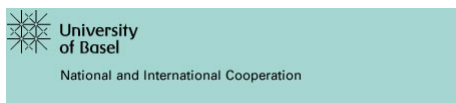


International Quarterly #5, March 2023



Dear Members of Our University

This is our fifth newsletter informing you about important and interesting issues at the university from an international perspective. Three subjects have primarily consumed our attention over the last months: the consequences of the unbelievable war in Ukraine for the academic community, the AIT-SASBI Spring Conference in South Africa, and the mobility of students and staff.

Enjoy reading,

Hedwig J. Kaiser
Head National and International Cooperation
www.unibas.ch/intoffice

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

International Relations

International Collaboration in the Interface between Academia and Industry

In the framework of its federal mandate to foster collaboration between Swiss and African scientists and innovators, National and International Cooperation (NIC) held its second annual Academia Industry Training: Swiss and African Science and Business Innovators (AIT-SASBI) Spring Conference in Johannesburg on 22–24 February 2023.



The conference was planned, prepared, and carried out in partnership with Universities South Africa's platform for Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education (EDHE), a unit of the Department Higher Education and Training in South Africa, and attracted over two hundred attendees from all twenty-six public Higher Education Institutions in South Africa.



The conference was presented in a hybrid mode so that stakeholders from other African countries and from Switzerland could follow the discussions and presentations of high-level speakers online.



One highlight of the conference was the keynote talk by the former Vice-Rector and Professor of Chemistry at the University of Basel, Dr. Edwin C. Constable. Addressing the role of research and the multiple functions of universities in today's innovation-driven society, Prof. Constable compared the higher-education landscapes in Switzerland and South Africa and underlined the importance of tech-transfer offices in helping move research onto the market. Another highlight was the talk by the UNESCO chief of research and analysis, Dr. Victoria Galán-Muros, who addressed the issue of cultural challenges for companies when expanding their businesses across borders.



The key piece of this annual gathering is the business presentations by university-based startup companies. Preselected by their national agencies and universities, they compete for one of the ten-day residencies in Switzerland. This year, an international jury selected four of them. These four companies in the fields of ICT (information and communication technology) and edtech (educational technology) will visit Switzerland in the second half of June.



From Basel, Dorina Kühner, Adrian Meyer, Melina Godschan, and Erich Thaler contributed to the success of the event this year. The 2024 AIT-SASBI Spring Conference will be hosted by the University of Ibadan in Nigeria.

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Link: Speakers' presentations and photos available at <https://edhe.co.za/edhe-kick-off-2023/>

National and International Cooperation

Ukraine: Universities under Fire — Perspectives for the Future

On February 24 one year ago, Russia invaded Ukraine. Like numerous universities and organizations in Switzerland and abroad, the University of Basel marked this day with a special program. For the past year, our university has become a place of refuge for around one hundred students and thirty researchers from Ukraine, one-third of whom are supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) as "Scholars at Risk." Since then, our Ukrainian students, PhD students, and postdocs have made important contributions to research and internationalization at the University of Basel. It is hardly known that thousands of students from countries in the Global South who were studying in Ukraine thanks to scholarships have also become academics in need but have hardly been accepted at other European universities. The extent of this "collateral damage" can hardly be estimated.



Mariupol



Kharkiv



Schoolchildren in a makeshift tent rely on mobile internet



University professor delivering a lecture to his students



School teacher outside of a supermarket with internet connection

On February 24, a public conference with the title "Consequences of the Russian War of Aggression for Science and Research in Ukraine" was held in the Kollegienhaus under the leadership of the initiative Ukrainian Research in Switzerland (URIS) and supported by National and International Cooperation. URIS has been working since 2015 to strengthen expertise on Ukraine in Switzerland and is coordinated by the University of Basel. About half of our Ukrainian researchers and doctoral students from a total of five faculties presented at the event. In sixteen talks, they offered impressive and unique insights from their respective fields and regions of origin on topics such as "The Psychological Consequences of War," "The Humanities in War," "The Situation of Students and Doctoral Students," "Peace Building, Law, and Toxicology," and "Consequences for Archives and Cultural Institutions." A large, broad audience learned first-hand about how Ukrainian universities have been trying to maintain teaching operations despite dangers and great difficulties (especially online) and how studying and research have been carried out in this country while families, friends, fellow students, and colleagues are on duty in the military or in civilian services.

A well-attended public panel discussion in the aula on sources of resistance and visions for the future after the war rounded off the program in the evening with a special focus on the resilience of the Ukrainian civilian population and cultural scene > see the recording at <https://vimeo.com/805611075>.

