European Digital UniverCity

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# EDUC E-TANDEM : PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

## What's an E-tandem?

In this program, you will be **matched with one or two partners** from another university that forms part of the EDUC Alliance with whom you will **schedule regular virtual conversations** (via Teams, Instagram, WhatsApp, Google Meet, etc. - whichever teleconferencing app you'd like to use). This will allow you to **chat together and practice your spoken communication skills in 1 or 2 target languages**.

Indeed, there are **3 possible scenarios once you are matched with your partner(s)**:

1. **You and your partner(s) have 1 target language in common** (eg: German), in which case the entirety of your conversations together will be monolingual (eg: German);
2. **You and your partner(s) have 2 target languages in common** (eg: English and Spanish), in which case your conversations together will be bilingual and will allow you to practice both languages (eg: English and Spanish);
3. **You and your partner(s) do not have a target language in common** as your partner(s)' target language (eg: French) is your native language (eg: because you're French) and your own target language (eg: Hungarian) is your partner's native language (eg: because they're Hungarian), in which case your conversations will be split into 2 (eg: half in French, half in Hungarian) so that each of you can be a learner and practice their target language for half of the conversation, and can also be an expert and help the other improve their spoken communication skills during the other half.

## What to expect

This program runs **during the 2nd semester, from January 25, 2027 to June 20, 2027**. You have significant liberty to structure the program as you want and meet (virtually/online) with your partner(s) as often as your schedule allows, though **we recommend a minimum of one meeting every 3 weeks**. We have proposed **7 thematic units associated with relevant activities**, to facilitate the discussion, but you are of course free to talk about other subjects of mutual interest.

The program amounts to **25 hours of student work** which correspond to the following tasks:

- **Logistics for setting up exchanges with the partner(s)** (making initial contact, scheduling online exchanges, maintaining communication throughout the program, mastering the videoconferencing tool, etc.)
- **Preparatory work for online meetings** (reading articles, watching videos, researching resources to serve as a basis for discussion, etc.)
- **Time spent orally interacting with the partner(s) online** (around 1 hour of interaction during the 7 scheduled sessions)

- **Follow-up work after online sessions** (sharing resources on the online course platform and creating content; providing feedback throughout the program via the 2 questionnaires provided for this purpose; handing in the final written log and final oral presentation in tandem).

Completing those 25 hours of student work (notably completing the **2 feedback questionnaires and handing in the final written and oral tasks)** will make you **eligible to the Etandem certificate** that attests to the internationalization of your training and to the completion of the program. Indeed, this program is not assessed like **a regular class**: no teacher is going to be part of your conversations with your partner(s), which is why **consulting the online course page regularly, actively engaging in the activities provided on it, and meeting the deadlines for completing questionnaires and handing in tasks is crucial**.

## Main objectives of the program

1. **Developing foreign language skills**
One of the primary goals of the program is to **build your confidence in your target language(s)** and allow you to **improve your spoken communication as well as your intercultural skills** by practicing regularly with someone with a different personal, professional, linguistic, and cultural background.
All activities are offered in English on the EDUC course page, but you are free to conduct your meetings in any language(s) you wish (see What's an Etandem above). Do remember though that your partner is a student like you, and not a language teacher.

2. **Strengthening ties between universities**
The EDUC alliance brings together 8 European universities across 7 countries to work on innovative scientific and pedagogical projects. The E-tandem program is one of our many initiatives, meant to foster intercultural communication and understanding. Participating in this program will also be a strong advantage when applying for university exchanges, particularly the EDUC Gap Year.

3. **Raising awareness about current, pressing issues**
The course is composed of 7 thematic units, with new units appearing every 3 weeks. They'll include authentic materials and discussion questions to facilitate conversations with your partner(s). Topics such as cultural stereotypes, social media, well-being, and human rights will be discussed, encouraging students to share their point of view and hear other perspectives on these current topics.

## Prerequisites

In order to keep conversations fluid, you should target languages that you already master at **a minimum B1 level**. This means that **you cannot be a beginner in any of the up to 3 target languages that you select**, otherwise you won't be able to have actual spoken conversations with your partner(s).

## Registration process

In order to participate in the program, you will need to **complete a registration form**, which will be available **until November 23rd, 2026**.
Once you have completed the registration form, **make sure to anticipate and fit the program into your 2nd semester schedule** so that you don't let your future partner(s) down by dropping out early in the 2nd semester.
**Completing the form does not guarantee that you will be successfully matched**, as we will not necessarily be able to find someone with matching language(s), level, and availability

(although we'll work hard to match as many students as possible - to give you an idea, more than 700 students registered for the program last year, and more than 600 were successfully matched).

- **If you are successfully matched**
  you will be **notified via email** so make sure to **check both your personal and professional email addresses regularly before the Christmas break**.

- **If you are not matched early on**
  you will be **placed on a waitlist** and matched if the opportunity presents itself (and it does happen quite a lot!)

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## Contact information

Guiding you through this process are 2 staff members from Université Paris Nanterre:

**Cécile Viollain** is an associate professor of English linguistics responsible for the pedagogical content found on the platform.

**Leïna Chassigneux** is a Master's student majoring in English studies. She will be the program facilitator who can help you if you have any difficulty accessing the matching survey, contacting your partner(s), or using the platform.

If you have any questions regarding the E-Tandem program, **don't hesitate to reach out at etandem@educ.parisnanterre.fr!**