

Hochdruck

Thinking outside the box: Internationalization at the TH OWL

Saturday,
6/11/2022
from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Keeping pace with the future

Open House in Detmold and Lemgo

Find out about courses of study in advance!

Online university information days: Tue, June 7 – Fri, June 10, 2022
Presentations, lectures and counseling

www.th-owl.de/en



Dear Readers,

As a member of the international university association Magna Charta Observatory of Fundamental University Values and Rights, the OWL University of Applied Sciences and Arts is committed to the global academic community of values.

We are following Russia's attack on Ukraine with great dismay. Our sympathy, thoughts and solidarity go out to the people of Ukraine and other countries affected by the war. The war in Ukraine is putting international relations to the test in all areas of business and society.

With this issue of Hochdruck, we explicitly underline our university's international orientation and values.

International networking not only promotes education and research, but also contributes to peaceful cooperation between nations based on solidarity as well as broadening the personal horizons of travelers. This is why we have actively promoted the mobility of students and instructors for decades and offer refugees an academic home within the scope of our possibilities. We extend a very warm welcome to international students and researchers at the TH OWL, especially in these troubled times.

During these times too, we as a university strive to constantly expand our network with our partner universities around the world and to provide international mobility for our students, researchers and employees. Our International Office (IO) plays a key role in this as the central service facility for all international affairs.

In this issue, we introduce the International Office and its tasks. It's thanks to the work of the IO that many of our students are discovering the world and that international students are enriching the TH OWL. Vice President Yvonne-Christin Knepper-Bartel reports on the new generation of the Erasmus+ program and our students share their diverse experiences abroad. Get to know some of our international students in the richly illustrated cover story "Far from Home – International Insights". In this issue, we also focus on international cooperations such as the Campus OWL liaison office in New York and the TwinERGY and Namibian Naturals research projects.

Thank you for your interest and your inspiration while reading.

Yours Truly,

Jürgen Krahl
President of the OWL University of Applied
Sciences and Arts



Events & dates

June

June 7-10, 2022:
Online university information days

June 9 and 10, 2022:
International days
at the locations: Lemgo (Innovation Campus) & Detmold (Kreativ Campus)

June 11, 2022 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.:
Open house
at the locations: Lemgo (Innovation Campus) & Detmold (Kreativ Campus)

July

July 15, 2022:
Application deadline for the QualifyING qualification program for engineers with a refugee background

July 2 and 3, 2022:
UrbanLand Sommer in the district of Höxter, Hanseatic city of Warburg. The TH OWL project MobileSmartFarm OWL will be there.

August

August 27 to 28, 2022, from 6 p.m.:
UrbanLand Sommer at the Wood and Resource Conference in Hille; the TH OWL project will be there: RailCampus OWL

For more information on the events, visit
www.th-owl.de/events



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News

5G for the digitalization of industry

The Institute for Industrial Information Technology (inIT) of the TH OWL has been researching the forward-looking research topic of mobile communications standard 5G for several years now.

The inIT launched the "5G4Industry" project last year together with the University of Paderborn, InnoZENT OWL e. V. and the industrial companies Benteler Business Services GmbH, MECsware GmbH and Nuromedia GmbH. "In the project, we are developing management and planning tools that, working in the background, ensure the cost-optimal provision and use of 5G resources for the transport, processing and storage of machine data," explains research associate Arne Neumann. The campus network in the SmartFactoryOWL on the Innovation Campus Lemgo has now been upgraded to the latest 5G technology and thus supports the applications planned in the 5G4Industry project. In the real-world laboratory for Industry 4.0, which is a joint facility of Fraunhofer IOSB-INA and the TH OWL, companies can thus be brought into contact with 5G-based digitization, thus illustrating both implementation possibilities and value creation potentials.

The Minister of Economic Affairs, Innovation, Digitalization and Energy of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, Professor Dr. Andreas Pinkwart, was able to see this for himself in February. Together with Matthias Goeken, a member of the state parliament from the Höxter constituency, and representatives of the 5G4Industry project and Competence Center 5G.NRW, they discussed 5G as an implementation module in the overall digitalization and Industry 4.0 concept. Minister Pinkwart also sees great potential for industry: "For us in North Rhine-Westphalia to further expand our key position in the area of 5G, we must focus above all on industrial application fields. The potential is great, while at the same time the requirements for data rates and latency in the industrial context are gaining steadily in importance [...]." The project is being funded by the North Rhine-Westphalia Ministry of Economic Affairs, Innovation, Digitalization and Energy as part of the 5G.NRW competition. In total, the regional government is funding 13 outstanding 5G projects with up to 26 million euros as part of the first round of the competition.



▲ Matthias Goeken and Prof. Dr. Andreas Pinkwart with representatives of the 5G4Industry project consortium and Competence Center 5G.NRW. Copyright: InnoZent OWL & inIT TH OWL



▲ The University Information Weeks of the TH OWL took place online from January 31 to February 11, 2022.

University Information Weeks at the TH OWL

From January 31 to February 11, high school students in grades Q1 and Q2, as well as anyone interested in pursuing a degree, had the opportunity to find out whether studying after high school is right for them and which degree program suits them during the TH OWL's University Information Weeks, which offered informative digital advice. Professors provided online information on individual courses of study.

There were also digital advisory services on choosing and financing a course of study, as well as on dual study programs, semesters abroad and teaching options at vocational colleges. Prospective students can also contact Central Student Advisory Services and other central points of contact at TH OWL at any time beyond the digital offerings. All information on study orientation is available on the website at www.th-owl.de/hit.



◀ University council member Andrea Frank has been deputy secretary general at Stifterverband since January 2022.

University council member Andrea Frank becomes deputy secretary general at Stifterverband

The TH OWL congratulates its university council member Andrea Frank on her promotion to deputy secretary general of Stifterverband. She joined Secretary General Volker Meyer-Guckel and Commercial Director Matthias Schmolz in January to form the management team of Stifterverband. "In times of transformation, we need universities and educational institutions that shape change in the economy and society for the benefit of all. Stifterverband can contribute to this as an impetus-giver, enabler and networker. This is what I will be committed to in my new role," explains Andrea Frank, who has worked at Stifterverband since 2006. Frank has been on the TH OWL University Council since 2017, where she advises the university's steering committee and oversees its management. In addition, the university council's responsibilities include electing members of the steering committee and approving the university development plan, the draft target agreements and the business plan.

Advancement through education: State Secretary for Science Dr. Dirk Günnewig finds out about the Talentscouting OWL program

Promoting talent and enabling advancement through education: In Germany, it's still too often a person's social and family background that determines their educational opportunities rather than their individual talents. The Talentscouting program of the universities in Ostwestfalen-Lippe enables young, motivated people to have equal educational opportunities, regardless of their parents' income and level of education. Dr. Dirk Günnewig, State Secretary of the Ministry of Culture and Science of North Rhine-Westphalia (MKW NRW), saw this for himself in Lemgo last March.

"As the regional government, our goal is to make North Rhine-Westphalia a state that offers excellent opportunities to all the people who live here. A state where advancement through education is possible – this is precisely where Talentscouting NRW comes in. The program supports young, talented people in their professional careers. Talentscouting OWL is a success story for future opportunities for young people," says State Secretary Dr. Günnewig.

In East Westphalia-Lippe, talent scouting is carried out under the umbrella of the Campus OWL university network by the Universities of Bielefeld and Paderborn, the Bielefeld University of Applied Sciences and the TH OWL. Talentscouting OWL is currently cooperating with 59 schools in the region. Eight OWL talent scouts, two per university, have been offering interviews once a month since the 2017/2018 school year at the cooperating schools throughout OWL for motivated students, predominantly from families without an academic background, supporting them on the right path toward studying or vocational training.



▲ State Secretary of the Ministry of Culture and Science Dr. Dirk Günnewig (back row, 2nd from right) learned about Talentscouting OWL at the TH OWL.

TH OWL among the ten most popular universities in NRW

The TH OWL ranked 4th in the category "Most popular universities in North Rhine-Westphalia" at the StudyCHECK Award 2022.

Many thanks to all instructors, students and alumni. The positive evaluations of our study programs and their experiences at the TH OWL made this excellent ranking possible. The ratings especially help future students to find the right university and the right study program.

Study programs are rated on StudyCHECK.de in the categories of study content, lecturers, courses, facilities, campus life, organization, library and digital studying. Up to five stars can be awarded for each of these categories. The TH OWL currently has 881 reviews, resulting in an overall rating of 3,9 stars and a recommendation rate of 95%.

All testimonials published on StudyCheck.de from 2021 are included in the ranking.

Goodbye Lemgo – hello Detmold! The Department of Media Production is now on the Detmold Kreativ Campus

The modern new building for the Department of Media Production at the Detmold Kreativ Campus is coming to life. In February, the department moved in with all its technical equipment and now has a new home.

Four large moving vans took them from Lemgo to Detmold to the new address at Bielefelder Straße 66. Around 450 students, 12 professors and 12 staff members are looking forward to their new facilities for study, instruction and work. Bright rooms with contemporary furnishings await users on three floors: a lecture hall, four computer labs, video and audio studios, digital editing suites and a professional radio studio where Campus Radio Triquency goes on the air. An open, multifunctional foyer offers facilities for exhibitions, events and seminars of various kinds. The highlight is the six-meter-high video studios equipped with professional lighting technology. With the building fully operational, students will be able to merge real and virtual worlds to create high-quality media productions.



▲ The new building for the Department of Media Production is modern and equipped with large window façades.



► The new German Center for Research and Innovation (DWIH) opens in San Francisco.

East Westphalia-Lippe networks with Silicon Valley

Campus OWL, the association of the five state universities in East Westphalia-Lippe, is the main supporter of the new German Center for Research and Innovation in San Francisco.

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), together with its partners from science, business and politics, is expanding the global network of German Centers for Research and Innovation (DWIH). Currently, the sixth DWIH worldwide is commencing its work in San Francisco. The goal is to intensify exchange between German universities and research-based companies with the extremely dynamic economy of the U.S. West Coast and the universities there. The New York liaison office of Campus OWL, the association of the five state universities in East Westphalia-Lippe, has already been the main supporter of DWIH New York since 2019 and also of the new DWIH in San Francisco, which will open at the end of April.

The Universities of Bielefeld and Paderborn, the University of Applied Sciences (UAS) Bielefeld, the OWL University of Applied Sciences and Arts and the Detmold University of Music expect the new DWIH in San Francisco to provide excellent networking opportunities with the startup scene in the Bay Area and Silicon Valley, as well as research-strong universities in the western United States. To make the best use of these avenues, DWIH San Francisco will establish a network of contacts. The focus of the San Francisco DWIH location will be the transfer of knowledge to scientific spin-offs and start-ups in the pre-launch phase. The content focus will be technologies related to climate change, artificial intelligence, Internet of Things, quantum technology, health technologies and digital education. Visits, workshops, symposia, hackathons and other innovative exchange formats will be used to intensify ties between Germany and the U.S. West Coast.

