

Invitation to High Schools to participate in the “The Modern Argonauts” project

The research project “The Modern Argonauts: A Multicultural Educational Programme Preparing Young People for Contemporary Challenges through an Innovative Use of Classical Mythology” (ERC Proof of Concept Grant) is being implemented at the Faculty of “Artes Liberales” of the University of Warsaw under the guidance of Prof. Katarzyna Marciniak. Within this project, an international educational programme is developed, designed to prepare school youth for the challenges of the modern world through an innovative use of Greek and Roman mythology. The programme will be published as an Open-Access handbook in English. Experts from Europe, Africa, Asia, the Americas, Australia and New Zealand are involved in its preparation.

The handbook will have the form of a game: its users will take on the role of “Modern Argonauts” and embark on an expedition to discover a common mythical heritage. Students will learn about ancient sources, their reception in various contexts, and selected mythical motifs from other cultures. They will be also encouraged to engage in creative activities. The programme will be addressed in particular to high-school students, in order to inspire young people to seek knowledge on their own, draw their attention to local and global heritage, and to teach them the principles of communication and respect for different cultures.

The handbook will consist of approximately 50 lessons. One of the stages of its preparation will be the testing of each lesson at school by teachers who will then provide the project team with their and their students’ feedback on the lesson.

We cordially invite High Schools to test the materials being created for this programme!

The criteria:

- teachers’ and students’ knowledge of English language sufficient to read the materials on mythology and its reception (the lesson itself can be taught in any language),
- students’ age: 14-19 years old,
- possibility to conduct the lesson within humanities curriculum or as an extra activity implemented at school between 11 December 2023 and 30 September 2024.

Please apply via e-mail (Olga Strycharczyk: strycharczyk@al.uw.edu.pl). The e-mail should contain the following information:

1. name and address of the school,
2. the school’s Principal’s consent (can be expressed by e-mail) for participation in the project,
3. an official e-mail address of the teacher willing to conduct the lesson,
4. information within what subject the lesson is going to be tested,
5. the profile and grade (e.g., 2nd grade of humanities and film profile),
6. information on how many lessons the school is ready to test during the period mentioned above (a maximum of five but you can apply, e.g., for only one).

Applications which meet our criteria will be accepted until all lessons are distributed for testing. A fee of 600 PLN (Polish złoty) gros is foreseen for the teacher who prepares a feedback after the lesson is conducted. More information about this project can be found on the University of Warsaw website: <https://en.uw.edu.pl/first-erc-proof-of-concept-grant-in-polish-humanities>.

We cordially invite you to join us on this expedition around the mythical world!

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