LEARNING PROGRAMME

The 4 Cs in Education: Getting to Grips with Creativity, Critical Thinking, Communication and Collaboration

5-DAY COURSE

25 learning hours | Course programme

The 4 Cs in Education: Getting to Grips with Creativity, Critical Thinking, Communication and Collaboration – 5-Day Course

Introduction and Description

This intensive 5-day professional development course provides a theoretically rigorous and practice-informed examination of the Four Cs—Creativity, Critical Thinking, Communication, and Collaboration—as essential competences underpinning contemporary European and international educational paradigms. Positioned within broader discourses on 21st-century skills, competence-based education, and transformative pedagogies, the course interrogates the epistemological, cognitive, and socio-cultural dimensions that shape how learners construct knowledge and participate meaningfully in learning communities.

Drawing on research from cognitive science, sociolinguistics, creativity studies, and learning sciences, the programme critically explores the affordances and challenges of integrating the 4 Cs into real educational ecosystems characterised by diversity, digitalisation, and shifting curricular expectations. Participants engage with conceptual frameworks such as inquiry-based learning, design thinking, Universal Design for Learning (UDL), dialogic pedagogy, and collaborative problem-solving, examining how these approaches can scaffold complex thinking, foster learner agency, and support inclusive participation across subjects and age groups.

Through sustained practical engagement—workshops, simulations, collaborative project work, and iterative lesson design—participants develop the pedagogical repertoire needed to engineer learning environments in which the 4 Cs operate holistically and synergistically. Emphasis is placed on designing authentic, multimodal, and socially embedded learning experiences; leveraging digital tools for communication and collective knowledge construction; and adapting pedagogical strategies to diverse linguistic, cognitive, and socio-cultural learner profiles.
By the end of the course, participants will possess the conceptual clarity, methodological grounding, and reflective competence necessary to embed the Four Cs as core pillars of innovative, equitable, and future-oriented teaching practice.

Methodology and Assessment

The course adopts an experiential, socio-constructivist methodology that integrates workshops, simulations, collaborative design tasks and reflective dialogue. Participants engage in hands-on exploration of activities that foster the Four Cs, analyse exemplar

practices, and iteratively design their own 4C-based lessons. Digital tools support multimodal communication and collaborative knowledge construction. Assessment is continuous and formative, focusing on active participation, reflective engagement, peer feedback and the development of a final teaching activity or mini-lesson demonstrating coherent integration of creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, participants will be able to:

Knowledge & Understanding

- Demonstrate an advanced, research-informed understanding of the conceptual foundations, theoretical frameworks and educational significance of the Four Cs within contemporary pedagogical discourse.
- Critically examine the interrelationships among creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration, situating them within models such as the OECD Learning Compass, EU Key Competences and inquiry-based learning frameworks.
- Analyse the cognitive, affective and sociocultural processes underpinning the development of the 4 Cs, including their relationship to metacognition, identity formation and inclusive pedagogical design.

Application

- Design and implement pedagogically robust and inclusive learning activities that intentionally cultivate each of the 4 Cs and support their integration within interdisciplinary, project-based or inquiry-driven learning contexts.
- Select and utilise appropriate digital tools to enhance communicative competence, collaborative engagement and multimodal knowledge construction in face-to-face and blended environments.
- Apply UDL principles and other inclusive design strategies to adapt activities for learners with diverse linguistic, cognitive and socio-emotional profiles.

Skills

- Facilitate dialogic interaction, collaborative problem-solving and sustained creative engagement in heterogeneous classrooms.
- Employ reflective, analytical and evidence-informed strategies to evaluate teaching practices and redesign learning environments in alignment with the 4 Cs framework.
- Demonstrate competence in professional communication, peer feedback and collective planning, contributing to a culture of pedagogical innovation within participants' own institutions.

Preparation

After registration participants will receive pre-course questionnaire which will be used by the trainer to learn about participants' teaching backgrounds and to assess their exact needs. Before the beginning of the course a basic reading list will be suggested to participants to prepare for the training. Participants will also be asked to prepare a presentation about themselves, their professional context and their culture. The presentation will be presented on the first day of the course to facilitate networking opportunities. Participants will receive information about the country they are going to visit in order to prepare them for their cultural experience.

Follow up

After the course participants will be asked to share what they have learned with the rest of the staff in their schools. Further books and articles to deepen the topic and contacts with some other practitioners all over Europe and in the world will be suggested by the trainer. The methods shared and explored and the bibliography given will allow the participants to complete and improve their educational path.

Certificate

Certificate complies with the guidelines of the Erasmus+ programme and includes the topic, number of didactic hours, dates and location of the course. We can list the record of learning outcomes on the Europass Mobility Document on request of participants. In case a participant requires a specific format of certificate we can accommodate that if requested at least one week before the start of the course. It is necessary to attend at least 80% of the hours in order to receive the certificate.

Accommodation

We do not directly offer accommodation and subsistence and participants are responsible for organizing it by themselves.

Paperwork

We also provide all the support with paperwork you might need for your Erasmus+ project documentation such as mobility agreement and registration letter.

Fee: 400 €

Cancelation policy

We have a flexible cancellation policy in force at the moment and you can cancel your registration up to 30 days before the course and receive a full refund. In case you don't cancel the registration more than 30 days before you will not receive any refunds, but you will be able to choose to attend any other confirmed course session later (within 6 months) without any additional costs. In case you are not able to travel, your school can send someone else to take instead of you and you can change the details of the participant any time before the start of the course at no additional cost.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME (25 didactic hours - 5*45min per day) Monday to Friday	
Day 1	Welcome, Orientation & Foundations of the 4 Cs
09.00 - 09.45	Introductions & Icebreakers
09.45 - 10.30	Course Overview & Learning Agreement
10.30 - 11.15	Warm-ups using the 4 Cs implicitly
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Historical and theoretical background
12.15 - 13.00	The 4 Cs in today's schools
Day 2	Separate Introduction to Each C + Connecting the 4 Cs

09.00 - 09.45	Creativity in education
09.45 - 10.30	Critical Thinking in education
10.30 - 11.15	Communication in education
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Collaboration in education
12.15 - 13.00	Connecting all 4 Cs
Day 3	Practical Workshops on the 4 Cs
09.00 - 09.45	Hands-on Creativity Lab
09.45 - 10.30	Critical Thinking Clinic
10.30 - 11.15	Communication Micro-Workshops
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Collaboration Workshop
12.15 - 13.00	Integrative 4C activity
Day 4	Reflection, Classroom Transfer & Individual Support
09.00 - 09.45	Reflection on workshop activities
09.45 - 10.30	Classroom adaptation workshop
10.30 - 11.15	Analysing sample classroom activities
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Designing mini-lessons integrating the 4 Cs
12.15 - 13.00	Peer coaching circle
Day 5	Presentation, Evaluation & Closing
09.00 - 09.45	Redesign a lesson to incorporate all 4 Cs
09.45 - 10.30	Preparing the final presentations and individual support
10.30 - 11.15	Final presentations and feedback
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Evaluation & Reflection
12.15 - 13.00	Validation of learning outcomes and certification

*This is only a tentative timetable. The exact hours or the course might differ and will be announced for each session 2 weeks before the start. However, there will always be a total of 5 didactic hours per day and

all will be in line with the Erasmus+ quality standards. The trainer might slightly modify the content in response to the needs of the group.
**Cultural and social programmes will be organized in addition to the academic programme. The exact cultural and social programme depends on the location, season, weather, etc.