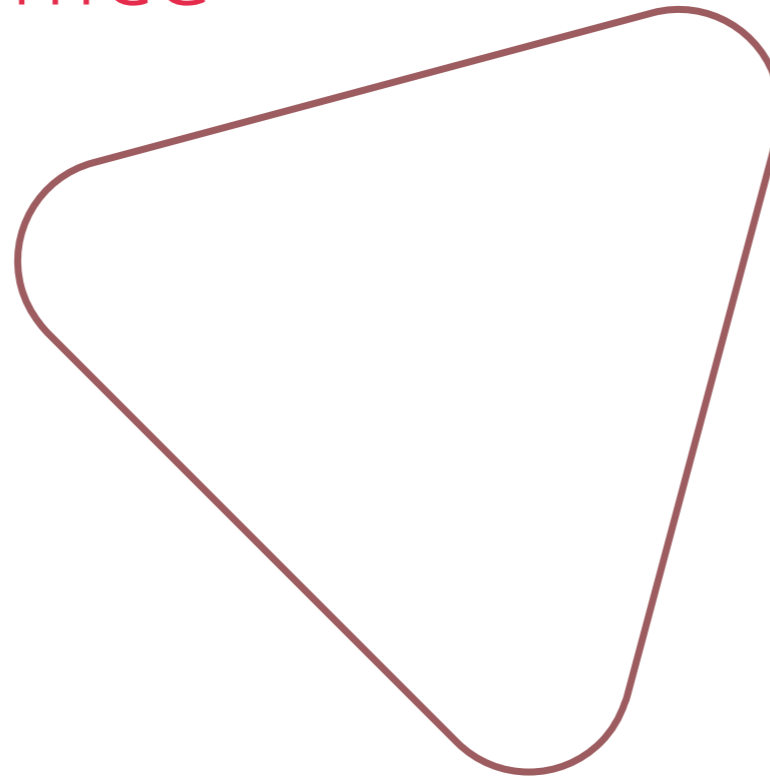
The International Office

introduces itself

The International Office is the central facility for all international affairs at the university. Under the leadership of James O'Reilly, the team advises students, researcher and instructors who are planning a stay abroad, want to establish a partnership or are looking for the right funding program or scholarship.

Foreign students, researchers and instructors are also supported by the International Office in their studies and their guest stay at the TH OWL from planning to implementation.

The International Office team welcomes anyone who approaches them about international matters.



KERSTIN ROSEMANN

Kalimera! My name is Kerstin Rosemann, I'm of German-Greek origin and have been working for almost 20 years in the International Office of the TH OWL as coordinator of incoming students. I participated in student exchange programs or internships abroad already during my school years. These formative experiences led me to pursue a foreign language education and work in the international field. Besides my native language, I speak English, French and Italian. For me, language is the key to connecting with people from different backgrounds. As a staff member in the area of incoming students, I meet young people from all over the world every day who are highly motivated and grateful for any support they can get as they make their way from their home countries to Germany to study with us. I advise them on questions about their studies as well as on topics such as language preparation and academic requirements. Last but not least, I help international students to orientate themselves at the university as well as at their newly chosen destination. In addition to all administrative tasks, events such as the Welcome Days, the International Day, intercultural training and the annual semester excursions are also part of my job. I encourage international students to always remain open to new things, to come to the advisory center in good time and to ask any questions they may have.



JAMES O'REILLY

I'm James O'Reilly and I'm from the United States. Born and raised in Los Angeles, California. I moved to Germany in 2014, just before Germany became World Cup soccer champions. As the director of the International Office, I focus on supporting professors with their international projects and developing new international collaborations. Moving from America to Germany was a life-changing experience for me. Living and working in a different country every day always brings me new and thrilling experiences. At our university, we have many exciting opportunities for professors and staff to go abroad. Feel free to contact us to find out what opportunities are available to you.

ANANYA NAGENDRAN

My name is Ananya Nagendran and I'm a native of Sri Lanka. At the International Office, I'm currently coordinating the projects "Integra" and "QualifyING". One of my main tasks is to support international students in their transition to the job market. For this, the International Office established the Career Service in 2021, which provides career and job-oriented services for international students. The "QualifyING" project goes beyond studies, offering engineers with a refugee background a one-year post-qualification program to help them gain a foothold in the German labor market. I personally love traveling and take valuable experience home with me every time. I think that spending a certain period of time abroad is definitely enriching in terms of broadening one's skills and developing personally. So I can only recommend it to everyone to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the TH OWL – both for students and for instructors and staff – to gain international experience and to network with people from all over the world.





MARYSE NIEMEIER

I grew up in Normandy, France, and came to Germany in 1989 for a one-year internship as a foreign language assistant while studying "German as a Foreign Language". Now, one year has become 32 years. My job at the International Office is to represent the IO on the Detmold campus. This means that I look after both the incoming and outgoing students in Detmold. I also assist all students at the TH OWL who are applying for an international internship with an Erasmus+ grant and advise students on the international scholarships offered by the TH OWL and the Hochschulgesellschaft OWL. I encourage everyone to take advantage of the opportunity to go abroad. I know from experience that time abroad enables you to think outside the box and to question previous ways of thinking in a new way.

ANNE KULASI

I'm a native of Lippe and settled back in Lippe after eight years of international work experience in Switzerland, California, Seychelles and England. While traveling, I also met my husband, an Englishman with Indian roots, so our family language is now English. What fascinates me most about living and working abroad are the subtle cultural differences that you only notice when you live in another country for an extended period of time. These differences have taught me to question the familiar and habitual, to appreciate multiple solutions to the same problems, and to communicate better. As coordinator for student mobility at the Lemgo and Höxter campuses, I advise students on all the options for integrating a stay abroad into their studies – whether it's a semester abroad, an internship, a thesis, or a short stay. I can provide information on application formalities, financing options and the partner universities of the TH OWL. In addition, as the Erasmus university coordinator, I'm responsible for the project management of Erasmus+ and organize a series of information events every semester. My tip for students: The TH OWL has many exciting partner universities in places you probably never visited on vacation before. Go for it, discover a whole new country: it will change your life!



ANAMARIA CAPSA

I'm Anamaria Capsa and I come from Pitesti, Romania. My family has German, Romanian, Ukrainian and Greek roots, so I was able to gain international experience at an early age. In the International Office, I coordinate the NRWege project. My varied and exciting tasks range from organizing German courses for refugees and international students that prepare them for and support their studies, to providing language-related advice, to awarding scholarships. My life in Germany started with my au pair in 1993. My studies of "German as a Foreign Language" and "Spanish and Latin American Studies" in Bielefeld made a strong impression on me. During this time, I acquired my professional knowledge and intercultural competence, was involved internationally in a variety of projects, and had already begun teaching German as a foreign language. I encourage students to contact us if they feel that they still need support in learning German. Individual counseling is very helpful.



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Discover the world from East Westphalia-Lippe



Status: July 4, 2022

FIVE STEPS TO STUDYING ABROAD:

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS!



Many roads lead to...Paris, Bogota, Oslo, Ahmedabad or to one of about 90 partner countries worldwide! At least for students, instructors and employees at the TH OWL. There are a variety of opportunities for all members of the university

to incorporate one or more stays abroad into their own career path. Some of them can even be combined with each other. Regardless of the destination, however, always this keep in mind: Those who plan well are better off!

STEP 1

GET INFORMED & PREPARE YOURSELF

Every great journey starts with a first step. In this case, it's the information phase. The key question is: What options do I have and where is the best place to get information?

First sources of information

- ▶ Once a semester, the International Office (IO) organizes an information event on the topics of studying abroad and international internships.
- ▶ If you already know where you want to go, you can get more specific advice at the IO.
- ▶ Inspiring testimonials from students at the TH OWL are regularly posted on the IO homepage. These provide orientation and, ideally, help you in your decision-making process.

By students for students: Online information formats of the TH OWL

- ▶ At the Erasmus Virtual Drinks and Get-Together, students currently still abroad and those about to leave meet in informal online meetings.
- ▶ The Virtual World Trip is a new format of the IO, in which several students take turns reporting live from their host country about their stay abroad.

The IO event calendar provides information about all events. The "News" section also lists external offers, such as funding programs or internships.

Choosing the destination country

- ▶ **Study:** Each department of the TH OWL has selected partner universities – a total of 60 Erasmus+ partner universities in Europe and 30 other countries worldwide. The advantages: There are no tuition fees at these universities. Applications are handled by the IO, as is all further support concerning your stay abroad.
- ▶ It's also possible to visit a non-partner university, but this requires a little more organization on the part of the student.
- ▶ Internships, graduate internships and practical semesters: Students search for jobs on their own. The IO advises students on funding.
- ▶ Theses: The IO provides advice on an individual basis.
- ▶ Short stays: There is a separate subpage on this topic on the IO homepage.

Language preparation

As soon as the country and the partner university have been determined, students are advised to familiarize themselves with the lecture language of the host university or to consolidate their knowledge of it, since sufficient language skills are always required. The TH OWL offers many language preparation courses; Speexx Campus Language Training is also online.

The IO also regularly organizes workshops to assist in the preparation of professional application documents in English.



STEP 2

THE APPLICATION

For studies

Applications for admission to a partner university of the TH OWL are made through the IO and are always linked to Erasmus+ in Europe. In this case, applications for admission are also applications for Erasmus+ funding. It's possible to apply twice a year.

"Free movers", i.e. students who would like to study at a non-partner university of the TH OWL, apply either directly at the university of their choice or via an external organization in the host country. The application is free of charge for students. There are also a number of scholarships available, but these must be applied for independently.

PLEASE NOTE! All those who receive a different type of funding instead of Erasmus+ should definitely consider the Learning Agreement (LA) before their stay abroad. Only then can students be sure that their studies at the host university will be credited to their studies at the TH OWL. In the case of Erasmus+ funding, the LA is an integral part of the contract.

For internships

If you want to do an internship abroad, you have to find and apply for internships yourself. Interested parties can find some initial assistance on the IO website, such as tips for job hunting and links to internship exchanges.

STEP 3

FUNDING

These days, there are many funding opportunities aimed at different target groups to enable as many students as possible to study abroad. Monthly support has also recently been increased for everyone. Under certain circumstances, a BAföG grant for studies abroad may also be an option. The IO will advise you on your specific options.

Scholarships & funding opportunities

Funding via Erasmus+ and Erasmus+ Internship is never linked to academic performance and is generally open to all students. For the awarding of scholarships, on the other hand, academic performance and especially the statement of purpose can be important selection criteria.

Erasmus+ for studies

- ▶ Applications for admissions to universities under Erasmus+ are automatically applications for Erasmus+ funding.

Erasmus+ for internships

- ▶ For a position within Europe, students are eligible for Erasmus+ Internship funding.

PROMOS

For stays outside Europe (studies, internships, theses and study trips) that are not funded by Erasmus+, the PROMOS scholarship of the DAAD often applies.

For all occasions, other scholarships and funding opportunities exist that can be combined with Erasmus+ or PROMOS.

- ▶ International scholarships offered by the TH OWL and the scholarships of the Hochschulgesellschaft OWL e. V., such as Go Overseas or Women Worldwide
- ▶ Scholarships from external partners, such as the Cross Border Studies Program of the Phoenix Contact Foundation
- ▶ Special funding programs for selected partner universities and departments

BAföG grants for studies abroad

Please note! The assessment basis for a BAföG grant for studies abroad (Auslands-BAföG) differs from the assessment basis for domestic funding. This means that students who do not receive BAföG funding for their studies at their home university still have a chance of receiving support for their time abroad. Those who are already receiving BAföG funding in Germany are automatically entitled to receive funding abroad. Scholarships are free of charge up to an amount of three hundred euros per month.

STEP 4

ORGANIZATION

Once you've successfully completed the application, you can now tackle any final organizational items.

Overseas health insurance

It's essential to check which benefits are covered by your own health insurance. As a rule, students must take out additional insurance for their stay abroad. Please note: Health insurance for travel abroad is not enough!

Additional insurance

For an internship, additional liability and accident insurance must also be taken out.

Visa and entry conditions

Entry conditions must always be considered individually. You must apply for the visa in person at the responsible embassy in Germany at least 14 days prior to entry.

Travel costs

Some scholarships include allowances for travel costs. Within Europe, there is also a subsidy for sustainable travel within the framework of Erasmus+.

Tuition fees of the TH OWL

Students who stay abroad for more than four months can apply for a partial fee waiver. Your enrollment at the TH OWL remains valid.

Finding an apartment/room

The partner university often provides assistance in finding accommodation. Sometimes the application for an admission is simultaneously a request for a room in the student dormitory. It's often worthwhile to have a look at Facebook groups of initiatives such as the Erasmus Students Network. If you want to search locally, you can also rent an Airbnb for the first few days.

