by only one member of the academic partners will not be accepted.

On the last day of the course, the completed projects will be presented.

6. EVALUATION AND DIPLOMA OF RECOGNITION

The evaluation of the training is **continuous** and will be based on participation, attendance and the project developed by the academic partners.

Teachers who pass the evaluation may obtain a **diploma** of participation in the training and teaching innovation course. This certificate will be issued by the CGU upon request sent by e-mail to the Executive Secretariat of the Compostela Group of Universities (grupo.compostela@usc.es) and after the implementation of virtual mobility.

7. AWARD TO THE BEST PROJECT

The organising entities will award **two awards** with a real or in-kind value of 500 euros gross and a special recognition to those virtual mobility projects that have met the quality and execution levels established by the teaching body of the course.

These projects will be publicised on the respective websites and other media for the general knowledge of the university community.

Technical data

8. MODALITY AND SOFTWARE

The training of the course will be delivered online in synchronous mode.

The training sessions of the course will take place in a virtual classroom that CGU will create on its [Composnet](#) platform, which integrates the BigBlueButton tool.

This platform will also be available throughout the course for the meetings and working meetings that the academic partners need for the development of their respective virtual

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mobility projects.

The training sessions of the course may be recorded to be made available on the **Composnet** platform for a defined period of time.

Registration and participation

9. TARGET GROUP

The course is aimed at teachers from member universities of the CGU.

It is also open to teachers from universities associated with the Organisation of Ibero-American States (OEI).

10. ENROLMENT

Both the course and the other actions are **free of charge** for all interested teachers from member universities of the CGU.

In order to access the training, the home university of the registered teachers must be up to date with the payment of their annual membership fees to the network.

11. PLACES

A total of **60 places** are established for university teachers in order to form a maximum of 30 academic partners.

The final number of participants will be determined by the possibility of pairings that can be made according to the profile and conditions of the registered teachers.

12. REGISTRATION

Step 1 – Previous requirements

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Before registering, teachers interested in participating in the course must verify that they meet the following requirements:

- To have the means, resources and possibilities to apply virtual mobility to their university teaching in the academic year 2023–2024 and 2024–2025. When registering for the course, express commitment to do so will be requested.
- To have a good command of Spanish.
- To have basic computer knowledge and user skills in computer systems and online communications.

A wired internet connection and a webcam are recommended for the course.

Step 2 – Online form

Once the prerequisites for participation have been checked, teachers must register for the course before the deadline, using the official online registration form:

<https://airtable.com/shrd4S8cZfM4sUe6D>

Step 3 – Acceptance of participation

In the first fortnight of October 2023, the CGU will send the selected teachers a **written communication** to the e-mail address indicated in the registration form, asking them to expressly accept their participation and allocated academic partner.

The contacted teachers will have a period of **five calendar days** from the date of sending this written communication to expressly accept their participation.

If they do not do so, **they and their partner will be considered to have withdrawn**, unless there is a possibility of finding a valid alternative pairing for their academic partner.

Selected teachers who have accepted participation and who leave the course without duly documented justification will not be admitted to future calls for this CGU activity.

13. SELECTION OF ACADEMIC PARTNERS AND FINAL LIST

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The selection of enrolments will be made based on the profile of the teachers enrolled in the programme, which will enable academic matches to be made. To this end, the following criteria will be taken into consideration:

- a) Balance ratio between teachers and scientific areas;
- b) Balance in the level of teaching (undergraduate or postgraduate) and disciplines of the teachers;
- c) Balance in the number of students in the university classroom where virtual mobility will be implemented;
- d) Geographical and Europe–America cross-continent variety;
- e) Gender parity.

If academic pairing is not possible according to these criteria, interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary pairs will be sought.

The definitive list of selected teachers and, if applicable, alternates, will be published on the website www.gcompostela.org in the first fortnight of October 2023.

14. CALENDAR

The development of the virtual mobility programme will follow the following timetable:

- Launch of the call: July 2023.
- Deadline for applications: 10 September 2023.
- Selection of applications and pairings: second half of September 2023.
- Publication of selection and acceptance of participation: first half of October 2023.
- Course implementation and evaluation:
 - Tuesday, 17 October 2023, from 4.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. (UCT+2).
 - Tuesday, 24 October 2023, from 4.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. (UCT+2).
 - Tuesday, 31 October 2023, from 4.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. (UCT+1).
 - Tuesday, 7 November 2023, from 4.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. (UCT+1).
 - Tuesday, 14 November 2023, from 4.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. (UCT+1).
- Realisation of virtual mobility: from November 2023 to February 2025.

Note: The terms and conditions of this call have been edited in Spanish and English. In case of any discrepancy or misunderstanding in their interpretation, the Spanish version will always take precedence over the other versions.

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