GRAZ INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL SEGGAU 2027

22 years GUSEGG

COMPLEXITY, ENGAGEMENT, AND TRUST: STATE – SOCIETY – RELIGION

July 4 – July 17, 2027
Seggau Castle | Leibnitz
Austria | Europe



APPLICATION DEADLINE
January 31, 2027

KATHOLISCHE KIRCHE STEIERMARK

UNI GRAZ



This experience has helped me open my eyes and mind to different new ideas and perspectives on several important topics.

Leaving the summer school, I carried with me a newfound sense of purpose and a commitment to lead with empathy and a passion for making a positive impact in the society.





Thank you so much for this invaluable opportunity! It was truly life changing and I will remember this experience forever.

TOPIC



Complexity, Engagement, and Trust: State – Society – Religion

We are currently faced with a multitude of social and political crises posing existential threats to our lives and the stability of our societies. Despite the urgency, global challenges are often discussed in simple terms reducing complex situations to a superficial analysis and offering rhetorical responses for quick-fix solutions. Serious social, political, and cultural debates are often met with rhetoric banter undermining critical engagement. Rapid changes of established modes and structures – accelerated by artificial intelligence – lead to a lack of trust in institutions and democratic structures increasing our sense of uncertainty concerning the present and the future. Trust, therefore, plays an important role in terms of engaging with political, social, cultural, and economic complexities and whether we accept our engagement individually and collectively as a reaffirmation of democratic processes and institutions.

Thus, the topic of **GUSEGG 2027** is an invitation to create an academic community that allows for controversial discussion and debate to address the complex and multifaceted challenges and crises of our times based on trust and serious academic engagement.

GUSEGG 2027 will offer a platform for the contributions of academics of various backgrounds and disciplines and will present research on how complexity, engagement, and trust are expressed individually and collectively, and what this means for states, societies, and religions. 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 **an intense academic program** designed for internationally oriented, **highly motivated students for 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 Diocese Graz-Seckau. The Office of International Relations of the University of Graz acts as the coordinating unit. Prof. Dr. Roberta Maierhofer (Graz School of Interdisciplinary Transnational Studies: Center for Inter-Amerian 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
Intercultural Workshop
Seminars
Evening Events

Students will deal with the relevance and effect of Europe and the EU on global affairs by attending the offered morning lectures and the intercultural workshop, as well as engaging in group work and presentations and participating in one of the following seminars in the afternoon:

Seminar Modules (6 ECTS)

1. Complexities of Political and Cultural Engagement in the Americas
2. Media and Post-Literacy: Democracies in Transition
3. Environmental and Eco(nomic) Crises: People, Planet, and Prosperity
4. Multilingualism and Culture: Navigating Complexities in Literature
5. Thinking as a Critical Geographer: The Politics of Space, Place, and Movement
6. Engaging with Complexities: The Role of Emotions in Society and Politics

Intercultural Workshop (4 ECTS)

Optional Lunch Workshops (6 ECTS)

a) Creative Writing
b) Academic Writing

Participate in the Poster Presentations





7 GOOD REASONS TO APPLY

1. 2-week summer university at a unique castle campus
2. 10 ECTS credits (further credits possible)
3. Lectures, discussions, and 6 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

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Costs and Funding

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

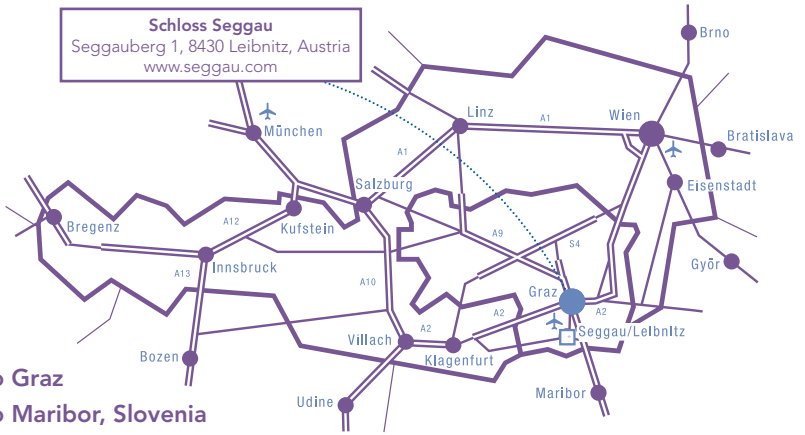
A limited number of scholarships are available (please see our website for detailed information)

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, amid 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

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"A great mix of learning, cultural exchange, creativity, and networking in an inspiring environment."
GUSEGG student 2026

Supported by:

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