



ALL FOR PARTNER UNIVERSITIES AND STUDENT APPLICATIONS

Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programme (BIP) “Beyond Preservation: Digital Twins, Heritage Representation, and the Future of Cultural Memory”

Programme Code: 2024-1-TR01-KA131-HED-000206038-2

About the Programme

Istanbul Esenyurt University is pleased to announce a Blended Intensive Programme (BIP) focusing on the intersection of cultural heritage conservation and digital technologies.

While traditional conservation methods aim to preserve the physical integrity of heritage assets, increasing risks such as natural disasters, mass tourism, and environmental degradation raise critical questions about the limits of physical preservation.

This programme proposes to explore **digital twin technologies not merely as technical tools, but as conceptual extensions of heritage preservation**, questioning how digital representations reshape our understanding of authenticity, memory, and permanence.

Programme Structure

The programme will be conducted in a blended format:

- **Online Component:** [20.07.2026-24.07.2026]
Theoretical lectures on heritage conservation, digital heritage, 3D modelling, representation and authenticity
- **Onsite Component:** [27.07.2026-31.07.2026]
Field documentation, data collection, and collaborative digital twin production workshops

Programme Themes

1. **From Physical Preservation to Digital Continuity**
Can heritage survive beyond its material existence?
2. **Digital Twins as a New Layer of Conservation**
Documentation, simulation, and representation
3. **Authenticity and Representation**
What is lost—and what is transformed—when heritage becomes digital?
4. **Heritage at Risk**
Disaster, tourism pressure, and vulnerability of cultural assets
5. **Digital Archives and Collective Memory**
Creating shared, accessible, and sustainable heritage databases

6. 3D Modeling and Digital Twin Production
7. Game Engine Focused Modeling
8. Photography for Digital Texture
9. Digital Lighting Training

Why This Programme?

Cultural heritage is increasingly exposed to irreversible risks. While conservation practices aim to prevent loss, they cannot always guarantee permanence.

Digital twin technologies offer an alternative: not as replacements of heritage, but as **parallel realities where memory, form, and knowledge can persist**.

This programme positions itself at the intersection of architecture, technology, and critical theory—inviting participants to question not only *how* we preserve heritage, but also *what it means to preserve it*.

Who Can Participate?

This call is open to partner universities within the Erasmus+ Programme framework wishing to participate in this BIP by sending their students as part of Erasmus+ short-term blended mobilities.

Universities which will nominate students for the BIP are expected to have or make an IIA with Istanbul Esenyurt University because it is the Coordinator for the program. All mobilities will be completed within the frame of Erasmus Student Mobilities and one of the prerequisites of the study mobilities is a IIA between home and host institutions.

Travel and accommodation costs of participating students will be covered by their home institutions' Erasmus+ funds under short-term mobility schemes.

The summer school is open to participants from a broad range of disciplines. We especially encourage applications from students and researchers whose work intersects with migration, displacement, memory politics, nation-building, identity studies, and heritage-related themes. We especially encourage applications from graduate students (MA and PhD level) and also faculty members in:

- Architecture

Programme Content

- Digital documentation workshops
- Photogrammetry and 3D modeling
- Unreal Engine-based visualization
- Interdisciplinary group work
- Critical discussions on heritage theory
- Fieldwork and site visits in Istanbul historical peninsula

Expected Outcomes

- Digital twin models of selected heritage structures
- A shared digital archive platform
- Conceptual discussions on digital heritage and authenticity
- Collaborative student projects

How to Participate?

Participating universities interested in sending students must establish an inter-institutional agreement with Istanbul Esenyurt University. Individual students should apply through their home university's Erasmus+ office in coordination with the programme organizers. A detailed application guide, including timelines and logistical arrangements, will be shared with partner institutions upon confirmation of participation.

Contact and Further Information:

For partnership inquiries and more details about the programme:
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Final Note

This programme does not ask only how to preserve heritage—it asks whether preservation itself is being redefined.