BIP GENERAL PRESENTATION

GENERAL INFORMATION
DATES FOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY: 2 April – 16 April 2027
PROPOSED PERIOD FOR VIRTUAL COMPONENT: Pre-mobility virtual phase: 2 weeks prior to the physical component. Post-mobility virtual phase: 2–3 weeks following the physical component, dedicated to consolidation and final project submission. Exact calendar dates will be coordinated with partner institutions and aligned with Erasmus+ mobility scheduling requirements.
LOCATION OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY: Guarda Polytechnic University
TARGET AUDIENCE / PARTICIPANT PROFILE: Primarily addressed to Bachelor (upper-level) and Master students from humanities, social sciences, and environmental-related fields, as well as staff members. Open to participants from all disciplines, fostering an interdisciplinary cohort combining cultural, historical, ethical, spatial, and marine perspectives. No prior specialised training in marine sciences is required.
NO. OF ECTS ISSUED: 6
LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION AND REQUIREMENTS: English
REQUIREMENTS/PRE-REQUISITES: None
ORGANIZING BOARD: Guarda Polytechnic University **Host university : Guarda Polytechnic University**
PROGRAM
TITLE: Introduction to the Blue Humanities

SHORT DESCRIPTION of BIP: This course introduces the emerging field of the Blue Humanities, a multidisciplinary scholarly movement within the environmental humanities that reframes the ocean not merely as a resource or a geographical boundary, but as a central agent in human history, culture, and environmental thought. Traditional environmental studies have frequently suffered from a terrestrial bias, treating marine spaces as blank voids. Moving beyond this land-bound perspective, the Blue Humanities explores how aquatic spaces form, maintain, and transform human societies, while simultaneously applying humanities and social science methodologies to the non-human marine world. This Blended Intensive Programme addresses the terrestrial gap by integrating insights from literary studies, history, cultural anthropology, human geography, philosophy, environmental ethics, marine sciences, and tourism to critically examine humanity's relationship with the sea.

The core curriculum revolves around six defining thematic pillars:

1. Maritime History: An exploration of historical trade networks, imperial expansion, and the evolution of coastal cultures through transoceanic contact.
2. Marine Literature and Marine Aesthetics: An analysis of how narrative, language, and cultural representation capture the shifting nature of wet spaces, thereby challenging traditional, land-bound storytelling frameworks.
3. Oceanic Urbanism: An investigation into how coastal cities, human settlements, technologies, and infrastructures interact with fluid water systems, ranging from oceans and seas to rivers, estuaries, and glaciers.
4. Environmental Ethics: A theoretical and philosophical re-evaluation of human moral responsibilities toward the aquatic world in an era of unprecedented anthropogenic change.
5. Anthropocene Oceanography and Coastal Precarity: A synthesis of empirical data on marine degradation and human geography, examining how rising sea levels and ecological crises reshape global populations and vulnerable coastlines.
6. Marine Leisure and Blue Tourism: A critical analysis of maritime tourism, coastal recreation, and the commercialization of marine environments under global capitalism.

SHORT DESCRIPTION of the Virtual Component: The virtual component of the programme is designed to prepare, support, and extend the physical mobility through structured academic engagement and collaborative online work. It is divided into pre-mobility and post-mobility phases, each aligned with the course's four workload pillars: guided learning, collaborative group work, independent study, and final project development.

In the pre-mobility phase, students are introduced to the conceptual foundations of the Blue Humanities through curated readings, recorded lectures, and an online introductory seminar. This phase also includes guided case study selection and group formation, ensuring that students arrive at the physical mobility with a shared analytical framework and initial project focus.

The post-mobility phase focuses on consolidating and extending learning outcomes through collaborative online project development. Students work in international groups to refine their field observations, integrate theoretical perspectives, and develop their final interdisciplinary outputs. This phase is supported by structured tutor feedback sessions and peer-review activities conducted via the virtual platform. Asynchronous activities include readings, reflective tasks, and collaborative document work, ensuring continuous engagement across geographical boundaries.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE: he programme comprises 30 hours of physical mobility contact time and 6 hours of synchronous virtual sessions.

Virtual Component Schedule: Week 1 (pre-mobility): 1 introductory session (3 hours) – programme overview, group formation, and thematic briefing. Week 2 (pre-mobility): 1 preparatory seminar (3 hours) – introduction to case studies and methodological guidance. Post-mobility phase: Asynchronous project writing, editing, and submission, supported via Moodle.

Physical Component Schedule (12 April – 16 April 2027, 6 hours per day): Day 1 (6 hours): Introduction to the Blue Humanities Morning: Programme introduction and theoretical foundations of the Blue Humanities. Afternoon: Lecture and seminar on Maritime History and Marine Literature. Group formation and initial thematic orientation.

Day 2 (6 hours): Cultural and Spatial Dimensions of the Sea Morning: Marine Aesthetics and cultural representations of the ocean. Afternoon: Oceanic Urbanism and coastal infrastructures workshop. Group work: case study selection.

Day 3 (6 hours): Ethics and Environmental Perspectives Morning: Environmental Ethics and philosophical approaches to the marine world. Afternoon: Anthropocene Oceanography and Coastal Precarity seminar. Group project development session.

Day 4 (6 hours): Marine Leisure, Blue Tourism, and Field-Based Learning Morning (outside class): Marine Leisure and Blue Tourism. Afternoon: Field trip to the Mondego River basin: guided observation, interdisciplinary field analysis, and data collection, followed by reflective group discussion on-site.

Day 5 (6 hours): Synthesis and Presentation Morning: Challenge-based group project development. Afternoon: Final group project presentations and feedback session, followed by programme reflection and closing discussion.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE
REQUERIMENTS: Application is open to Bachelor (upper-level) and Master students as well as staff members across humanities, social sciences, environmental studies, and other disciplines. No prior specialised training in marine sciences is required. Selection is managed in accordance with institutional and Erasmus+ guidelines.