



University  
of Basel

National and International Cooperation



## Dear Lecturers and Colleagues

Another year has passed in which we had to tackle the challenges of Covid-19. Especially our national and international collaborations for student mobility and other international collaborations were affected. In the past, the physical aspect was the key to success. This aspect has unfortunately suffered during the pandemic. However, our creativity allowed us to adjust to the new restrictions: Being able to switch over to an online mode has supported many projects and will continue to help us in the time ahead.

For our mobile students and staff, not only is acquiring knowledge important, so too is experiencing other cultures, and that has been an even greater challenge, so the number of outgoing and incoming students have taken a hit. Many planned stays were either cancelled on short notice or delayed to another semester. So how are we helping our students, professors, and employees gain a well-rounded understanding of other cultures? The development of intercultural offers, in the sense of "internationalization at home", could be a significant solution. Upcoming project ideas are currently in the making. Being creative amid challenges is our motto.

In this sense we wish you all a year of health and prosperity,

Hedwig J. Kaiser  
Head National and International Cooperation  
[www.unibas.ch/intoffice](http://www.unibas.ch/intoffice)

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Spain's leading technological university: Learning from its digital and administrative competence

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Staff Exchange with Student Exchange

## Polish your skills abroad: Administrative Staff Training in the Swiss European Mobility Program (SEMP STA)

The University of Basel participates in **staff exchange programs** in the framework of the Swiss-European Mobility Program (SEMP). SEMP is Switzerland's interim solution to replace its currently suspended participation in the European education program Erasmus+.

Within SEMP, employees at higher education institutions can apply for financial support for short stays at European partner universities in the interest of further training or for a teaching appointment. This offer is directed toward researchers and teachers as well as to administrative and technical staff.

### A staff training week in Valencia (Spain)

Jsabelle Blattmann, who works in the administration of Unisport at the University of Basel, went to a staff training week at Universidad Politècnica de València in Spain. We asked her about her experience.

*AD: Jsabelle, how did you learn about the possibility of administrative staff training in the SEMP program?*

JB: A colleague had told me about the possibility of an international staff exchange in the SEMP program. I contacted the Student Exchange Office, which is a unit of National and International Cooperation at the University of Basel, and the staff explained the options to me.

*AD: How did you find the training week in Valencia and why did you pick it?*

JB: I searched the internet and found many offers published on this site: <http://staffmobility.eu>

I picked the training week in Valencia because administrators were the special target group and because the program was very varied. I was very excited when I applied and got in! The week was initially scheduled for May 2020, but it had to be postponed for over a year! But in May 2021, I could finally pack my bags and go.

*AD: What was special about this staff training program?*

JB: The format had been planned for 200 participants. Although it was slimmed down to only 20 because of the pandemic, we still came from 12 European countries! The Universidad Politècnica de València did a very good job of making everything safe for the participants. The program included in-person meetings, presentations by various administrative units, language classes in English or Spanish, and a cultural program. Everything was very well organized, and the people were extremely friendly and helpful. I had picked a room at a nearby student dormitory, so I could go to the campus on foot and also socialize with other participants in our free time.

*AD: What impressed you most and what did you learn about your host university?*

JB: The Universidad Politècnica is very advanced in digitalization, and many offices and units are already paperless, for instance in finance and accounting, as well as in student marketing. Students participate in many activities, for instance, in recruiting via social media channels. What also impressed me is how important teamwork and connections between units are in the Spanish workplace. Good teambuilding and communication are important quality markers. Another detail is how important continuing education and new skills are. Employees get 50 hours a year for training courses, and doing them will raise your salary, so it is really an incentive to learn new things.

*AD: The program sounds quite compact; did you have time to explore the city a bit?*

JB: Yes, definitely! The staff training week also offered cultural workshops in the afternoons, and each group had a Spanish coach. I had picked the topic "Mediterranean Lifestyle," and we were shown many local cultural sites. In the evenings, there was time for individual activities and socializing. My conversations with the other international participants were both fun and very instructive!

*AD: What would you recommend to colleagues also interested in a staff exchange with SEMP?*

JB: Just do it! Get information online about the many offers of staff training weeks at European universities and look closely at the program so that you can find something that matches your needs and interests. Get in touch with the Student Exchange Office to get some support and apply for the funding. I would go again anytime!

*AD: Jsabelle, thank you very much for your input.*

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

Links: <https://www.unibas.ch/en/Studies/Mobility/Staff-Mobility.html> and <http://staffmobility.eu>



Photos: Jsabelle Blattmann

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## Swiss-European Mobility Program Grant (SEMP) for an Internship in Europe (formerly Erasmus)

Doing an internship in another European country is a great way to gain hands-on experiences and develop language and individual skills. Bachelor and Master students who want to gain practical experience in their chosen field are invited to apply for grants within the framework. This applies to students who want to work in another European country or want to come to Basel for an internship within the framework of the Swiss European Mobility Program (SEMP).

The SEMP program gives students in Swiss higher education the opportunity to take on an internship in another European country for a duration of between 8 weeks and 12 months. An internship completed during their studies must be recognized in the context of their studies (through credits or acknowledged in the diploma supplement, etc.). Possible hosts for outgoing students can be other universities, public or private companies, or NGOs. This opportunity also applies to Swiss students who have recently graduated but still need to be registered at the University of Basel at the time they apply for the grant. The monthly grant for an internship is CHF 440.

