

## International Quarterly #1, June 2021

Universität Basel International Quarterly <international-quarterly@unibas.ch>

To: uni-gruppierung1 <uni-gruppierung1@unibas.ch>, uni-gruppierung2 <uni-gruppierung2@unibas.ch>, uni-gruppierung3 <uni-gruppierung3@unibas.ch>, uni-gruppierung4 <uni-gruppierung4@unibas.ch>

International Quarterly #1, June 2021



National and International Cooperation



### Dear Colleagues

You are reading the first edition of "International Quarterly" – an information letter from the unit of National & International Cooperation (formerly: International Office).

As part of the President's Office we have three main sections:

- Student Exchange (formerly: Mobility)
- International Relations
- Welcome & Euraxess (including dual-career issues).

For further information please contact our homepage:

[www.unibas.ch/intoffice](http://www.unibas.ch/intoffice)

It is our aim to share interesting and important information, projects and events in the context of internationality. We are open to any input concerning topics you might be interested in by responding to this email. Visit us also on Twitter ([IntOfficeUnibas](#) and [SwissAfrica](#))!

Best wishes

Hedwig J. Kaiser  
Head National & International Cooperation

Spring term 2021

### Student Exchange – FCS Swiss Federal Excellency Scholarships



A group of ESKAS researchers ready for a guided city tour on the Basel Carnival in 2020.

Since 1961, the Swiss Federal Commission for Scholarships for Foreign students (FCS) has offered scholarships to excellent young researchers from all over the world (ESKAS). PhD students, researchers and postdoctoral fellows come to Swiss higher education institutions for education and research and then take their newly acquired skills and knowledge back to their home countries. (A subsection of the program also offers scholarships to young artists on the Master level.)

The University of Basel has been hosting FCS scholarship holders since the implementation of the program. Every year, young researchers in many subject areas and from many countries come to Basel to start their fellowship.

In 2020/21, there have been 54 fellows at the University of Basel and some at the FHNW in the framework of this program. The Student Exchange Office helps grant holders with information and administrative and practical support before their arrival and for the duration of their stay. We also organize a cultural program for grantees to get to know the region and each other, which enhances intercultural experience and helps the young researchers to expand their social and professional networks.

The selection process for the FCS grant holders for 2021/22 is underway. The new call for the academic year of 2022/23 will be published in August of 2021.

Contact: Andrea Delpho, [mobility@unibas.ch](mailto:mobility@unibas.ch)

Link: [sbfi.admin.ch/sbfi/en/home/education/scholarships-and-grants/swiss-government-excellence-scholarships.html](https://sbfi.admin.ch/sbfi/en/home/education/scholarships-and-grants/swiss-government-excellence-scholarships.html)

---

Wednesday Webinars 2021

## Swiss-African Cooperation: SABII and SSABDP<sup>[1]</sup> go online

Since 2007, the University of Basel has been working with a mandate from the Swiss State Secretary for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) as a Leading House for cooperation with the region of Africa. This mandate has been confirmed and renewed for another four-year period and will allow us to further support know-how transfer, bilateral cooperation and science-based business development in both Africa and Switzerland.

In the framework of this cooperation, winning participants of the SABII and SSABDP flagship entrepreneur training programs attended three webinars in 2021, each starting at 11am CEST on the last Wednesday of a month. The originally planned physical stay in Basel had to be cancelled in 2020 due to Corona. The webinars took up ideas from the previous phase and bridge into the new funding period 2021-24. In Basel, the Innovation Office has joined this effort and will contribute its specific market expertise.

Scientifically anchored start-up businesses and have been running in the area of mobile health, innovative finances, pharmacometrics, and digital humanities. The new cooperation period will increasingly focus on start-up eco-system support.

This program has been jointly developed with key partners in Africa, including [AfriLabs](#), [the African Academy of Sciences](#), [the Department of Science and Innovation](#) in South Africa, and [TIA](#), the South African Technology Innovation Agency.

Contact: [Erich.Thaler@unibas.ch](mailto:Erich.Thaler@unibas.ch)

[1] SABII: Swiss-African Business Innovation Initiative  
SSABDP: Swiss-South African Business Development Program

---

Spring Term 2021

## Switzerland's participation in the follow-up program to Erasmus

What began in 1987 as a mobility programme for students has since enriched the lives of more than 10 million participants and indirectly influenced the lives of countless others. Exchange, mobility and cooperation give participants the opportunity to have formative experiences. The next generation of the programme will start in 2022 and last until 2027.