Your first days in the host country

Getting started is easier if you aren't alone. That's why host universities often organize events like Welcome Days and Welcome Weeks. Often, buddy programs are also available, where a student from the host university looks after the new arrival from Germany.

STEP 5

PACK YOUR BAGS, ARRIVE, AND EXPERIENCE THE HOST COUNTRY!

Questions about the application, scholarship or visa?

The point of contact for all administrative matters is the International Office of the TH OWL!

Any questions about the recognition of academic achievements or the right time to go?

The point of contact for all departmental questions is the international coordinator of your department.

When to start planning?

If you're planning a stay outside of Europe, we recommend you start planning a year in advance; within Europe, six to nine months are sufficient.

Information about the Erasmus+ grant



www.th-owl.de/en/international-office-th-owl/go-abroad/translate-to-englisch-erasmus-programm

Information about scholarships and funding programs of the TH OWL



www.th-owl.de/international/foerderprogramme-ausland

Information about internships abroad



www.th-owl.de/en/international-office-th-owl/go-abroad/international-internship



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ERASMUS+


A LITTLE BIG ADVENTURE IN EUROPE


Hundreds of students at the TH OWL have already ventured into other European countries – over 80 this year alone. Below, seven former outgoing students reveal how they prepared, what they took away from their time abroad, and a few must-sees at their destination!

And for those who are still wondering whether or not to take the plunge, our Erasmus+ students have different tips but share a common message: **Go for it!**



ALI HALAWI

 BA in Media Production

 Volda/Norway
Semester abroad at Volda
University College

My tip for Volda

If you have the time, you should definitely join one of the local organizations. For me, NATURA was exactly the right choice. We experienced little adventures together, climbed mountains and hiked through the snow. It really is absolutely worth it.

My conclusion


I had the opportunity to learn a lot about myself and also about the rest of the world, in addition to the university content. This may sound far-fetched, but the semester abroad was a true process of self-discovery for me: Who am I, how do I behave outside my usual environment, and what do I really want? Other students have told me that they have had similar experiences. I was also able to make close friends with interesting people from all over the world.


My tip for those still undecided

Just dare, then you will outgrow yourself! Anyone reading this article is basically already interested in a semester abroad. I wish all those who are still unsure the courage to take this step. For me, it was worth it two hundred percent!



LIZ BOEKHOLT

 BA in Interior Architecture

 Paris/France
Semester abroad at the École
Nationale Supérieure des Arts
Décoratifs (EnsAD)

My tip for Paris

Paris is always worth a trip, but especially when the weather cooperates. In that case, you should definitely explore the city's many parks and check out the sights. The view over the city is breathtaking when the weather is good. If you want to recharge your batteries in between, you can also discover a lot of culinary delights. The perfect end to a beautiful day is a walk along the Seine at sunset.


My conclusion


I got completely new perspectives on my course of studies. And I was of course able to improve my foreign language skills. However, I also gained new insights on a personal level – for example, that you should regularly take small breaks and enjoy your surroundings.

My tip for those still undecided

Prepare well, then nothing can happen to you! If you're the type of person who likes to make new experiences and get to know other cultures, you should definitely spend some time studying abroad.

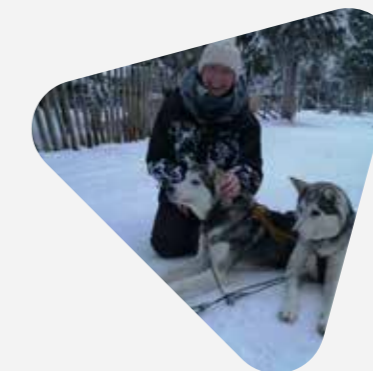
SOPHIE BÜLTER

 BA in Precision Farming

 Ås/Norway
Semester abroad at the Norwegian
University of Life Sciences/NMBU

My tip for Ås

The sight most worth seeing in Ås is definitely the campus, including the university. Moreover, you can start a hiking tour in the beautiful natural surroundings directly from the university campus. Oslo is also always worth a trip. Absolute recommendation: the Oslo Fjord and the ski jump. Also, the Norwegian metropolis has many beautiful neighborhoods that are waiting to be discovered.



My conclusion


My time in Ås showed me that it's absolutely worth leaving your comfort zone. You experience so many beautiful things when you step outside your own (supposed) boundaries. My biggest worry, that I might not be able to make any connections, was completely unfounded.


My tip for those still undecided

Say yes more often! If you're still unsure, you can first check which partner countries your faculty has and whether you find one of them exciting. Then your ideas will become more concrete. It's also helpful to establish contacts with like-minded people early on. For example, I joined an Erasmus+ Facebook and WhatsApp group before my stay.



MELISSA BARLAG

 BA in Interior Architecture

 San Sebastián/Spain
Semester abroad at the
Universidad del País Vasco

My tip for San Sebastián

From Monte Ulia you can get an excellent first impression of San Sebastián – and the view of the city and the beaches is unique! It's also the ideal starting point for my favorite hike to the colorful fishing village of neighboring Pasaia.


My conclusion


During my stay in San Sebastián, I definitely learned that everyday life can often be better mastered with a sense of calm. Besides improving my language skills, gaining impressions of university life and making great new friends, I definitely took home a piece of the relaxed and typically Spanish way of life.

My tip for those still undecided

Do it in any case! A semester abroad is a good idea in every respect. Not only do you get to see things from a new perspective, but you also get to immerse yourself in a foreign culture for more than just the length of a vacation. And the best thing is that you also meet interesting people and gain valuable life experience.

LENA KOPSIEKER

 BA in Architecture

 Lisbon/Portugal
Semester abroad at the Instituto
Universitário de Lisboa/ISCTE with
subsequent international internship

My tip for Lisbon

Definitely the lookouts above the city, the Miradouros. The one with the best view, in my opinion, is the Senhora do Monte. A bit outside of Lisbon, I really liked the area around the small town of Sintra and especially the Praia da Ursa, a secluded beach.

My conclusion


If you dare to be spontaneous and take advantage of opportunities, you'll have great experiences. I almost didn't apply for a semester abroad because of Covid, and then I was very happy to have found an extra place. I also made the most of my time in Lisbon and rarely said no to a last-minute excursion or surf course.


My tip for those still undecided

It's better to send one application too many than one too few! I found the architecture firms via Google and also asked my professors from Detmold and my semester abroad in Lisbon for recommendations. I then sent my speculative application with portfolio to them.



DOMINIK LEUSMANN

 BA in Wood Technology

 St. Johann in Tyrol/Austria
International internship at
Egger Holzwerkstoffe

My tip for Tyrol

Definitely make a trip to the mountains, no matter what time of year it is. Whether you're into skiing, ski touring, hiking, climbing or biking: the mountains have endless things to offer.

My conclusion


I learned a lot about project work and scientific work in practice. Working abroad made this time even more valuable, as I was able to gain experience and experience new things alongside my work, which I could not have done at home.


My tip for those still undecided

Approach planning systematically! If you have some ideas about what you would like to do professionally, you can take the second step and see which countries you find exciting. If you then look for the right offers, you'll certainly find suitable matches.



JESSICA HÄFELE

 BA in Cosmetics and Detergents
Technology

 Ærøskøbing/Denmark
International internship at Saeberiet
Ærø ApS (Ærø Soap Co.)

My tip for Ærøskøbing

On the island of Ærø, you have to visit the Skjoldnæs lighthouse. From there you have the most beautiful view over the tip of Ærø and the surrounding archipelago.

My conclusion

If you have the chance to spend some time abroad during your studies, you should definitely take it. The time spent abroad not only helps you develop professionally, but also on a personal level. The experience of being »alone« in a foreign country helped me to become more independent and courageous.

My tip for those still undecided

Ask your professors for contacts or companies! It's much easier if you use the professional support options you have.

Student Initiative LEI

To encourage more interested people to venture abroad, students at the TH OWL founded a Local Erasmus+ Initiative, or LEI for short, in March 2021. Why it's special: Many in the LEI team have already studied abroad or done an internship with Erasmus+ themselves. This means

that they can provide targeted support to future outgoing students on organizational issues relating to student life abroad. The LEI team regularly organizes events for interested students.

www.th-owl.de/international/lei



OUT OF THE COMFORT ZONE –

into the pulsating lifestyle of Seoul

Sarah Winter hardly speaks Korean, and Koreans don't always like to speak English. To make connections, she had to show some stamina, and the lectures don't quite match up to how she originally imagined them. The Interior Architecture student from Detmold reveals here why she can, nevertheless, unreservedly recommend her studies at K-Arts in Seoul and has even extended them by another semester.

I already knew when I started at the TH OWL that I would be going abroad during my studies. Originally, I wanted to go to South Africa. Unfortunately, that wasn't possible at the time because of the Covid pandemic. So the choice of South Korea was more of a coincidence. But it was always clear that the alternative should be just as "exotic". I've always been fascinated by cultures that are different from ours. On the one hand, I find it incredibly exciting, and on the other, it inspires me immensely. I've never gotten my ideas at home at my desk, but when I can challenge things, I'm challenged myself and have to leave my comfort zone. Nothing does that quite like traveling to exotic countries.

That South Korea was a very lucky "coincidence" quickly became apparent. Seoul captivated me from day one. I especially like the contrasts here. Skyscrapers set against imposing natural backdrops, ancient temples in the midst of high-rise jungles, Western fashion brands, trends and behaviors colliding with centuries-old traditions. You could say that South Korea has an international façade but is still somewhat hermetic deep down at the same time.

"This will be the time of your life!"



It was clear to me after just a few weeks that I wanted to extend my stay. After all, the general consensus on the subject of stays abroad is:

That already put pressure on me, since I "only" had four months. I definitely didn't want to leave right away after arriving. And you need some time to get used to this culture, which is so different from ours. The application for the extension was very straightforward. I wrote an e-mail to the International Office at the TH OWL and to K-Arts. The green light came quickly from the TH OWL. I had to wait a little longer for the go-ahead from K-Arts. It's definitely important to make inquiries early on here. Now I'll be here until the summer of 2022. This may prolong my studies somewhat, but that doesn't bother me at all. Intense experience has always been a priority for me.

The Korea National University of Arts – K-Arts for short – is one of the most sought-after art schools in South Korea. So I was all the happier that I was able to get in there. I wanted to focus entirely on art during my time in Korea, so I

enrolled in Fine Arts. One of the specialties of the university is working with glass. This is why Glass Design was at the top of my wish list. I also took Printmaking, Lithography, Korean, and Korean Art History. But if you talk to the professors, you can also take courses that are outside of the department you have chosen. The compulsory program also includes a project work that I was able to design completely freely. The bottom line on my choice of subjects: As nice as the excursion into art was, my heart still beats for interior design.

It took me a while to connect with my fellow South Korean students. The language is certainly one reason for this, but so is the culture. The people here are rather reserved and don't force themselves on you. But if you're tactful, you can get them to come out of their shell. In the meantime, I am doing a lot of traveling with my South Korean friends. There's a lot to discover in Seoul and the surrounding area: a lot of nice cafés, beautiful beaches and great hiking trails of varying levels of difficulty.

I'm basically already an open-minded person, but my time in Seoul broadened my horizons even more. That's why I would always choose South Korea again. However, there's one thing I would do differently next time: I would learn some Korean beforehand. I had assumed that I would manage well everywhere here with English. Yet some Koreans find it difficult to speak English because of their perfectionism and reticence. "Saving face" is part of Asian culture. I wasn't prepared for that. The fact that the lectures

were completely face-to-face was definitely helpful – I got out a lot and had contact with the language that way. I'm currently learning Korean on my own and making my first attempts at speaking. I can recommend the free site Talk To Me In Korean to all autodidacts.