Contact: [Dorina.Kühner@unibas.ch](mailto:Dorina.Kühner@unibas.ch)

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

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Welcome & Euraxess Center

## New on the intranet: Agreement with Swiss Youth Hostels & agreements with hotels in Basel for 2022

The University of Basel has launched an agreement with Swiss Youth Hostels (SYH) that allows university members to benefit from a new group membership (nonpersonnel) at **45 youth hotels in Switzerland**. SYH offer great value for a decent price and are located in historic buildings or particularly nice locations. They can be reached with public transportation, also offer single and double rooms, and include amenities that make them ideal locations for various university activities, including fieldwork, group visits, seminars, and retreats. University of Basel departments and units are invited to benefit from **advantageous rates** for stays:

- A discount of 10% applies for group bookings of at least 10 people with a minimum stay of 1 night.
- Also, the mandatory SYH annual membership card comes for free!

A special agreement was signed with the **Basel Youth Hostel** allowing for special rates on group bookings as well as for single guests. This could be particularly interesting for university units when hosting guests in Basel. The offer can be booked by all departments and units. In addition, 10 member cards can be distributed to units with regular booking needs. Interested units are invited to contact [welcome@unibas.ch](mailto:welcome@unibas.ch). Bookings must (!) be done via this central address: Schweizer Jugendherbergen, Gruppenreservation, Zürich, [incoming@youthhostel.ch](mailto:incoming@youthhostel.ch) or +41 44 360 14 41 (so not directly with individual youth hostels of interest). More information, including terms and conditions and booking scheme, can be found on the new Welcome Center intranet presence; a special flyer provides information about the offer for the University of Basel.

Last but not least, the new **agreements with Basel hotels for 2022** can be found on the intranet, too. Until recently, hotel agreements were published on ADAM; from now on, all agreements will be published exclusively on the intranet.

Contact: [Tanja.Popovic@unibas.ch](mailto:Tanja.Popovic@unibas.ch)

Links: <https://intranet.unibas.ch/x/1AgmAw> and <https://www.youthhostel.ch/en/>

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## EVENTS

International Relations

### Swiss–Africa: Annual Donors’ Harmonization Group Meeting



National and International Cooperation (NIC) hosted the 11th Annual DHG Conference at Wildt’sches Haus in Basel (10-12 November 2021).

The Donors’ Harmonization Group (DHG) is an informal network of funding agencies from across Europe that identifies synergies and common actions for Global North–South cooperation. Within the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation’s (SERI) mandate to foster cooperation between Switzerland and the region of Africa, NIC has been working as an active member of this group since 2008.

Under the title of “Cooperation for the next Generation – from Education to Employment,” two high-level keynote speakers from the African Network of Impact Hubs (Afrilabs/Nigeria) and the African Development Bank (Côte d’Ivoire), Anna Ekeledo and Absa Gningue, presented their views on how to best link education to concrete job opportunities on the African continent. There were intensive discussions about the sustainability of actions, the role of the private sector, and synergy building. Reflections on how the mandate of the group will be sharpened for future needs are foreseen in the year to come.

From Basel, Beat Jans (Mayor of the city of Basel), and Nicole Schaeren-Wiemers (Vice President People and Culture of the University of Basel) shared an overview of Basel’s strong commitment in the past and present to working with countries in the Global South, especially in the region of Africa.

The conference was organized by International Relations in cooperation with the Dutch Funding Agency Nuffic and the Norwegian Agency HKDir. A total of 50 members from 14 different countries participated.

More about the DHG at: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8867869/>

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

Link: <https://www.unibas.ch/en/University/Administration-Services/Vice-President-s-Office-for-People-and-Culture/National-and-International-Cooperation/International-Relations.html>

## Café international: Event series & resource platform on intercultural topics



Final stop with a so-called Apéro around the world following the city walk *The University of Basel throughout the year & the centuries – a guided tour through downtown*, 28 October 2021.

Café international is a **low-threshold event series** focusing on intercultural issues at and around the University of Basel. Internal and external experts provide input on cross-cultural topics. Four events are planned for 2022.

It is also a website that serves as an **online collection** of existing university offers and resources with intercultural components, which are usually hard to identify as such.

Try the innovative **online tool "Euraxess Intercultural Assistant"**: **it allows you to check your intercultural competence and gives you an idea about the scope of Café international.**

Contact: Tanja Popović & Andrea Delpho, [welcome@unibas.ch](mailto:welcome@unibas.ch), in close collaboration with the Language Center of the University of Basel

Links: <https://www.unibas.ch/welcome> > Café international,

<https://sprachenzentrum.unibas.ch/en/> as well

as <https://intranet.unibas.ch/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=58851778>

## About this Newsletter

**Technically it is not possible to remove individual recipients from the university-wide group lists.**

If you want to permanently stop receiving our mails please add the address *international-quarterly@unibas.ch* to your block list or mark it as spam.

(Find the [link to the Outlook WebApp Manual here.](#))

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