

# Virtual University of the Baltic Sea Region

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

### WHAT IS IT?

**Virtual University of the Baltic Sea Region (Virtuelle Hochschule Ostseeraum, VHO)** is an international, cross-institutional and interdisciplinary project that aims to establish a new virtual learning environment at the University of Greifswald and promote collaboration between the universities in the Baltic Sea region.

### WHAT IS IT FOR?

***The aims of the project are the next***

- improvement and specialisation of courses for master students and advanced teacher programs;
- qualification of academic teachers for the purpose of English virtual learning environments;
- international connection of virtual learning courses and therefore specialisation of courses for the research emphasis on the Baltic Sea Area.

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

The teaching and learning activities take place in the **shared digital space**. Lecture and seminar formats are designed jointly by an international team of teachers from partner universities. Students can engage themselves in self-study with units accessible online (***asynchronous teaching***), online sessions with all students and teachers (***synchronous teaching***) as well as **self-planned group work** in international working groups. The students are accompanied by the teachers in cooperative projects, and research-based learning is a central component of the courses. If the travel situation allows, the course is rounded off by a one-week excursion.

### WHO CAN BENEFIT FROM IT?

#### **Students**

- Students who need more courses in English for their curriculum - international students, students of foreign languages, just any ones who would like to have more practical experience in English
- Students who need online courses for their personal circumstances: relocation, disability, sickness, parenting, or caring for a family member.
- Students who would like to get more international experience in study, especially those limited in the opportunity for physical study exchange abroad.

## WHO CAN BENEFIT FROM IT?

### Academic staff

- Those who would like to advance innovative digital teaching methods and experiment with digital tools and their potential for new pedagogic approaches.
- Those who would like to advance their teaching in English and for a diverse international audience, especially those limited in the opportunity to have physical international teaching experience.
- Those who would like to extend professional networks with the partners and collaborators of the VHO.
- Those who would like to enrich their study programs and modules with innovative international courses.

## WHO ARE THE PARTNERS?

The project was founded by history professors from four Baltic universities: **University of Greifswald, Stockholm University, Tampere University and St. Petersburg State University** (*cooperation with St. Petersburg State University was suspended since the Russian invasion of Ukraine*). Now there is ongoing work on the collaboration with the **University of Szczecin**.

***The project is open to new partnership proposals and ideas!***

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE?

- Offer the international course to your students: include it in the curriculum of your university or check other available forms of student participation and accreditation.
- Contribute a video lecture and seminar working package (source text and/or research paper on the chosen topic with a set of questions for the work with the texts).
- Read a guest lecture for the course participants and wider audience - online or in presence, in hybrid mode.
- Open your online courses or other educational events to students from partner universities.
- Participate in the collaborative development of the new VHO modules
- Offer your idea for the new collaborative module and find collaborators in the project network.
- Join your own project on international digital education to the framework of the VHO with mutual benefit.

## HOW TO LEARN MORE?

***For additional information, feel free to contact:***

***[baltic-e-learning@uni-greifswald.de](mailto:baltic-e-learning@uni-greifswald.de)***

***Visit the VHO webpage:***

***<https://geschichte.uni-greifswald.de/ng11-1/virtual-university-of-the-baltic-sea-region/>***