I'm planning to do a semester abroad in India next. If that doesn't work out because of Covid, I'd also start by applying for an Erasmus semester in Portugal or Spain. That's something I really appreciate at the TH OWL – there are so many opportunities to discover the world.



1. Application

- ▶ The application runs through the International Office of the TH OWL.
- ▶ Upon acceptance from the IO, you can apply to K-Arts via an online portal.
 - ▶ Required documents: your own portfolio in English, two letters of recommendation from professors, proof of your English language level and the application documents themselves.

3. Financing

- ▶ I had already saved up beforehand.
- ▶ Financing the 1st semester abroad
 - ▶ PROMOS (DAAD) & Go Overseas (scholarship from the Hochschulgesellschaft OWL e. V. (approx. 4,500 euros in total))
- ▶ Financing the 2nd semester abroad
 - ▶ HAW.International (DAAD) (1,250 euros per month plus flight allowance of 1,000 euros), plus coverage of overseas health insurance and costs for a language course

6. Credit transfer

- ▶ I will get credit for some courses as electives or as a project.

2. Things to do before you leave

- ▶ Obtain overseas health insurance.
 - ▶ I had taken out overseas health insurance in Germany, but had to take out another one here on site (35 euros per month). I didn't need the German one, as it turned out.
- ▶ Apply for a visa.
 - ▶ For North Rhine-Westphalia, apply in person at the Korean embassy in Bonn (at least 14 days in advance).

Tip:

- ▶ Be sure to get a Korean SIM card early on – directly at the airport, for example! There are many apps that only work with it. Ordering food, for example, is only possible with a Korean SIM card.

4. Arrival

- ▶ The semester starts on the 1st of September.
- ▶ Currently, you have to be quarantined for seven days after arriving in Seoul, for me it was 14 (fly early enough!).
 - ▶ K-Arts has quarantine accommodations.
 - ▶ I spent the time in an Airbnb (financed by the scholarship)

5. Apartment hunting

- ▶ I'm currently paying 360 euros for a small room in a shared apartment, but I live very centrally. It's also possible to pay a lot less.
- ▶ K-Arts has a student dormitory. You share your room with one other person. The total cost for the stay is about 500 euros.

Tip:

- ▶ In Seoul, if you pay a higher deposit, you pay less rent, and vice versa.

SCHOLARSHIPS from the TH OWL and the Hochschulgesellschaft OWL e. V.

It is highly recommended that you apply for a scholarship from the TH OWL or the Hochschulgesellschaft OWL e. V. for studying abroad. In many cases, this is also granted in addition to the PROMOS scholarship from the DAAD or an Erasmus+ grant. Around 130 stays abroad around the world have been co-financed through this additional option since 2014. Funds amounting to 30,000 euros are available each year for this purpose.

All partner universities of the TH OWL

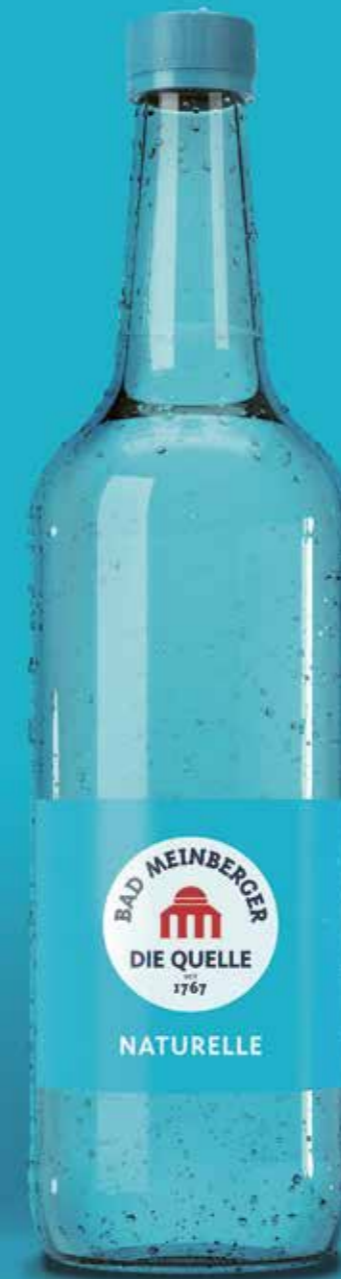


www.th-owl.de/en/international-office-th-owl/go-abroad/study-abroad/partner-universities/

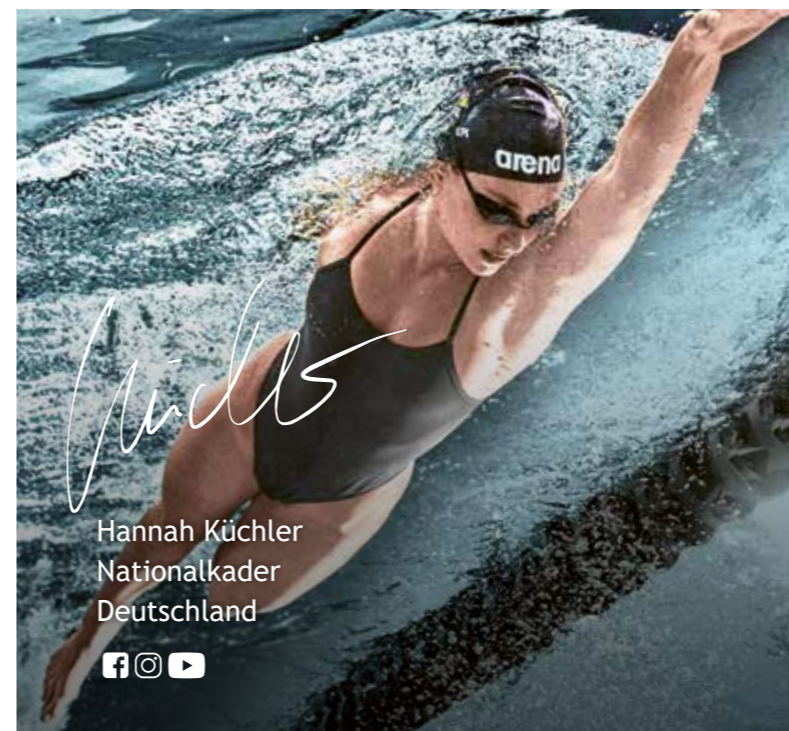
Information about funding programs at the TH OWL



www.th-owl.de/international/foerderprogramme-ausland



DIE
QUELLE
FÜRS
LEBEN.
BAD MEINBERGER



Hannah Küchler
Nationalkader
Deutschland



mit firstclimate 
KLIMANEUTRAL

ERASMUS+

Even more opportunities to go abroad

Erasmus+, the world's largest exchange program, has started its new seven-year program cycle under the motto "Enriching lives, opening minds". The new generation of programs, which runs from 2021 to 2027, is designed to be more digital, more sustainable and more inclusive. To achieve this goal, it has a number of innovations in store. Professor Dr. Yvonne-Christin Knepper-Bartel – Vice President for Education and Internationalization at the TH OWL – talks to us about how students, teachers and employees of the TH OWL will benefit.

Mrs. Knepper-Bartel, the Erasmus program has been a permanent institution at the TH OWL for many years now. What conclusions can you draw from this time?

Since its foundation in 1987, Erasmus has embodied the European ideals of freedom, democracy and equality like no other educational program in the European Union. Since then, over three million students – myself included during my studies, incidentally – have taken advantage of the funding program to network and learn on an international stage – thus strengthening our European identity immeasurably. Students, teachers and employees at the TH OWL have also taken full advantage of the opportunities offered by Erasmus. In the last program cycle alone, we were able to support around 350 stays abroad thanks to the Erasmus program. Moreover, we at the TH OWL have been able to expand our strategic networking with partners and other universities in Europe and around the world. We were delighted with the innovations of the current program generation. Not only do they build on the previous program cycle in a very sensible way, but they also significantly expand the opportunities for students, teachers and staff – which we will be able to use in many ways for the benefit of everyone involved.

What exactly are the innovations in the current program generation?

The focus of Erasmus+ is on "inclusion and diversity", "digital transformation", "the environment and combating climate change", and "participation in democratic life". Basically, Erasmus+ has moved even closer to social developments

with its new program cycle. It's now more sustainable, more digital and has been opened up to an even broader target group – in several different areas. One goal of these innovations is to enable even more students to enjoy the special experience of studying abroad. As the aim is to make access easier for everyone, a stay abroad is now possible as early as the 1st semester.

This time, however, the program is focusing in particular on students with "fewer opportunities". Among other things, the program organizers have integrated completely new modules into the program for this purpose. There has also been a significant change in the area of international cooperation. This puts us as a university in the fortunate position of being able to further expand the collaborations we've been cultivating for many years and to develop innovative concepts with our partners – including beyond European borders.



◀ The Vice President for Education and Internationalization signs an international Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Who exactly belongs to the group of students with "fewer opportunities" and how should access to Erasmus+ be made easier for them?

In past program cycles, the Erasmus program had already made progress in constantly opening up opportunities for students who, for various reasons, found it difficult or impossible to spend a period abroad. Behind these measures is the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education – ECHE for short – which aims to ensure equal access to the Erasmus program for students with fewer opportunities. In the last program cycle, the focus was on students with disabilities and those with children. Now further target groups have been added. In particular, these include students who have to work alongside their studies or who come from a non-academic household. After all, those who cannot receive financial support from home or are dependent on money from their job in Germany have often not been able to afford a stay abroad in the past. This is set to change with the new program generation. To give more students access to the program, the program organizers have made two changes: one financial, the other procedural.

First of all, the monthly funding for all participants has been increased to up to 600 euros per month, depending on the destination country, for the 2022/2023 winter semester. Students in the new target group will also receive a monthly top-up of 250 euros with immediate effect. Regardless of the target group, all those traveling abroad for an internship will receive an additional 150 euros per month. I would also like to remind you that Erasmus+ funding can, of course, be combined with other scholarships and funding opportunities such as Auslands-BAföG, as was formerly the case.

In addition to the funding amount, some conditions of the program itself have also been changed. After all, not every student is in a position to go abroad for several months at a time. To ensure that this does not completely rule out the possibility of a stay abroad, the minimum funding period has been reduced from three to two months. Another component in this context are two new blended learning teaching formats.

What exactly are these formats and who can participate?

With the new program generation, two innovative teaching formats have been launched, consisting of face-to-face and online units. The blended learning programs concern individual mobilities, while the blended intensive programs were conceived for group mobilities. These teaching



▲ Professor Dr. Yvonne-Christin Knepper-Bartel is Vice President for Education and Internationalization at the TH OWL.

formats are particularly noteworthy because they include an international dimension, thus further reinforcing a common educational level in Europe. In addition, the offer is comparatively low-threshold, so even more people can benefit from the experience of a stay abroad. In principle, both formats are open to all students.

Blended learning programs are of particular interest to students for whom a stay abroad of several weeks or months is not feasible for any number of reasons. In this combined program, students can flexibly divide their stay abroad into online and face-to-face phases. In concrete terms, this means that they participate virtually in the courses of a selected host university, while traveling locally for only five to thirty days. This paves the way overseas for students for whom a physical stay was previously out of the question due to the duration.

Blended intensive programs – BIP for short – have been designed for group sizes of fifteen to sixty students or university staff. Their goal is exchange and joint learning across national borders. At least three partner universities from three different European countries participate in each BIP and develop a joint curriculum. The BIP is designed and led by at least one teacher from each university. Another requirement is that participation earns each student a minimum of three credit points (ECTS). At present, we have applied for three BIPs, one of which is already in the concrete planning stage. The first BIP of the TH OWL will take place in cooperation with the universities ETS Arquitectura LaSalle in Barcelona/Spain and the Arkitektsskolen Aarhus in Aarhus/Denmark. The participants will focus on the topic of "Sustainability in the design and construction of buildings". In the course of the project, each of the three

universities will devote itself intensively to a selected material – ceramics, brick and wood are currently under discussion. The participants will work on the project over a period of two years in several virtual phases and one face-to-face phase. The project will kick off in Barcelona in the fall of 2022 with a joint meeting of around 60 students and their teachers. This will be followed by a workshop in Detmold in spring 2023 and another in Aarhus in fall 2024.

