

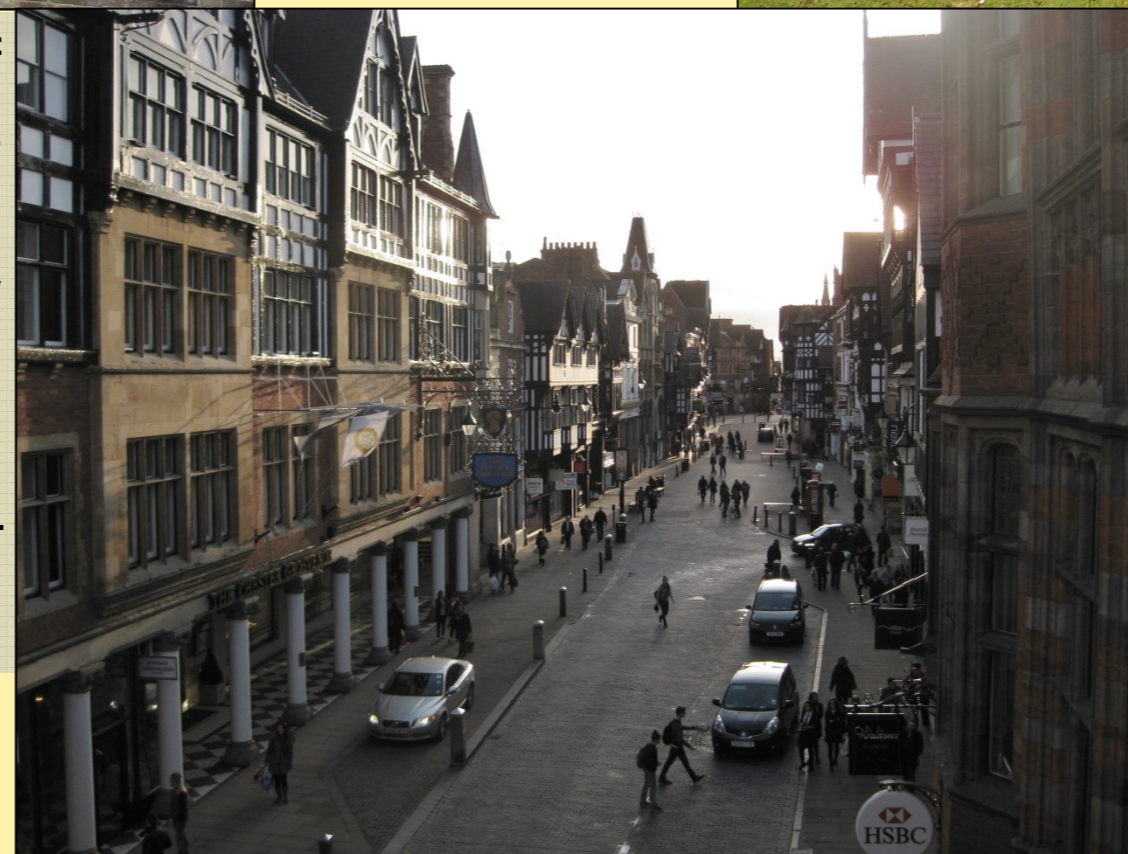
Chester 2013: Erasmus IP - Teachers' Intercultural Awareness and Competence



On the Riverside Campus at the University of Chester in the heart of the medieval town we exchanged ideas about culture and intercultural encounters. We developed theoretical basics by using a variety of active methods. The main topics were: »What is culture?« – »How to mediate within an intercultural context in general and in school!« – »Experience-based learning«.



The intercultural experience: 28 students from Chester, Malaga, Linköping, Tartu (Estonia), Wien, Flensburg and Jyväskylä (Finland).



During the TIAC our group learned in unusual locations – like a church. One task was to make a creative sketchbook. This gave us the possibility to reflect on each day in a very individual way.



Drama education was another key concept of the intensive program. It can be used as a tool to develop empathy for different perspectives. Drama breaks down the complexity of interculturality into simple stories.

The drama activities within the stories create an inspiring atmosphere. It connects the group, so that everyone feels as part of the progress. We discovered the benefits of using music and everyday accessories – like a fan. This potential should be used in German schools more often.



Cultural diversity can be found one step out of your door. Minority groups like the Roma travellers or the Welsh speaking population are a fantastic example for that. We experienced an honest, close and intensive dialogue with a gypsy family.



The program included an excursion to Wales and its amazing landscapes.



On two mornings the students visited a Welsh and an English primary school. Every country group taught a lesson about their culture. It also gave us the chance to have a look into a British classroom.