



# *We CAN virtuOWL*

*International Virtual Academic Collaboration*  
OWL – Edmonton (Alberta), Canada

[www.uni-bielefeld.de/we-can-virtuowl](http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/we-can-virtuowl)



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service

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(11) 9  
Collaborative  
Courses

Matching of  
lecturers from  
OWL and Alberta

Kick-Off-Event

Design Coaching  
and Workshops for  
Lecturers

Community of  
Practice Meetings

Assessment of  
Collaboration

Mobility of  
Lecturers

Exchange about  
Learning-  
Management-  
Systems in OWL

Digital Student  
Exchange Program

E-Tandem for  
Students

Marketing: press  
release, website,  
video(s)

Enhancing  
Cooperation with  
OWL and Alberta

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Matching

Kick-Off-Event

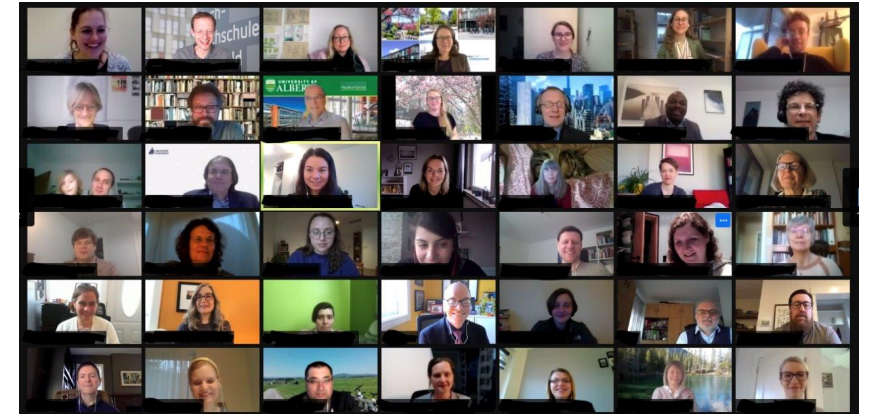
Design  
Coaching and  
Workshops

Community of  
Practice

Assessment of  
Collaborations

Mobility

# 9 Teaching Projects



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## Summer Semester 2021

***Cultural and Digital Literacy in the ELT*** Louloudi, Eppert (Bielefeld University & University of Alberta)

***Issues in Inclusive and Exclusive Education Practices: Reflections*** Schäffer, Kirova, Kheibari (Bielefeld University & University of Alberta)

***Interprofessional Collaboration***  
Rademaker, Sommerfeldt (Bielefeld University of Applied Sciences & University of Alberta)

***Beyond Queer Theories***  
Patch, Mietke, Pflieger (Bielefeld University & University of Alberta)

***Teaching Language*** Elbwart, Keatinge, Dunn (Paderborn University & University of Alberta)

***Exploring Differences and Similarities of Basic HR Practices: Same ends with culturally and procedurally different means*** Wach, Annett (Bielefeld University of Applied Sciences & MacEwan University)

***Intercultural to Trans-cultural Perceptions in Large Groups of Dialogue*** Muth, Morin (Bielefeld University of Applied Sciences & University of Alberta)

# Teaching Projects

## Winter/Fall Semester 2021/22

***Cultural and Digital Literacy in the ELT*** Louloudi, Eppert (Bielefeld University & University of Alberta)

***Issues in Inclusive and Exclusive Education Practices: Reflections*** Schäffer, Kirova, Kheibari (Bielefeld University & University of Alberta)

***Compiler Construction*** Gips, George, Amaral (Bielefeld University of Applied Sciences & University of Alberta)

***Special Polymer Synthesis***  
Kuckling, Serpe (Paderborn University & University of Alberta)

***Smart Service System Innovation***  
(Paderborn University & Concordia University of Edmonton) (cancelled)

***Using Big Data to Solve Economic and Social Problems*** (Paderborn University & Concordia University of Edmonton) (cancelled)

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## Voices

Overall, students "enjoyed connecting with students around the world" and appreciated the intercultural exchange facilitated by the collaboration with Bielefeld.

First step exposure of students to studying abroad with **fostering of interest for future in-person and/or longer duration study abroad opportunities**

**Potential of life-long friendships and connections of participating students**

Several noted the **need for trust in learning teams and ensuring psychological safety** where non-English speakers were hesitant to express views because of perceived limitations of vocabulary. Canadian students also discussed their new discovery that they speak quickly and realized the need to ensure understanding by others.

Students clearly appreciated having different instructors who brought different perspectives to the course material. Most of all, Canadian students appreciated the opportunity to collaborate with German students in carrying out various class activities and their micro-teaching project.