For us as a university, BIPs offer exciting new opportunities for collaboration with our partner universities in Europe. We plan to implement a number of measures in this area in the coming years to maximize the benefits of this new teaching format for all involved. The next application deadline is in February 2023 for projects starting on 6/1/2023.

The new teaching formats are already making Erasmus+ considerably more digital. Are there other areas of the program that are to be digitized?

Erasmus+ is not only making learning more digital, but the entire administration of the program will also be completely freed from all “paperwork” in the future – making it more sustainable and effective. As part of Erasmus Without Paper – EWP for short – we are currently introducing a digital mobility database at the TH OWL. Sooner or later, all universities will be linked to the EWP network. This will make it very convenient for the partner universities to exchange data, such as learning agreements or cooperation contracts, via a common interface.

You mentioned at the beginning that Erasmus+ is more international than its predecessors. What exactly has changed in this area?

Right! Erasmus+ includes a new international component, which allows us to cooperate even more with partners around the world. This is because the new program generation allows us to spend up to 20 percent of our total funding on student mobility beyond Europe. In principle, stays and collaborations outside Europe were also possible in the past. However, the application process for this was always selective and somewhat laborious. One example: If we're already working intensively with a non-European partner university, it makes sense to assign it the status of an Erasmus+ partner university. Until now, this wasn't straightforward. This was because such requests were

always assessed qualitatively and not always approved. Now we can use our budget to select non-European partners in a targeted way and support students via Erasmus+. The aim of this new approach is to facilitate the exchange of European universities with partners around the world and to strengthen Europe as a global player. We plan to make targeted use of this opportunity to further expand cooperation with non-European partner universities, with which we are already actively engaged. It will also be possible to apply for individual grants, as was previously the case.

Please explain again briefly how Erasmus+ takes the aspect of sustainability into account.

A lot is already reflected in the innovations we've mentioned. Blended learning formats are more sustainable, as is the fact that the administration of the program will soon be completely digital. In addition, the new program cycle offers a one-time top-up of 50 euros for all those who travel by a sustainable means of transport – i.e. not by plane. That's not a huge amount, of course, but it's still moving in the right direction.

Who is the right contact for anyone who would like more information?

The International Office at the TH OWL is well informed about all of the new offers of Erasmus+ and advises students, teachers and staff on individual options.

Thank you very much for the interview, Ms. Knepper-Bartel!



Further information about the Erasmus+ program

www.th-owl.de/en/international-office-th-owl/go-abroad/translate-to-english-erasmus-programm

INTERNATIONAL DAY
June 10, 2022





◀ Prof. Dr.-Ing.
Jürgen Jasperneite

TEACHING AND RESEARCHING ABROAD

Professor Jasperneite will be teaching and researching on the topic of "Industrial Internet of Things" at Mid Sweden University as a visiting professor until 2023. Professor Dr.-Ing. Jürgen Jasperneite is a board member of inIT, professor at the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Engineering at the TH OWL, and director of the Fraunhofer IOSB-INA in Lemgo. During semester breaks at the TH OWL, Professor Jasperneite lectures on the Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) as well as on knowledge and technology transfer and science-to-business for Swedish students at Mid Sweden University. During his time at Mid Sweden University, the computer networking expert is contributing as a member of the Department of Information Systems and Technology (IST) and the STC Research Center there. The STC (Sensible Things that Communicate) develops sensor-based systems and services for use in the Internet of Things (IoT) and artificial intelligence. The main research areas are electronics and computer science, in particular industrial IoT, next-generation measurement systems and functional surfaces. At the STC Research

Center, Professor Jasperneite will work with colleagues on current issues in industrial communications such as 5G and 6G, develop joint projects and supervise PhD students.

"I'm excited about the new assignment as a visiting professor in Sweden and thank my long-time colleague Professor Mikael Gidlund, who is also at Mid Sweden University and brought this fantastic opportunity to my attention,"

said Professor Jasperneite.

Professor Burkhard Wrenger, head of the Precision Farming program at the TH OWL, has been working with NASA, European weather services and scientists from other universities to collect comprehensive data in the Ebro valley, south of the Spanish Pyrenees. The researchers want to find out how irrigation in agriculture can be made more efficient and effective in the future.

"The point of the measurements is to better understand the impact of irrigation on agriculture and the irrigated region. From this, we want to deduce how irrigation can work better and more efficiently in the future to waste less water," explains Professor Burkhard Wrenger. Burkhard Wrenger has been involved in the measurement campaign in Spain since the spring and was on site himself in July to assist the up to 100 researchers in the Ebro valley with the measurements.

The researchers deliberately chose the Ebro valley in Spain for the measurements because the need for irrigation there is greater than in more northern climates due to the heat and solar radiation.



▶ Prof. Dr.
Burkhard
Wrenger



◀ Canal bringing
the water to the
agricultural areas



◀ Irrigation situation:
flooded orchard

"We used a region for our research where there is a lot of existing agriculture. We can also compare irrigated and non-irrigated fields there,"

Wrenger explains. In addition to corn and wheat, wine and fruit are also grown in the region. Efficient and sustainable irrigation models could mitigate the effects of climate change on agriculture.



◀ Malahide Castle in Dublin

LANGUAGE TRAINING ABROAD

University employees among native speakers

Making long-term improvements to your language skills, making international contacts and gaining valuable experience around the globe – that's not just reserved for university students and instructors. Stefanie Go and Daniela Wilbat, employees at the TH OWL, took advantage of their training opportunities and are still benefiting from their experiences abroad.

“My supervisor always urged me to take advantage of the university’s continuing education opportunities.”

says Daniela Wilbat, an assistant to the Dean in the Department of Environmental Engineering and Applied Computer Science.

The International Office offers various opportunities and funding programs, not only for students, but also for instructors and employees of TH OWL. She found out about them online and finally decided to take an Erasmus+ language course at University College Dublin in Ireland. Her English skills were already very rusty, she says: “You just learn languages better when you talk to ‘native speakers’.

It makes a big difference whether I take a language course in Germany or speak the language continuously for two weeks during a stay abroad.”

It's not just the language level that's crucial, she says, it's being completely and utterly removed from your everyday life and immersed in the foreign culture. She enthusiastically recalls intercultural dinners between Europeans and Asians who shared the dorm and sharing experiences about everyday university life with her roommate, a research assistant from France.

“By participating in training and development in Erasmus+ partner countries, we want to enable employees at our university to expand or maintain individual competencies and to become involved in an international working environment. Such networking is not only helpful on a professional or institutional level, but also conveys appreciation and can promote self-esteem. Employees can choose between language and specialist courses, sitting in on classes or participating in International Staff Training Weeks. And in consultation with the International Office, they can also receive financial support,” explains Nicole Soltwedel, Chancellor of the OWL University of Applied Sciences and Arts.



◀ Half-penny bridge and Liffey river in Dublin



◀ York Minster, Cathedral and Metropolitan Church of Saint Peter in York



◀ River Ouse in York

Both employees strongly recommend interested parties to take advantage of the recreational and evening programs offered by the language schools as well. This way, they can get to know the destinations from different perspectives and with all their senses. Whiskey tastings, exploring hidden alleys or a weekend trip to London or the coast not only provide colorful memories, but also keep you in practice mode at all times. So after a few days, visitors would actually be speaking fluent English without shame or worry of not knowing a word.

In addition to language courses, the International Office also offers training opportunities in other activity formats. For example, employees can be supported during a stay abroad in the context of job shadowing so that employees can benefit from each other's expertise. Participation in seminars and workshops is also worthwhile.

“Erasmus+ is a wonderful support, not only for our students, but also for our instructors and employees. We support the participation of all employees from all departments and faculties, as this reinforces the international perspective on our campus and enables our colleagues to bring new and innovative approaches to their work and lectures. If they have any questions or need advice, they're welcome to contact us at any time,” said James O'Reilly, Head of the International Office.

A stay abroad is ideal for promoting language skills with a view to specific professional tasks. Stefanie Go is a research associate and doctoral student in the joint project “HAnS” funded by the BMBF. In her previous position as Head of Career Services, she wanted to actively overcome her fear of giving a presentation in English in front of a larger audience by taking a language course. To do this, she sought advice from the International Office of the TH OWL as well as from York Associates Germany, which offers language training to improve English skills focused on English publications, teaching and lectures. Her choice fell on the “York Associates (Business) training center for English and international communication training” in York.



“In addition to intensively developing my language skills, I was able to build a network. In fact, I'm still in contact with my trainer at the time, Martin Bloomfield, who I continue to discuss professional matters with or ask for feedback on linguistic issues,” says Stefanie Go about the trip's added professional value. She decided to stay with a host family so that she could experience the culture first-hand.

Link IMotion Staff Week Trainings

staffmobility.eu



For more information on financial aid and the application process, visit the International Office website:

www.th-owl.de/international/lehrende-und-beschaefigte/erasmus-staff



FAR FROM HOME – INTERNATIONAL INSIGHTS:

Insights into life as an international student

The TH OWL is a cosmopolitan university that welcomes many international students every semester. There were 776 in the winter semester 2021/2022 alone. Just how little this diversity has been perceived since the Covid pandemic began was also noticed by Loreen Wüllner and three of her fellow students in the course of their media project. The photo series "Far from Home – International Insights" now puts nine of these students in the spotlight – thus representing the many faces at the TH OWL.



The impetus for the photo project came from Marietta Ehret, a professor in the Department of Media Production: "I've always found it really exciting when, say, students show up at the university in hijabs or colorful dashikis. I think that enriches us immensely as a community." She had the idea of capturing this diversity in photographs for some time. Yet, because of the Covid pandemic, its implementation had to be postponed a few times. In the winter semester of 2021/2022, however, the time had finally come and the photo project could be advertised.

A total of four media production students applied. Loreen Wüllner took on project management, Christin Lange make-up and assistance, and Dean Sabrotzky and Jakob Wagner the photography. Together with Professor Ehret, the team further elaborated the concept for the media project. "We had to think carefully about what the images should convey so that a consistent theme would be recognizable in them afterwards. We quickly agreed that the focus should be on the students' personalities," Loreen Wüllner explains. It also quickly became clear that more

than one photo would be needed to make the statement they wanted to make. So the project group decided to shoot three photos each of the selected students with the themes "portrait, hobby and studies". They also wanted to portray the widest possible range, i.e. as many different departments, nations and hobbies as possible. "It was also important to us to avoid creating typical 'model photos,' but rather natural images that convey the origins and the relationship of the incoming students to their home countries," explain the two photographers Dean Sabrotzky and Jakob Wagner.

The impressive result: 27 photos profiling nine students from seven countries and seven departments, each in three different situations. In some of them, you can tell by the way they dress that they feel a strong connection to their country of origin. Others show this less outwardly. According to Christin Lange, this illustrates one thing very vividly: "There's no single type of international student, and all of them deal with life in a foreign country in their own unique way."

Loreen Wüllner and her team are particularly pleased that the project has also proved to be genuinely beneficial on an interpersonal level: "There are hardly any incoming students in the Media Production department; most of them study Electrical Engineering or Information Technology. The lack of face-to-face time in the past two years has meant that international students have moved even further out of our radar. It makes us all the happier that we've now been able to get to know such great personalities through the project."