Switzerland has third-country status in the current Erasmus+ (2014-2020). For the period to come, the Federal Council is closely following the ongoing discussions in the EU on the follow-up program to Erasmus+. A future association will only be possible as of 2023. The Federal Council will have to approve a negotiating mandate for 2021 within the next few months.

In the meantime, Switzerland will continue to support all kinds of mobility within the framework of the Swiss European Mobility Programme – SEMP, the Swiss programme for Erasmus+. The programme encourages cooperation between Switzerland, the Erasmus+ countries and the United Kingdom (UK).

Contact: Gérald Zimmermann, [mobility@unibas.ch](mailto:mobility@unibas.ch)

Links:

[swissuniversities.ch/en/topics/european-programmes](https://swissuniversities.ch/en/topics/european-programmes)  
[movetia.ch/en/programmes/europe/swiss-programme-for-erasmus](https://movetia.ch/en/programmes/europe/swiss-programme-for-erasmus)

With many thanks to the Beast Blog and its author:  
[Lisa Gianotti on student exchange in times of the pandemic](#)

---

### EVENTS / OUTLOOK

March-June 2021

## Café international – event series & platform of resources on intercultural topics

You are multilingual, have lived in different countries and are passionate about travelling? You perceive yourself as global citizen? You might be wrong to believe

that you know all about intercultural experiences ...but it's a great starting point for digging deeper 😊

Intercultural resources and challenges play a crucial role while studying, researching and working. With the aims of fostering a culture of cooperation, making diversity more visible and supporting integration and exchange, the two units National & International and the [Language Center](#) have developed the project **Café international**. This initiative aims to facilitate the start of international newcomers in Basel and to stimulate exchange with and among 'local' colleagues. Target groups are Master and PhD students, postdoctoral fellows, lecturers, visiting researchers, and employees of the University of Basel.

On the one hand, Café international is a low-threshold event series (mainly) in English, which tackles intercultural issues at and around the University of Basel in diverse and entertaining ways. Internal and external experts provide input on fascinating cross-cultural topics in everyday life. At changing locations and with changing formats (including discussions, lectures, workshops, and city tours) the events take place twice per semester and always include good food and socializing. The Café international website offers information about events and collects comments and suggestions.

But the website is also an online-collection of resources that lists existing university offers with intercultural components that are usually hard to identify because they are spread out across faculties and disciplines or are presented in German only. Last but not least, the innovative online-tool "Euraxess Intercultural Assistant" provides the opportunity to check your intercultural competence.

The last Café international took place online: In the context of International Coaching Week, an online-coaching including intercultural topics were offered on Monday, May 17th, in cooperation with the International Coaching Federation (ICF) Switzerland. More information about upcoming events can be found on the Café international website.

Contact: Dr. Tanja Popović & Andrea Delpho, [welcome@unibas.ch](mailto:welcome@unibas.ch)

Link: [unibas.ch/welcome](https://unibas.ch/welcome) ► Café international

Spring Term 2021

## Snapshots: National & International Cooperation in Corona pandemic-times



City walk Africa in Basel, conducted by Dr. Veit Arlt, Center for African Studies, [zasb.unibas.ch/en/](https://zasb.unibas.ch/en/)

- helping international students coming from abroad, landing directly in quarantine (e.g. in student homes, Wove-flats or in special temporary housing such as the Hotel Du Commerce) or being challenged by complex, quickly changing local/cross-cantonal/cross-border rules
- formats transformed instantly such as the new webinars continuing support for establishing partnership agreements
- offering Corona-compliant events in the context of Café international, such as the city walks *Education & Migration* in Oct. 2020 and *Africa in Basel* in spring 2021 (see picture of the recent walk above)
- distributing Welcome packages to newcomers 24/7 via code-box in these distancing times (see picture below of new Welcome Center letter box/booth)



## Swiss Youth Hostels

Find the new **2021 Group Membership** (non-personal) for all University of Basel Departments & Units (for field trips, retreats, group visits, guests).

More information can be found on the (also new) Welcome Center intranet presence.

Link: [intranet.unibas.ch/display/WELCOME](https://intranet.unibas.ch/display/WELCOME)

## Links

Webinars  
SABII  
Afrilabs  
African Academy of Sciences  
Department of Science and Innovation  
TIA

**To unsubscribe, please reply to this mail with the text "STOP".**

You receive this Newsletter because you work, study or collaborate with the University of Basel. You can unsubscribe at any time.

Universität Basel, National and International Cooperation  
Petersgraben 35, 4001 Basel, Schweiz