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## Voices: Students

“ Truly authentic experience working with someone from a different country. **I have been telling everybody about this course.** ”

“ I liked working with both the Canadian students and German students together as a group. **We had a very good time and it was a very interesting experience.** I also liked the Canadian perspective to the tasks/topics ”

“ My favorite part was having the opportunity to interact with the German students and professors. As a future language teacher, having the perspectives of students from other countries is crucial. I find it fascinating how we can complete a university course completely remotely and with people from two geographical locations! Great course :). ”

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It also gave me a **lot of new ideas for materials and activities** that I can

incorporate into my future teaching. I foresee that the collaboration will result in lasting interaction and collaboration.”

I think international virtual collaborations are an **excellent way to revitalize a course** or one’s teaching practice. It is also an excellent way to **form professional partnerships and even friendships** with university instructors in another country.”

## Voices: Lecturers

International cooperation enables you to learn new content from others, but at the same time, you **learn to expand your own (limited) perspectives.**”



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May

***Tools for the digital classroom***  
with Eleni Louloudi

June

***Assessment of Collaborative Courses***  
with Prof. Anna Lena Rademaker and Prof. Susan Sommerfeldt

September

***Funding Opportunities, Research and Teaching Collaborations***  
with John Paul Kleiner, DAAD Toronto

November

***Lessons Learned***

Community of  
Practice

Creating knowledge and  
experience on virtual  
exchange in our institutions

With lecturers, professors  
and colleagues in the  
International Offices in  
Alberta and OWL

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## Program:

### Part 1 –Let's Meet

Kick-off-Event

### Part 2 – Getting to know each other

in Breakoutsessions

### Part 3 – All about Germany and Canada

Quiz in Breakoutsessions

### Part 4 – Getting to know OWL

Interview with a Canadian student that has been in OWL

### Part 5 – Getting to know Alberta

Interview with a German student that has been in Alberta

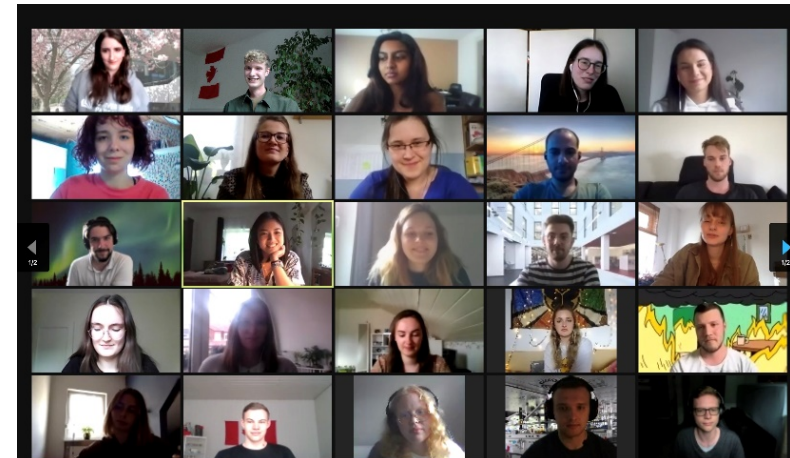
### Part 6 – Final Session

Jam Session with the musician Sam Vance-Law

Intercultural exchange,  
peer-to-peer-learning,  
regional knowledge

For Students in Alberta and  
OWL

Digital Student  
Exchange



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## Voices: Students

What did you like or love about the DSE?

Please keep up the Digital exchange because it is indeed a very good and **especially affordable and less scary option to "see the world"** or rather at least: Canada and Germany.

The fact that I got to hear about other peoples different experiences. Even if I may not be there to live it with them through an in person exchange, this digital method allows for me to imagine it much more strongly thanks to all of us students engaging with input. So, it was indeed worthwhile :)

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- Started in September with an Infosession
- Matching: students were grouped in three/four students per group



## 4. Resources



Direct cultural exchange and potentially life-long friendships

For students in Alberta and OWL

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Our first meeting was fun, we talked about how we will organize our meetings. I'm really looking forward to the next meeting with the two girls.

We are doing very well and started communicating via WhatsApp. We have talked a lot and **we really like each other already, since we are all very open and like-minded people.** We have also already made plans for the time when I (german student) come to visit Canada. Now, we have decided to have a weekly talk where everyone talks about whats going on in their lives. So I am very happy and I'm looking forward into growing our friendship!

## Voices: Students

The E-Tandem has been going great for me! I enjoyed chatting with Sarah and Lisa very much and learned a lot about Bielefeld and German culture. We also keep the WhatsApp texts entirely in German so that's good practice for me, **I've started sending German audio instead of texting to practice my spoken German.**

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## Outlook

Video Alberta-OWL

Mobility

More collaborative  
courses and ongoing  
collaboration of the  
lecturers

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## Contacts in OWL

### **Project Coordination**

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About the project: [www.uni-bielefeld.de/we-can-virtuowl](http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/we-can-virtuowl)