TAKE-OFF EVENTS

for good times at the TH OWL

The idea of packing your bags to study in a foreign country sometimes makes even experienced globetrotters go weak in the knees. Often, the period shortly after arriving is especially fraught with uncertainty: How will I get to my accommodation? How will I find my way around the campus? Will I make friends? The International Office (IO) ensures that all newcomers have a successful start at the TH OWL every semester with a variety of formats. In many cases, this includes committed students who provide active support.

Buddy Program

In the Buddy Program, students at the TH OWL support incoming students through their first days at our university. Buddies from East Westphalia-Lippe not only get to know interesting people and their cultures, they also receive a buddy certificate for their social commitment at the end of the program.

The first steps for a successful start at the TH OWL already happen before the international students set off for East Westphalia. That's when the buddy teams are already being formed. "This gives the partners some time to get to know each other and to organize important things early on, such as being picked up from the train station," explains Kerstin Rosemann from the IO. The IO team does not leave the assignment to chance. That's why all participants fill out a form in advance that asks about their course of study, language skills, hobbies, personal wishes, and other information. According to Kerstin Rosemann, common interests and knowledge often lead to partners getting along well on a personal level: "In the best-case scenario, this creates not only stable relationships over a single semester, but real friendships for life."

The Buddy Program really kicks into gear once the incoming student has arrived. Shopping, using public transportation, opening an account or finding a sports club – these can all be things that incoming students from abroad need help with. The IO has summarized which possible tasks buddies might have to tackle and how they can best help in a clear document that all participants receive in advance. The program provides support in many areas, but it also has clear limits, according to Kerstin

Rosemann: "Buddies are not responsible for taking care of "delicate" official business or for finding housing for the newcomer. We have professional contact persons in our team for that." In this context, she emphasizes that buddies are not left alone with their task at any point: "We guide the program in a structured way and are also available for contact at any time during the semester. If buddies ever get stuck or are worried that their partner is in a difficult situation, they can contact us at any time."

Would you like to help international students get started at our university? Then contact the International Office – we're on the lookout for dedicated buddies for our program every semester.

By the way: A buddy certificate looks just as good when applying for a scholarship or a job as it does on your desk at home!

When?

The program restarts every semester.

Who and what?

Students at the TH OWL act as "buddies" for one or more incoming students for one semester.

Welcome Days

The Welcome Days have been a fixed institution at the TH OWL for many years. Incoming students are informed about everything they need to know to start their studies successfully. However, interpersonal issues are also supported from the very beginning. The two- to three-day kick-off events for international students are organized by the International Office (IO).

There are good reasons for holding the information session right at the start of the semester: Contact persons, contact points, study organization – these are all things that international students need to know about so that they can quickly find their way around. According to Kerstin Rosemann from the IO, however, it's at least as important to provide a little help on the interpersonal level to get things started: "Incoming students should be given the opportunity to make contact with other students at the TH OWL right at the beginning. This is, of course, much easier if we create a framework for it." That's why one of the Welcome Days is always dedicated to an informal event. International students – and expressly their buddies as well – are invited to attend. Due to Covid, many things could not be implemented as planned in the past two years. The information event posed less of a problem, but the informal part of the Welcome Days lost much of its appeal, according to Kerstin Rosemann. "We organize icebreakers, city and campus rallies, bowling or barbecue evenings for students to get to know each other. Of course, this is difficult to substitute with an online event." She hopes that more face-to-face events can take place again in the future.

One month after the Welcome Days, the IO hosts another info session. The aim is to find out how students have coped in the first few weeks and whether they need further support. However, according to Kerstin Rosemann, another topic is also in focus here: "We want to inform incoming students as early as possible about the examination regulations at the TH OWL. After all, the German system often differs greatly from those in the students' countries of origin."

Being there in person is best. But if you can't make it to East Westphalia-Lippe in time for the Welcome Days, there's no need to panic. All important contacts, institutions and deadlines can be found on the IO homepage at <https://www.th-owl.de/international/>.

When?

Always at the start of the semester, usually on two to three consecutive days, info event on examination regulations about a month later.

What?

Part 1: Info event I (general information)
Part 2: Active event
Part 3: Info event II (examination regulations)

For whom?

Incoming students and their buddies.

Volunteer opportunities for international students

In addition to the Buddy Program, the IO has developed another volunteer program. This is aimed exclusively at foreign students, and for good reason: Incoming students often have to demonstrate social commitment in order to apply for scholarships. They can now do this by collecting social credits at the TH OWL.

In recent years, the IO has repeatedly received inquiries about how incoming students can get involved in community service at the university so they can prove their commitment. The IO staff responded to this need with the new program. Until now, it had been common practice for activities to be singled out and evaluated individually. "It was important to us to put the issue into a professional framework and to weight the activities fairly and comprehensibly for everyone," explains Kerstin Rosemann from the IO. Students can now pick out activities from a

specially compiled catalog that they complete on a voluntary basis. In return, they receive a certain number of social credits, depending on the task. They can collect up to 30 credits per semester. For example, students who volunteer as a buddy receive social credits, as do students who organize a typical festival from their home country or a discussion evening. Those who want to collect all 30 social credits with a single task can volunteer as a tutor.

When?

Can be started at the beginning of each semester.

What and for whom?

Program that allows international students at the TH OWL to get socially involved and earn social credits for their credentials.

Berlin International College:

Well-equipped by the BIC for the TH OWL

The Berlin International College (BIC) is often the springboard for prospective international students without a university entrance qualification (Hochschulzugangsberechtigung, or HZB) to start at a German university. This means: Those whose certificate in their country of origin did not qualify them for studies in Germany can fill in the gaps after the fact.

Thanks to a cooperation with the BIC, interested students in Berlin can prepare for one of a total of twelve Bachelor's degree programs at the TH OWL. In the eight- to twelve-month course, the prospective students improve their German language skills and tackle fundamental subject areas of the intended degree program. And experience shows that this dual focus works: Incoming students involved often successfully complete their studies.

Target group

International applicants who do not have a university entrance qualification (HZB) for a university in Germany and want to study one of twelve Bachelor's degree programs at the TH OWL, such as Wood Technology, Mechanical Engineering, Environmental Engineering or Food Technology.

Purpose

Technical and language preparation of prospective international students for a course of study at the TH OWL.

Duration

Depending on the level of German, eight to twelve months; 30 hours per week.

Exams

Yes – both the assessment exam (Feststellungsprüfung, FSP) for the HZB and BIC final exams in the subjects.

Start

Once a year at a set time depending on the program.

Applications

Processed throughout the year. Non-EU citizens are advised to apply at least three months prior to program start date.

Costs

Approximately 9,500 to 15,000 euros, depending on prior German language skills.

Admission requirements

Certificate of graduation from secondary school with a grade of at least 50 percent of the total possible points, German language skills at least at A2 level (proof of certificate according to the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR), such as Goethe, Telc, DAF, DSH), English at B2 level.

Benefits

Comprehensive support with all necessary formalities at home and abroad as well as with the application to the TH OWL.



If you're unsure whether you meet the requirements for studying in Germany, you can check for yourself on the DAAD website.

www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/plan-your-studies/admission-database



The first point of contact for further questions is the International Office of the TH OWL.

www.th-owl.de/en/international-office-th-owl



For more information on the BIC, please visit:
www.berlin-international-college.de



INTERNATIONAL DAY
June 10, 2022



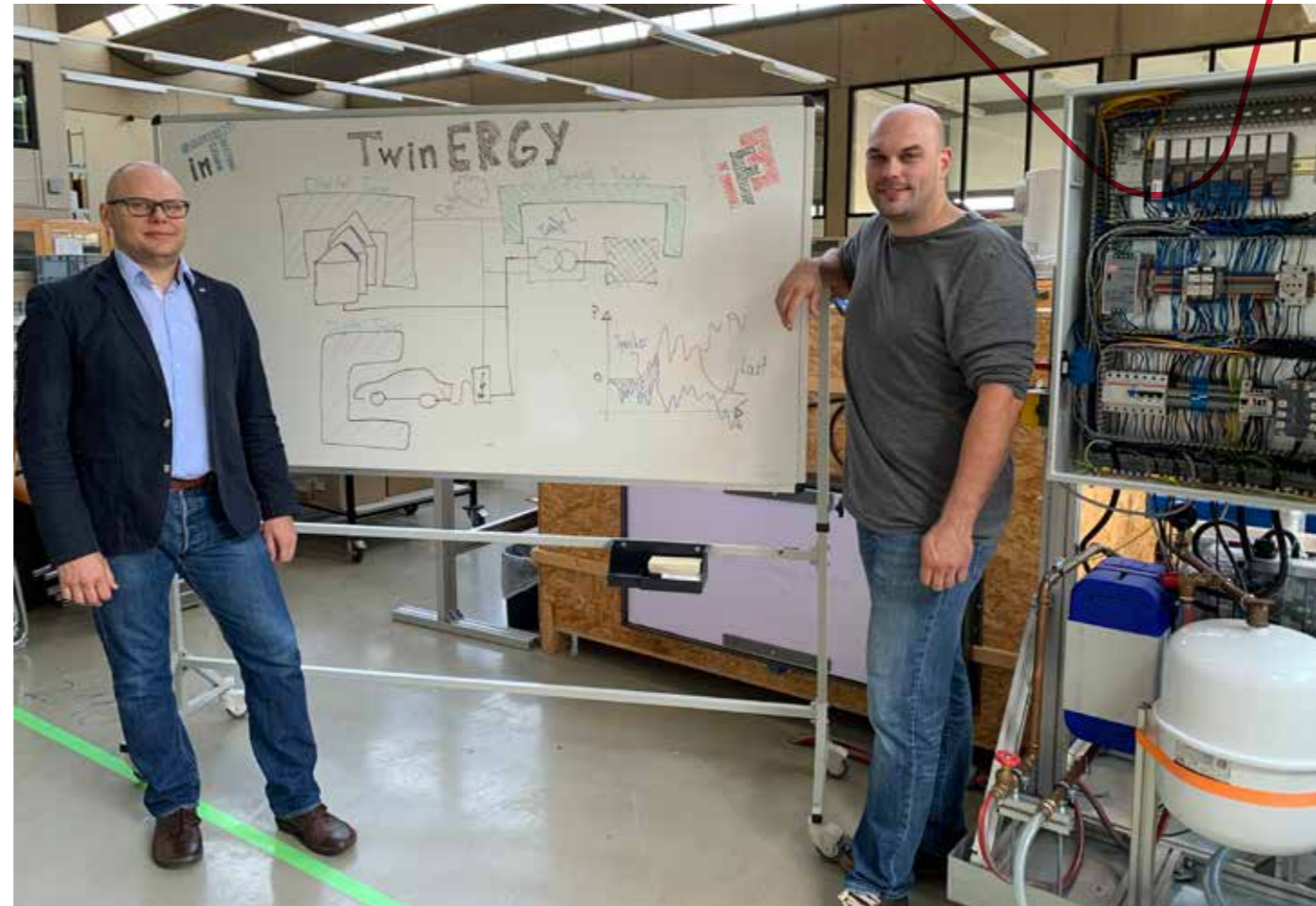
TwinERGY –

the smart twin for an effective power grid

“Making the power grid smart”: This may sound a bit like the title of a children’s book, but it is actually a highly exciting approach to using energy more effectively and in a more environmentally friendly way. To achieve this, a project group from the TH OWL is working with 18 other partners throughout Europe to develop a digital twin to describe energy consumption in the power grid. The aim is to make better predictions about consumption patterns. The name of this clever project: TwinERGY.

Das The power grid in Germany was designed many years ago to feed energy centrally into the grid via lignite-fired or nuclear power plants and distribute it from there to consumers. Today, large energy sources are joined by numerous smaller energy suppliers, such as wind power or solar plants. To understand why this is problematic, you need to be aware of a fundamental physical property of the power grid. Only as much energy can be taken from the grid as is put in at any given time – and vice versa. An imbalance can be tolerated for a very short time at most. So a lot of wind and bright sunshine are not always unproblematic. The worst-case scenario would be a complete blackout. In our country, such a case is very unlikely because safety mechanisms are in place. A lot of energy is produced on stormy nights, for example. However, this energy is not necessarily needed at this time of day. To prevent the grid from being overloaded, wind turbines, for example, are shut down because this is much cheaper than shutting down conventional power plants.

