

3X3

ENGAGING WESTERN EUROPEAN INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS
WITH CULTURAL WISDOM

3 THINGS TO KNOW

- 1 In general, a “post-christian” culture. Catholic, Anglican, or Lutheran traditions are often seen as cultural birth-heritages only, not belief systems to orient one’s life around.
- 2 Students often have far more general knowledge of world/current events and speak multiple languages.

Hello, Hola
Bonjour, Ciao
Hallo, Hallå
- 3 In many nations where Christianity is a “state religion,” disclosure of personal faith may be unusual or uncomfortable. But, debating ideas, including religious ones, is common.

X THINGS TO AVOID

- 1 Avoid casual discussions of money, family, religion. Perception is that Americans get too personal too quick, and these are often more guarded subjects for Europeans.
 
- 2 Avoid lumping all of Europe into one. Europe is extremely diverse politically, culturally, ethnically, socio-economically, and religiously. It’s increasingly non-white, Muslim and immigrant-filled.
- 3 Avoid seeing Europe as a real-life “Epcot Center,” reducing countries to famous monuments and moments in history (vs. showing genuine interest in their history.)
 

3 THINGS TO TRY

- 1 Coffee or tea is an opportunity to talk or debate, not just a vehicle for caffeine intake! Build trust by discussing global politics, food, and travel over coffee or tea.
 
- 2 Invite students to church. They may be open but may view church as a cultural experience rather than spiritual openness at first.
- 3 Intellectual/enlightenment foundations demand engagement of faith AND reason. Use apologetics in evangelism. Consider Veritas forums: www.veritas.org


MORE RESOURCES

Questions? Email Kelly kelly.IVCF@gmail.com
Put “Europe 3x3” in subject line.
IFES Europe ifesworld.org/en/regions/europe

3X3 resources give you quick tips and tools to help you
engage international students.

Check out more 3X3s at tiny.cc/3BY3



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