



International Office



*** See English Version below ***

Liebe Mitarbeitende der Universität

Zum 10-jährigen Jubiläum des International Office schauen wir mit einer [neuen Webrubrik kurz & knapp](#) zurück auf Erreichtes, stellende laufende und kommende Projekte vor und kontextualisieren unsere Arbeit in all ihrer Vielfalt. Ab sofort finden Sie die ersten Beiträge in dieser Timeline; weitere Entwicklungen und Neuigkeiten folgen im Laufe des Jahres.

In diesen bewegten, politisch schwierigen Zeiten sind gute, d.h. bewährte, internationale Partnerschaften und Kooperationen für Universitäten wichtiger denn je. So zeigt unsere langjährige Mitgliedschaft im europäischen Utrecht-Network seinen Mehrwert gerade auch in dem

für unsere Outgoing-interessierten Studierenden wertvollen Zugang zu den beliebten, stark umworbenen wie zugangsbeschränkten Universitäten in Nordamerika und Australien. Es bleibt ausserdem abzuwarten, wie sich in den kommenden Monaten die Schweizer Politik zur Kooperation mit der EU positioniert (etwa im Kontext des Forschungsprogramms Horizon Europe).

Eine weitere Herausforderung für die Universität liegt im Umgang mit akademischen Einrichtungen in zunehmend autoritären Staaten oder in Staaten mit anderweitig erschwerten Settings. Der geplanten Internationalisierungsstrategie der Universität Basel kommt vor diesem komplexen innen- und aussenpolitischen Kontext besondere Bedeutung zu – wir werden auch hierzu zu gegebener Zeit berichten.

Spannende Lektüre und eine erholsame Sommerpause,

Dr. Tanja Popović
Leitung International Office
www.unibas.ch/intoffice

Dieser Newsletter richtet sich an alle Unimitarbeitenden; um möglichst alle zu erreichen, halten wir ihn weitgehend auf Englisch.

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Dear Colleagues

For the tenth anniversary of the International Office, we have launched a [new section on our website](#) that offers brief snapshots of what we have achieved, presents current and upcoming projects, and contextualizes our work in all its diversity. You can now find the first entries to the timeline; further developments and news will follow over the course of the year.

In these turbulent, politically difficult times, good and proven international partnerships and collaborations are more important than ever for universities. For instance, our long-standing membership in the European Utrecht Network is proving its worth by providing valuable access to popular and selective universities in North America and Australia for our outgoing students. It also remains to be seen what position Swiss politics will take with regard to academic cooperation with the EU in the coming months (for example, in the context of the renowned Horizon Europe research program).

Another challenge for the university is dealing with academic institutions in increasingly authoritarian states or in states with otherwise difficult circumstances. The planned internationalization strategy of the University of Basel is of particular importance in this complex domestic and foreign policy context. We report on it in due course.

Best regards,

Dr. Tanja Popović
Head International Office
www.unibas.ch/intoffice

This newsletter is aimed at all university members; in order to reach as many as possible, we publish it largely in English.

From the Vice-Rectorate's Office

Online survey for research institutions in the Upper Rhine region (Northwestern Switzerland | Alsace | Baden | Southern Palatinate)

The EU program Interreg A Upper Rhine promotes cross-border cooperation projects, including those in the field of research. The managing authority of the Interreg program is conducting an **online survey on cross-border cooperation** in the field of research in summer 2024. **All postdoctoral researchers from research institutions are invited** to complete this questionnaire by **13 September 2024** at the latest via the following link: <https://sphinxdeclic.com/d/s/3fpe2x>

The aim is also to survey those who are not yet involved in Interreg projects but who maintain or could maintain other forms of cooperation with institutions in neighboring areas.

For questions about the current [call period 2021-27](#) interested researchers may wish to contact Erich Thaler at International Relations.

Contacts: Erich.Thaler@unibas.ch

Links:

<https://sphinxdeclic.com/d/s/3fpe2x>
<https://www.regbas.ch/en/>

Academia – Industry Training: Swiss Residency Week



The AIT Swiss Residency Delegation
Photo: International Office

As part of the Academia–Industry Training (AIT) for Swiss and African research-based companies, the International Office hosted thirteen companies from South Africa, Rwanda, and Nigeria for the week of 26 May to 4 June. To introduce the founders and CEOs of these firms to the start-up landscape in Switzerland, we visited various partners. At the beginning of the week, the Innovation Office presented a general overview of the start-up ecosystem in Switzerland. A visit to the Novartis Campus followed, where the group was warmly received by Akiko Keller, the associate director of scientific capabilities and the coordinator of the Next-Generation-Scientist Program, another program linking the University of Basel and Novartis in their joint efforts to sustain and increase scientific capacity in the Global South.

The company group additionally visited Bern and the Swiss Institute for Intellectual Property (IGE/IPI), learned about and discussed due diligence, and joined with Swiss start-ups at the Kursaal in Bern for a day of reaching out to peers and sharing information about research and company development in their home countries. Of particular interest at this event was a meeting with a company group from Mexico that was participating in the same AIT program for Swiss and Mexican entrepreneurs.

After visiting outstanding higher-education institutions like Empa, the ETHZ and the ETH Student Project House, the EPFL, the FH OST, or the FHNW in Brugg, the residency stay finished with a lunch meeting with Google in Zurich.



On the way to the ETHZ
Photo: International Office

Participants were thrilled about the opportunities to further develop their businesses with Swiss partners. More than one hundred business contacts were made over the week, and some business deals were signed.