According to Prof. Dr. Johannes Üpping of the Institute for Energy Research (IFE) at the TH OWL, there’s good news, though: “We have more and more renewable energy sources. Now we just have to make sure that our power grid can balance the new energy mix better in the future.” Ideally, more renewable energy would then be used and less energy from conventional power plants. A five-person project team at the TH OWL is developing a system that will take the first step toward achieving this needed load shifting. Dr. Lukasz Wisniewski from the Institute for Industrial Information Technology (inIT) at the TH OWL explains exactly what is meant by this: “If the sun is shining, we want to tell people, machines, buildings and vehicles: Please consume more now! This has two advantages. First, it would no longer be necessary to lock down a wind turbine, and second, the electricity generated would be consumed exactly when it’s available. To achieve this, the team is relying on automation. An e-vehicle charges whenever there’s plenty of solar or wind energy in



TwinERGY started in November 2020 and will run until 2023. The project is coordinated by the University of Patras in Greece. A total of 18 partners from eleven EU countries are involved. To coordinate the project effectively, work packages were defined in advance and are being worked on jointly in project groups. With a view to the overall goal, the five-member team of the TH in the working groups is primarily concerned with coordinating the interfaces. If possible, at least one face-to-face meeting is always scheduled in a project of this size. Due to Covid restrictions,

coordination with the project partners in the EU has so far only been possible in online meetings.

TwinERGY, by the way, not only creates a twin of the power grid, it already has one itself. The TwinAIR project is currently in the final application phase and will be launched this year. Its goal is to create a digital twin that will help improve air quality. A total of 23 partners in Europe are involved, as well as inIT and CENTRUM INDUSTRIAL IT e. V. (CIIT) in Lemgo. One of the pilots is also planned here.



the grid. Consumers only have to provide two pieces of information: When the vehicle will be needed again and the distance to be covered. This can be done using software. This calculates the amount of energy needed and draws it from the grid and local photovoltaic systems at the right time and with the lowest possible CO₂ emissions. The software always calculates the best possible solution. If you get home at 2 p.m. and say you want to drive one hundred kilometers by 6 p.m., you can be sure that the vehicle will be charged at that time – even if it’s windless and cloudy.

This system is already functioning excellently in the test. The next step is to improve the connection from the power grid to the charging station. This is where the digital twin comes into play. The digital twin is designed to ensure that reliable predictions can be made about how buildings and their occupants will behave. Professor Johannes Üpping explains why this is so important: “If, for example, we were to tell all the e-vehicles in an area “Charge now, please!” on Sunday afternoons, this could go wrong – even if the sun is shining strongly. After all, if everyone is at home cooking, washing and watching TV at the same time, there may not be enough energy to power all the household appliances in addition to the charging stations.” What is needed, therefore, is a comprehensive picture of all the factors that influence the power grid. The processes identified in this way are to be mapped correctly in formal terms in a digital twin during the course of the project. The outcome is to enable many digital twins to communicate with each other in a standardized way. This is why standards are important. They ensure that this does not have to be programmed anew for each vehicle, but that everyone can then use the digital twin “vehicle” as a guide. To achieve this, characteristics must be determined in advance that are necessary for the desired processes. Dr. Lukasz Wisniewski explains: “The standardized info can be made available via standardized interfaces. This allows the algorithms to work and make the decisions automatically.”

Both project leaders are certain that the system will only become widely accepted if consumers do not feel burdened by it. Pilot participants in Steinheim and in three other pilot neighborhoods in Europe will thus be given a “smart meter” – a smart power measuring device – that will handle control almost automatically. All the participants have to do is activate a switchable socket, for example after they have prepared their washing machine for the wash cycle. The system then ensures that the laundry is washed at the optimum point within a set period of time. Participants are currently being equipped with the necessary hardware.



◀ The devil's claw is mainly harvested by San women, who still work with traditional digging sticks. Devil's claw is the main source of income for the women, as there are no other jobs in the rural areas in Namibia.



▲ Professor Dr. Jan Schneider

More profit by relocating parts of production to Namibia

This is precisely where the “Namibian Naturals” project at the Institute for Life Science Technologies (ILT.NRW) comes in. The aim is to create conditions that will put an end to decades of exhaustive cultivation of devil's claw populations. To this end, incentives must be created for Namibian farmers to choose a more sustainable, but more laborious, harvesting route. Up to this point, the roots have only been harvested and dried in Namibia. All further production steps take place in the industrialized nations, which use them to make and sell capsules, infusions or ointments. So far, most of the profit has remained in the producing countries.

The current project aims to extend the value chain locally in Africa so that Namibian farmers themselves can profit more from their resource. To this end, the six-member team led by project leader Professor Dr. Martina Sokolowsky and Professor Dr. Jan Schneider from the founding department of Food Technology and Beverage Technology at the TH OWL is developing a food supplement in beverage form. For this, however, the active ingredient must be transferred from the plant to the bottle. Professor Schneider explains how this is to be done: “We're working on a process that will make it possible for local Namibians to extract the active ingredients from devil's claw on their own. This must be both cost-effective and easy to carry out. They can then use the extract to produce the drink that we're currently developing the recipe for at the TH OWL. If this succeeds as planned, devil's claw farmers could reap enormous economic benefits.” However, the project also benefits the students at the TH OWL. As a research assistant, Imke Weishaupt supports students who are writing their Master's thesis within the framework of “Namibian Naturals”. “It's rare that an opportunity arises for a thesis in such a project. This type of project gives students the opportunity to conduct application-oriented research that doesn't just end up in a drawer. Direct contact with business people and start-ups also provides an insight into the world of entrepreneurship. The fact that an innovative product is created in the process that also promotes sustainable development in Africa is perceived by many students as an additional benefit.”

Organic, sustainable, fair

To guarantee that the harvest used for the project is indeed sustainable and ecological, the German cooperation partners are working with the Namibian company “Ecoso”, the sole producer of devil's claw that is certified organic and fair-for-life. The link between the TH OWL team and Ecoso is Volker Herold, who, with his German company “Namibian Naturals”, has been working for sustainable harvesting and good conditions for farmers for many years.

The Namibian Naturals project is funded by the state of North Rhine-Westphalia. It was launched in January 2022 and will probably be completed by the end of this year.



▲ Devil's claw chips. The harvested roots are sliced and dried. They are exported in this form to Europe for further processing. The project aims to carry out further processing in Namibia.

Namibian Naturals

International cooperation for fair conditions

The Harpagophytum procumbens, or African “devil's claw”, which grows mainly in Namibia, is said to have a number of medicinal properties. However, this is precisely what has become its undoing. Because products derived from devil's claw are in demand worldwide, supplies are dwindling. At present, nearly all of the profits are being made by companies outside of Africa. A cooperation between a German company, a Namibian farmer and the TH OWL aims to change this. A drink made from the medicinal plant is being developed in a joint project. Sustainable harvesting, fair payment to the farmers and the possibility of local production are the top priorities.

The arduous path to a sustainable harvest

Harvesting African devil's claw requires some effort, because it grows wild about one meter deep in the hard soil of the Kalahari in Namibia. It takes a full four years before it can be harvested again. In addition, the valuable “mother tuber” must not be damaged. That anyone takes such pains at all is due to the healing powers that are attributed to it, making it enormously valuable. It's said to be effective, for example, against osteoarthritis, joint complaints, soft-tissue rheumatism and gastrointestinal complaints. This has resulted in huge demand worldwide, which has led to a steady decline in wild devil's claw populations over the past seventy years. The reason for this is that it's much easier to dig up all the devil's claw from the ground. This is quicker and thus leads to more yield. Yet, once you've removed the mother tuber – also



▲ Sustainable harvest. The plant's primary root is left intact in the center. Only the secondary roots around it are harvested. After 3-4 years the plant will have regenerated and can be harvested again.

called the main root – the plant is destroyed forever. The only sustainable way is to harvest only the secondary roots that grow out of the mother tuber. Only then can the same root be harvested again in about four years' time.



CAMPUS OWL NEW YORK:

THE TH OWL ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE

Dr. Katja Simons pulls quite a number of international strings for the TH OWL. However, she doesn't do this from East Westphalia, but from her office in the German House in New York City. Transatlantic cooperation is the focus of her work. Yet members of the TH OWL who are interested in a U.S. exchange are also part of her target group. So are all those who live in North America and would like to study in East Westphalia.

With the liaison office in the middle of Manhattan, Katja Simons represents the universities of the Campus OWL. "With the office here on site, we have established a presence for the TH OWL and a proximity to American institutions that we could not achieve in the same way from Germany," says Katja Simons, summarizing the advantages of the location. From her perspective, however, one key point is eminently important in this day and age: "As central players in the science sector, universities are caught up between many conflicting interests. As a consequence, university marketing has gained enormously in importance in recent years. And, these days, this is always bound up with location marketing. This also has to

be managed professionally on the international stage." The liaison office represents all five state universities that belong to the Campus OWL network and serve around 65,000 students from Detmold, Lemgo, Höxter, Bielefeld, Gütersloh, Paderborn and Minden. However, the tasks of the liaison office extend far beyond student affairs.

A central part of Katja Simon's work concerns the area of "cooperation". And so, since the opening of the office in 2019, she has been making cross-border connections between various actors for the East Westphalia-Lippe region. She maintains existing university partnerships and establishes new ones, supports science collaborations and creates opportunities for students and instructors on both continents. To do this, she visits trade shows, organizes her own trade show appearances, establishes lecture series, develops projects, and establishes contacts with science institutions and companies in North America.

Although each of the activities is tailored to specific groups, such as students, interns and instructors, Katja Simons almost always finds overlaps. "A cross-border online teaching format is primarily aimed at students, but the international faculty that designs and conducts it benefits as well. And an exchange program for interns enriches not only them, but also the companies on the respective target continent to the same extent."

From East Westphalia to the USA

The Professional Experience Program in New York

Travel to New York for a three-month internship: Thanks to a new program at Campus OWL, this opportunity is now a little more feasible for students at the TH OWL. The Professional Experience Program – PEP for short – started its first program cycle as a flagship project this year. "Students from East Westphalia-Lippe should be able to benefit more directly from the opportunities offered by the New York office," Katja Simons explains the idea behind it. And the interest is great: Katja Simons has received over 70 applications from all five Campus OWL universities, 13 of them from students at the TH OWL. In the process, the best candidates are selected and put in touch with potentially suitable companies. In the end, two candidates are selected for each university. This year, the two students from the TH OWL come from the fields of Electrical Engineering and Facade Design. "The PEP is open to students from many disciplines," emphasizes Katja Simons. This is because she only selects the companies once the candidates have been determined. The kick-off takes is on April 4, 2022 with a five-day introductory seminar in New York City. Students can apply for funding for their stay abroad through the DAAD's PROMOS scholarship, among others.

Internship at the Campus OWL New York liaison office

Students at the TH OWL can also complete an internship at the liaison office in New York. Suitable courses of study for this include, for instance, Media, Communications or Entrepreneurship. Given that the pandemic began immediately after the office opened, the internship has been conducted exclusively virtually up to now. According to Katja Simons, this has worked so well that there are plans to retain the virtual offering as well. If possible, however, the internship will also be held on site in New York City in the future. Vacancies are regularly advertised on the homepage of the Campus OWL office.