The question of reconstruction and the future was a topic that was returned to throughout the day. A great deal of commitment and investment will be needed to ensure that Ukrainian universities survive this caesura, to reconstruct

destroyed infrastructures as quickly as possible, to respond to the brain drain of academics who have fled, died, or become disabled, and to develop the country's education and research system further. How can we at the University of Basel contribute to this as part of the international scientific community and also continue our support and networks for the long term? Among the many needs, the most important are information, exchange, digitization, and funding. The SNSF and the National Research Foundation of Ukraine (NRFU) already signed an agreement in June 2022 to enable closer cooperation between researchers in Switzerland and Ukraine. This includes an SNSF website that informs researchers in and from Ukraine about SNSF measures and funding and that facilitates international collaborations. Potential future initiatives include bi- and multilateral projects, research stays, and networking activities, as well as conferences and other jointly coordinated events.

Contact: Tanja.Popovic@unibas.ch

Links:

www.unis.ch

For the SNSF measures and recommendations: <https://www.snf.ch/de/RMAh9re6WPRMgrbd/news/gemeinsames-abkommen-mit-dem-ukrainischen-forschungsfoerderer>

For a detailed report on the situation at Swiss universities (Swissuniversities 10/2022): <https://intranet.unibas.ch/x/T9v0BQ>

Recommendation: SRF science podcast Kopf voran on "Flucht in die Wissenschaft: Wie drei ukrainische Forscherinnen in der Schweiz überleben" (30 min., 2 March 2023), <https://www.srf.ch/audio/kopf-voran/flucht-in-die-wissenschaft?id=12330337>.

EVENTS / OUTLOOK

National and International Cooperation / Language Center

Café international: Public Debate on Academic Cultures in Japan and Switzerland

University of Basel

Café international

Academic cultures in Japan and Switzerland

Date: Thursday, 23 March 2023

Time: 17:30 – 19:00

Venue: Verso bar, Petersplatz 1
Main University building, lower level

The unit National & International Cooperation, together with the Language Center of the University of Basel, invites you to our next Café international event:

Academic cultures in Japan and Switzerland - a public podium discussion, followed by a Japanese inspired Apéro.

University of Basel members (students, staff, lecturers and researchers), the Japanese community at our University, as well as everyone interested in learning about Japanese academic cultures are all warmly invited to this evening. We will discuss topics relevant to students and researchers planning an exchange in Japan, reflect on studying and conducting research in Switzerland from an international/Japanese perspective, and explore some typical features of both academic cultures. Short contributions with images by the podium members will be followed by a Q&A involving the audience. All participants are greatly encouraged to share their experiences.

With:

- Yukiko Tomooka, PhD candidate in Biomedical Engineering and ESKAS scholar
- Mao Numako, exchange student in Humanities from Waseda University, Tokyo
- Ashery Mbilinyi, PhD candidate in Computer Science and former ESKAS scholar
- Lic. phil. Gérald Zimmermann, Student Mobility Coordinator University of Basel and Kyudo teacher Kyoshi 6th Dan

Date and Time Thursday, 23 March 2023, 17:30 – 19:00

You are invited to mix and mingle informally over a small Apéro before and after

the event. The bar opens at 17:00.

Linger longer: Bar Verso presents The Big Student Comedy Night as of 20:00. Entry is CHF 13.-. For more information, see <https://www.verso-bar.ch>

Venue Verso bar, Petersplatz 1, main University building (Kollegienhaus), lower level

Registration has been extended and is still possible until Friday, 17 March 2023!

<https://k11331.evasys.de/evasys/online.php?p=H4WZL>

We look forward to your participation!

*This event is eligible for the Certificate of intercultural competence for administrative, technical and laboratory staff.

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Link: <https://www.unibas.ch/de/Universitaet/Administration-Services/Vizekanzlerat-Forschung/Nationale-und-Internationale-Zusammenarbeit/Welcome-Center/Caf--international.html>

Student Exchange

Movetia



After a two-year pandemic break, we could finally meet again in person. Twenty-five department and faculty mobility coordinators joined the afternoon meeting on 16 February to exchange news and views and to hear about the latest developments regarding Erasmus+ and its Swiss equivalent, SEMP (Swiss European Mobility Programme).

In her opening speech, Prof. Hedwig J. Kaiser (Head of NIC) explained the political situation and highlighted the national policy and strategic goals of the University of Basel. Leslie Hansen, the program coordinator of Movetia, the Swiss agency for exchange and mobility, reported on the national funding scheme and the general framework.

Andrea Delpho and Gérald Zimmermann from the Student Exchange Office gave a presentation on the implementation of SEMP and on the NIC's new Certificate of Intercultural Competency. A Q-and-A session and a lively discussion with the coordinators rounded off the afternoon.

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Link: <https://www.unibas.ch/en/Studies/Mobility.html>

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