

GRAZ INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL SEGGAU 2026

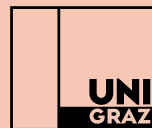
21
years
GUSEGG

**CURIOSITY, CONCERN, AND COMMITMENT
IN EUROPE AND THE AMERICAS:
STATE – SOCIETY – RELIGION**

July 5 – July 18, 2026
Seggau Castle | Leibnitz
Austria | Europe



KATHOLISCHE 
KIRCHE STEIERMARK



TOPIC

Curiosity, Concern, and Commitment in Europe and the Americas: State – Society – Religion

Faced with a multitude of concrete challenges and crises posing existential threats to our lives and the stability of our societies, we can ask ourselves how we have become less curious to know details, learn facts, and explore different explanations for the complexities of our world. We might be surprised by how quickly we are expected to have an opinion and how quickly we confirm these expectations with declarations of firm beliefs, strong convictions, and fixed positions. Sometimes we might even feel compelled to pretend to know more than we do concerning an understanding of the world. Artificial Intelligence contributes to this world of quick-fix solutions by the convenience of fast answers to possible questions seemingly addressing gaps in our knowledge. Less and less time is allowed for carefully looking into matters, little motivation is provided for us to investigate issues more thoroughly through reading, thinking, and writing in order to explore contradictory concerns behind conflicts, researching how

the political, economic, cultural, and social aspects have shaped and defined these challenges and crises. Despite some philosophers discarding curiosity as a “kind of knowing, but just in order to have known” (Heidegger), the summer school intends to understand curiosity, concern, and commitment as an academic engagement with the world countering tendencies of impatience, arrogance, and fear. The more abstract approach of concern will be discussed in relation to the more concrete of commitment as a future projection. Thus, the topic of **GUSEGG 2026** is an invitation to create an academic community that allows for controversial academic discussion and debate to address the challenges and crises of our times in a meaningful way.

GUSEGG 2026 will offer a platform for the contributions of academics of various backgrounds and disciplines and will present research on how curiosity, concern, and commitment in Europe and the Americas

are addressed socially, politically, culturally, and economically, and what this means for states, societies, and religions. In order to develop strategies and methods to meet the challenges of our times, this summer school encourages contemplation of the many forces that make us believe that the crises we face are essential, natural, or inevitable. Therefore, the suggested analysis offers us not only an understanding of our own positions on an individual, a regional, national, and global level, but also the possibility of moving from a passive position to active involvement. Addressing curiosity, concern, and commitment, offers insights into the dynamics and structures that govern and shape us individually and collectively. Focusing on the emphasis areas of the **University of Graz – South Eastern Europe and North, Central, and South America** – this program will offer a basis for discussing global and continental challenges as well as opportunities that such academic engagement provides.



*Prof. Dr. Roberta Maierhofer,
Academic Director*

OVERVIEW

Target Group

The Graz International Summer School Seggau is designed for internationally oriented, **highly motivated students for an intense academic program from all disciplines and all levels** who wish to deepen their understanding of current European and international affairs by studying and discussing global developments and challenges, reflecting aspects of individual and collective identities.

Organizers

GUSEGG is organized by the University of Graz in cooperation with the Commission of the Bishops Conferences of the European Community (COMECE) and the Diocese Graz-Seckau. The Office of International Relations of the University of Graz acts as the coordinating unit. Prof. Dr. Roberta Maierhofer (Center for Inter-American Studies of the University of Graz) is the academic director.

Aims and Objectives

- **Interdisciplinary cooperation of researchers and students;**
- **Focus areas of the University of Graz – Southeastern Europe and North, Central, and South America;**
- **Unique educational opportunity for future leaders.**



HOW THE SUMMER SCHOOL WORKS

Morning Lectures
Optional Lunch Workshops
Seminars
Evening Events

Students will deal with the relevance and effect of Europe and the EU (emphasis on South-eastern Europe) and the Americas on global affairs by attending the offered morning lectures, discussions, and participating in one of the following seminars in the afternoon:

Seminar Modules (6 ECTS)

- 1: Political Concerns and Cultural Risks
- 2: Media and Society in a Post-Rational World
- 3: Economic Concerns and Commitments
- 4: Multilingualism and Translation as Jewish Identity
- 5: Scholarship and Activism:
Exploring a Contested Relationship
- 6: Aging in Data: Embodied Power of Access
- 7: Society, Politics, and Emotions

Students can also take part in one of the following workshops, for extra credit:

Optional Lunch Workshops (6 ECTS)

- a) Creative Writing
- b) Academic Writing

Participate in the
Poster Presentations



8 GOOD REASONS TO APPLY

1. 2-week summer university at a unique castle campus
2. 6 ECTS credits (further credits possible)
3. Lectures, discussions, and 7 parallel seminars
4. Improving skills and critical thinking in workshops
5. International networking and a publication opportunity
6. 4-star hotel with excellent regional cuisine
7. Scholarships available
8. Access to the GUSEGG Academy courses, for additional credit

APPLICATION DEADLINE: January 31, 2026

Costs and Funding

The total student participation fee of 2.500€ covers the tuition, and room & board for the entire two weeks. Travel arrangements have to be made and paid for individually.

A limited number of scholarships are available (please see our website for detailed information)

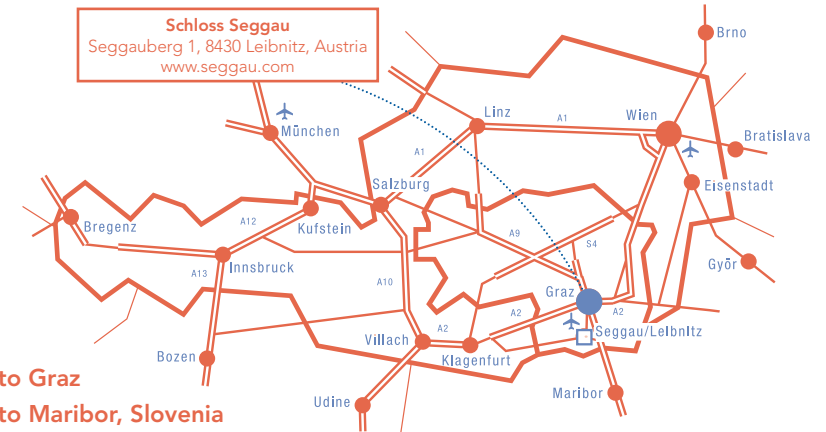
How to Apply

Please see our website for more information.



THE VENUE

The venue of the summer school is Seggau Castle, located 45 km south of Graz, Austria. The castle is located on top of a hill overlooking the city of Leibnitz, amidst the vineyards of southern Styria.



- Excursion to Graz
- Excursion to Maribor, Slovenia (optional)
- Writing and Photo Contests
- Castle Tour
- Visit of the Historic Wine Cellar
- Karaoke
- Sports Tournaments
- Movie Nights




CONTACT & INFO

APPLICATION
DEADLINE
January 31,
2026


Graz International Summer School Seggau

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incoming-students/gusegg/](https://international.uni-graz.at/en/incoming-students-and-staff/gusegg/)



Supported by:



A Cooperation of the **International Relations Office** and
Center for Inter-American Studies of the University of Graz.



“ I would definitely recommend GUSEGG to others, as it is an experience from which you learn so much not just academically, but in all aspects of life that matter in today's world. It opens your mind, challenges your perspective, and helps you grow both personally and intellectually! ”

GUSEGG student 2025