

Our campus at sea – the “Thor Heyerdahl”

The traditional sailer “Thor Heyerdahl” has been sailing as a swimming educational institution for youths for more than 24 years. More than 20,000 youths and young adults have undergone its progressive educational teaching programme by now.

Between November 2007 and May 2008, the “Thor Heyerdahl” was fundamentally overhauled at a shipyard and prepared for the project. In Germany, the vessel is considered a forerunner of the idea of supporting young individuals on board a traditional sailing vessel on their way to maturity and developing their personality.



Technical Data of the vessel

Rig:	Three-mast topsail schooner
Shipowner:	The non-profit association “Segelschiff Thor Heyerdahl gemeinnützige Fördergesellschaft mbH”
Home port:	Kiel
Length overall:	49,83 m
Breadth:	6,51 m
Draught:	2,95 m
Mast height:	29 m
Engine:	400 HP Deutz; six-cylinder
Crew:	34 youths and 15 adults
Sail surface:	approx. 830 m ²

Information and contact

“KUS” is a project of the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg with the Institute of Pedagogics and the Institute for Innovation in Learning. In addition, “KUS” is monitored scientifically in terms of quality assurance.

The Bavarian State Ministry of Education and Culture has put “KUS” on a par with attending a school abroad.

Further information at

KUS

www.kus-projekt.de

or

Dr. Ruth Merk

Friedrich-Alexander-University
Institute of Pedagogics

Regensburger Str. 160
90478 Nürnberg

E-Mail: info@kus-projekt.de



KUS – A different way to school!

A traditional sailing vessel and foreign countries will be your classroom for six months



Classroom under Sail (KUS)

The participating pupils will experience six months of their Fifth Form year on board a traditional sailing vessel and abroad. They will responsibly participate in ship operations, explore foreign countries and cultures during layovers of several weeks, and be taught on shore as well as at sea. These pupils will be scouts for the schools that sent them, and ambassadors of their country.

Beside conveying learning contents, the personality of each of these young individuals will be developed and strengthened. Due to the particular challenges on board and on shore, they will learn more about themselves and grow from their different tasks. Mastering new life situations will demand autonomous decision-making.

These youths will experience the social dynamics of life, learning and work on board a sailing vessel. The exceptional framework conditions of the project will provide first-hand experience and adventure.

The object of “KUS” is to strengthen young individuals in their autonomy, initiative taking and sense of responsibility, as well as to prepare them for the demands of a complex and globalised world.

Programme contents

Vessel operation

Consideration and tolerance as well as the ability to handle conflict, to act as a team and take on responsibility will be demanded and fostered by sharing a limited living space on board and responsibly participating in ship operations. The youths will be able to discover and improve further skills by means of practical and manual tasks.

Layovers

Layovers of several weeks in foreign countries will help the youths to get to know and understand other cultures and to reflect on their own culture. They will learn to deal with cultural differences, be able to apply and conso-



lidate their foreign language skills and build international friendships.

School tuition

The pupils will be taught on board as well as on shore. The Class curriculum will be oriented on regular Fifth Form content and on the progressing voyage: History, Politics and Economics will convey knowledge and understanding of the wider global context. Geography, Biology, Physics and Foreign Languages will not merely be abstract subject matter, they will be practically experienced during the voyage. German, Arts and Music will contribute to processing these experiences. Mathematical subjects will find their application in navigation.

Itinerary

With “KUS”, the youths will follow the track of great discoverers like Alexander von Humboldt and Christopher Columbus. They will sail from Germany via the Canaries into the New World. There the youths will

explore countries of the Caribbean and American area during several weeks of layover. The voyage home will lead them back to Germany via the Bermudas and Azores.

Safety and monitoring

Safety and monitoring of pupils come first in “KUS”. A qualified skeleton crew consisting of the sailing crew and teaching staff, will take thorough care of the new crew members and teach them in nautical and school subjects. Previous knowledge of sailing is not required.