The company founders, who were all chosen from highly competitive selection processes in their countries, were accompanied by Karen Eksteen, the founder and CEO of Innocircle, a consultancy firm in Cape Town, and by Dr. Vuyisile Phehane, the head of the Bio-Economy Unit at the Technology Innovation Agency in South Africa. From Nigeria, Professor Sunday Adebisi from the Center for Entrepreneurship joined for the week.

The larger framework for this event is ensured by a mandate issued by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) and has been implemented and further developed by the University of Basel and the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute.

Contact: Erich.Thaler@unibas.ch

Link: [SARECO - Swiss Residency 2024](#)

Views on the Welcome and Euraxess Center

"The Welcome Center was extremely helpful for my international move to Basel in 2023. This included not only useful tips on finding accommodation and neighborhoods, but also detailed advice on all the small but crucial formalities of such a move: visa requirements, registration, bank accounts, health insurance information, etc.—and the correct order in which to do them. Best of all was the personalized support my wife received from the dual-career service, which helped her to quickly make the professional connection. All in all, the Welcome Center offers an excellent service that I strongly recommend."

– Prof. Dr. Corey Ross, Director of the Europa Institute

Contact: welcome@unibas.ch

Mobility

International Staff Training Week: Training and Job Shadowing for Administrative Staff

Our colleague Marijana Mirkovic, the management assistant in the Vice President's Office of Research, signed up for a staff training week at the Universidad Politècnica de València in Spain. The staff training counts as optional elective toward the Certificate of Intercultural Competence (ZIK). Here are some excerpts from her report about the week:



Photo: Marijana Mirkovic

From abundant options, I finally chose the University of Valencia, whose program structure I found convincing. The program included a twenty-five-hour week, filled with daily language training, job shadowing in various administrative areas, and exciting workshops. In addition to the wide range of offerings, I placed particular emphasis on the intercultural exchange, which the University of Valencia also scored highly in. Thanks to the high number of participants (up to three hundred), people from various European countries were able to take part, which provided the perfect opportunity for networking. It forced me to break out of my comfort zone and use or refresh my language skills.

Right from the start, the "message of the week" the University of Valencia wanted to convey was clear to me. It consisted of giving us a warm welcome and explaining their work and life mentality: the importance of positive collaboration, open communication, and a good work–life balance. It was about pointing out similarities and differences and working on them.

Finance department

It was exciting to learn that half the budget is used for personnel costs.

Human resources

While a working week in Switzerland is forty-two hours, in Spain it is only thirty-seven hours. According to HR, they are even aiming to reduce it to a thirty-five-hour week. Block and flextime models are also offered to increase flexibility. In Spain, great importance is attached to work–life balance, which is why the mental health of employees is also a priority.

Quality and accreditation

The comparison of quality control was particularly interesting for me, as this is a major focus in our office. At the University of Valencia, an annual site visit is carried out with different departments and based on it, a management report is produced. Employee and student surveys are also analyzed and evaluated.

Personal impressions

The week at the University of Valencia was a truly enriching experience for me. I was amazed by the impressive organization and their great joy in conducting such a staff week. It was obvious that the focus was always on connecting the participants.

I can warmly recommend taking advantage of the opportunity for further training as part of the SEMP program to all my colleagues.

– Marijana Mirkovic. Assistant, Vice President's Office of Research

Staff Mobility for Training (STT)

The Swiss–European Mobility Programme encourages university employees to pursue further training at a European partner university or a European company with the aim of promoting dialogue between Swiss and European institutions. The types of trainings include job shadowing, short working periods, and workshops.

The program provides administrative and technical staff at University of Basel with an allowance for travel and living expenses. A stay lasts between a minimum of two days and a maximum of five days.

Staff members may look for an offer themselves and contact the university and unit of their choice, or they can select a suitable offer from the overview [IMOTION-Erasmus Staff Training](#) and register for the staff exchange. Applications for funding must be submitted to the Student Exchange Office.

Contact: mobility@unibas.ch

Link: [Staff Mobility](#)

Intercultural Competence

Intercultural Training for Administrative, Lab, and Technical Staff

On 30 May and 6 June, we held the third edition of our intercultural-communication workshop for administrative, lab, and tech staff of the University of Basel. The intercultural trainers Andrea Delpho and Tanja Popović welcomed thirteen highly motivated colleagues from various units and departments. We discussed intercultural topics and challenges at our more and more culturally diverse workplaces, analyzed complex situations with the help of certain intercultural models and methods, and most of all exchanged experiences and expertise. We thank all the participants for their engagement and valuable inputs.

The course *Intercultural Communication at the Academic Workplace* can count toward our Certificate of Intercultural Competence.

Contact: Intercultural@unibas.ch

Link: [Intercultural Competence | Training \(unibas.ch\)](#)

Last but not Least

Alondra Juarez Ramirez, Recipient of an FCS Excellence Grant, at the LISTE Art Fair in Basel



Photo: Andrea Delpho

Alondra Juarez Ramirez, a young Mexican artist and master of fine arts student at the Basel Academy of Art and Design FHNW, performed in an event guided by Astrid Ismaili within the *Mythic Beings* series at the 2024 LISTE Art Fair in Basel. Alondra also contributed to the open-air events of Basel Social Club on June 6–9 in the Bruderholz neighborhood. For that contribution, a pool installation, Alondra was even mentioned in the *New York Times*.

Very well done Alondra! The International Office is proud to have you in our "family" of Swiss Excellence Grant holders here in Basel this year.

Contact: Andrea.Delpho@unibas.ch

Links: [Liste Art Fair Basel](#)

[No One Told the Cows Not to Lick the Artwork - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#)

[ESKAS - Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships](#)

About this Newsletter

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Universität Basel, International Office
Petersplatz 1, 4001 Basel, Schweiz