▲ Dr. Katja Simons

From America to East Westphalia-Lippe

“Degree Programs”

The quality of teaching at German universities is renowned worldwide. The attractive conditions are also enticing from an American perspective. There's a high level of interest on the part of American students in completing a full course of study in Germany, with Master's programs in particularly high demand. In response to this, Katja Simons specifically promotes the TH OWL's degree programs at trade fairs in the U.S. Occasionally, students from East Westphalia-Lippe also go to America for a full course of study. “But that rarely happens at the moment due to the comparatively high tuition fees,” she admits.

Virtual and face-to-face transatlantic collaborations and projects

“Alberta OWL Cooperation”

An intensive partnership has existed for several years between four of the five Campus OWL universities and four universities from Edmonton in Alberta, Canada. Even before the opening of the office in New York, various projects were successfully implemented within the Alberta OWL Cooperation. Since the liaison office was opened in New York, this cooperation can now also be managed, and thus further intensified, from there. Students at the TH OWL are particularly interested in the exchange projects. Within the framework of the partnership, they can study for a semester at one of the universities in Alberta. With the onset of the Covid pandemic, however, Katja Simons and her partners also had to find new approaches: “Basically, the cooperation is designed for classroom visits, but due to the pandemic, some additional, exciting virtual formats have emerged and become established here.”



“We CAN virtuOWL”

The DAAD's International Virtual Academic Collaboration – IVAC for short – was launched with the aim of enabling students to continue to gain international experience even during the pandemic. To this end, Campus OWL universities and partner universities in Alberta created the collaborative project We CAN virtuOWL. Within this framework, German-Canadian tandem lecturers jointly designed and offered virtual courses for students from East Westphalia-Lippe and Canada starting in the winter semester of 2020/2021. By the time the project ended one year later, this had been so successful that this teaching format will now be continued as far as possible. But it's not only students who benefit from this form of international academic exchange, but also instructors – for example, from the regular exchange with other faculty members that takes place within the projects. At the same time, universities use this format to further promote their own internationalization – and with a comparatively low threshold. Faculty at the TH OWL who are interested in working in such a tandem instructional program can contact Katja Simons.

DWIH: the stage for German innovation in the U.S.

The German Centers for Research and Innovation – or DWIH – are a network of German research organizations, universities and the research-based companies. It is managed by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and financially supported by the German Federal Foreign Office. Two of the six worldwide locations are in the U.S. – one in New York and, as of 2022, another in San Francisco. The goal of the DWIH in the U.S. is to raise awareness about German innovation leaders in North America. One format for this is live talks on socially relevant annual topics. Last year, the focus was on the impact of the pandemic on various areas of society. Initiated by Professor Elizabeth Sikiaridi of the TH OWL and coordinated by Katja Simons, the live web talk on “Post-Pandemic Public Spaces” took place in June 2021 in cooperation with the DWIH and the New York Consulate General. A similar collaboration had already taken place a year earlier. Professor Kathrin Volk from the Detmold School of Architecture and Interior Architecture at the TH OWL played a key role in organizing the event “Climate as a Design Challenge” as part of the annual theme “Climate and the City”.

Interested students, instructors, founders and employees at the TH OWL can contact Katja Simons about any topic.

You can find the homepage of Campus OWL New York here



www.campus-owl.org

More information about exchange and internship programs



www.campus-owl.org/experience-abroad



Katja Simons

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RETIRING

Julius Roelcke

Professor Dr. Julius Roelcke taught at the Department of Life Science Technologies for the past 23 years. Now the 65-year-old has retired.

Professor Roelcke began teaching at the TH OWL in 1999, which offered him the “opportunity for a new professional start with professional independence.” Roelcke, who holds a doctorate in Pharmacology and is a qualified pharmacist, previously worked for Innocoll GmbH, where he gained the qualification to manage a pharmaceutical quality management system. This was followed by a position as manufacturing manager at Deltasolut GmbH (Thomae-Corange Group).

In addition to his commitment to teaching, Professor Roelcke has served the TH OWL as a member of the Senate and the Electoral Council from 2004 to 2012 and was a member of the examination board of the Department of Life Science Technologies between 2004 and 2020. He was Chair of the committee from 2012 to 2016.

▲ Professor
Julius Roelcke

Barbara Becker

After about 20 years of teaching and research at the TH OWL, Professor Dr. Barbara Becker has retired.

She came to the TH OWL in the winter semester of 2002/2003, where she has since been responsible for the subject of microbiology in the Department of Life Science Technologies. She has demonstrated her commitment to research at the TH OWL as a founding member of ILT.NRW and the Applied Health Sciences (APH) research focus among many other pursuits. For example, Professor Becker was also Chair of the permanent working group “Microbiological Guideline and Warning Values for Food” of the German Society for Hygiene and Microbiology (DGHM) for 20 years and a board member of the Lemgo Meat and Delicatessen Working Group (LAFF) for the same amount of time.

From 2012 to 2016, Professor Becker was Dean of the Department of Life Science Technologies, where she played a key role in founding the “Medical and Health Technology” degree program in cooperation with the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Engineering. She was also involved in the design of the laboratory building, which has been an integral part of teaching and research since it was opened in 2014. In 2007, the microbiologist received the Research Award for her many years of excellent research and development work.

▲ Professorin
Barbara Becker

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Markus Schein

With Dr. Markus Schein, the TH OWL welcomes a new professor in the area of Digital Methods in Interior Architecture.

In terms of research, he would like to further develop two topics in particular: “The virtualization and digitalization of our living environment, and the linking of computational design methods with questions of sustainability.”

Likewise, the native of Ulm would like to link research content with instructional topics: “Teaching should also enable students to pose research questions and explore them in greater depth.” Markus Schein wants to enable his students to learn independently on their own motivation and, ideally, to learn from them as an instructor as well.

▲ Markus Schein

Ute Aufmkolk

With Ute Aufmkolk, the TH OWL has a new professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning. There, this native of Nuremberg teaches the subject of design in object and open space planning.

“After 20 years of professional practice and handling many competitions and projects, always accompanied by excursions into teaching at universities and technical colleges, I’d like to contribute my experience to the education of young people,” explains the 46-year-old.

Ute Aufmkolk studied landscape and open space planning at the University of Hanover (now Leibniz University) and would like not only to provide young people with expert training, but also to set clear priorities. “Young landscape architects should be able to fulfill their relevant key role in planning within the context of the current sustainability discussion.” Interdisciplinary collaboration is particularly important to her. “My personal goal is to instill in students a self-confident attitude in maintaining a dialog on equal footing with other disciplines, especially with architecture and urban planning.

In her research, the landscape architect would like to dedicate herself to the area of climate-resilient cities. “I’d like to continue existing collaborations, get involved in research areas and contribute to their further development.”

▲ Ute Aufmkolk

NEW APPOINTMENTS — ANNIVERSARIES

Christian Jolk

The TH OWL is pleased to welcome Dr. Christian Jolk as a new professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning, where he will hold courses on the topic of geoinformation systems and digitization.

"My curiosity to scientifically explore environmental systems is driven by my passion and desire to make the use of existing resources at least a little bit more sustainable," Christian Jolk tells us. A core idea underlying his research is the applicability of research findings and the solution of pressing problems. "For me, it's crucial that the results obtained are applied and that they contribute to solving problems in the target area."

Students should also be able to benefit from his research. "I make a point of giving students the opportunity to write their final thesis or project paper as part of a research project," he emphasizes. For Christian Jolk, teaching is not just about imparting knowledge. "For me, teaching also means activating and motivating students to actively participate in courses."



▲ Christian Jolk

Jörg Felmeden

Dr. Jörg Felmeden is a new professor at the Department of Civil Engineering in the area of urban water management.

For Jörg Felmeden, one thing is clear: Water management, an integral part of critical infrastructure, will face major challenges as a result of climate change. That is why climate protection and adaptation to climate change are key focal points for the 51-year-old's research. "I intend to methodically orient my future research in the subject area beyond pure disciplinary research to inter- and transdisciplinary research, so that I can also incorporate the knowledge and experience of stakeholders from the field."

Students will also benefit from Felmeden's interdisciplinary approach to research: "I'd like to develop lectures and project seminars that span various subjects and disciplines, so that the interdisciplinary approach needed in research and practice can also be implemented thematically in my instruction." In doing so, he would like to further develop his coursework through the use of low-threshold mixed reality educational tools for urban water management.



▲ Professor Jörg Felmeden

Holger Borchering

Professor Dr. Holger Borchering has been a professor at the TH OWL since 2003, where he teaches power electronics, electric drive technology and electromagnetic compatibility at the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Engineering. Now, the native of Minden was able to celebrate his 25th anniversary in public service.

"I enjoy my work here at the TH OWL enormously and derive great pleasure from it because I get to work with young people and can do a lot of creative work together with them," the 57-year-old tells us. "In particular, the past two years of the pandemic have shown me how important it is to interact with students to truly enjoy teaching. Digital education can only replace this experience to a certain extent." That's why Professor Borchering has set his sights on further expanding practical courses as part of classroom teaching. He would also like to incorporate more current research findings into his courses, particularly with regard to the topics of the energy transition and electromobility in Germany.

For the jubilarian, research means 'working for the future': "For me, research is not an end in itself, but a social task. It's always been important to me that the things I can help shape are important and are also put to use."

His best experience at the TH OWL so far? "When I received the Research Award in 2013. That was a great honor for my team and me and our joint work, which I'm still proud of today."



▲ Professor Holger Borchering

Monika Smout

Monika Smout recently celebrated her 25th anniversary in public service. The native of Detmold has been working at the TH OWL since 2003. From 2003 to 2014, she worked in the secretary's office of the Chancellor and has been secretary of the Hochschulgesellschaft OWL e. V. since 2012. Since 2014, she has been working for human resources management and in the time recording office in the Personnel and Organization Department. The TH OWL congratulates Monika Smout on her service anniversary and thanks her for her dedication.

Doris Katzke

Doris Katzke is celebrating her 40th anniversary at the TH OWL. She has been working in the switchboard of the TH OWL since 1982. Initially she worked at the reception desk in Lemgo, now at the Detmold campus. There, Doris Katzke is the first point of contact for guests and students entering the central Building 2. There she issues access cards, packages and directions. And incidentally, she is the lost-and-found office for things that have been left behind.

"I always wanted to be a telephone operator or an archaeologist. Now I'm sitting here and I'm already an antique myself," says Doris Katzke with a laugh. Digitalization has changed her work a lot, she says. "The telephone system has a life of its own sometimes." Contact with people is something she enjoys every day. "I find the different characters of people fascinating," says Katzke.



▲ Doris Katzke

And the winner is ...

The Association of German Interior Designers honors Detmold students

Interior Architecture graduates Marie Brackmann and Saskia Maoro have been honored with the "bdia ausgezeichnet!" award. A commendation went to Birte Riediger. The three award winners had graduated from the Detmold School of Architecture and Interior Architecture in the summer semester of 2021.

Bachelor graduate **Marie Brackmann** received the BDIA award for her successful interior design of a mobile office. According to the jury, the "M Office" exemplifies how the changes in the working world with flexible working methods, short working distances, social contact opportunities and separation between work and leisure time can be optimally implemented in the future. In addition, the design takes various user needs into account and provides an outlook on further possible uses. Supervisors of the thesis were substitute professor Anna Tscherch and Professor Sandra Bruns.



The jury found "Bathroom" by **Saskia Maoro** particularly deserving of an award: "This outstanding design of a bathroom in a former auditorium highlights in a very special way the importance of body care rituals for human dignity and creates, in an existing building, a wonderful new meeting place for the whole society. The now awarded Master's thesis was supervised by Professor Ulrike Kerber and Professor Michel Melenhorst.

◀ Bachelor graduate Marie Brackmann received the BDIA award for her successful interior design of a mobile office.

◀ Among the Master's graduates, the jury found "Bathroom" by Saskia Maoro particularly deserving of an award.

Birte Riediger received a commendation for her Master's thesis "The prophylactic room – a family of furniture shows what protects us". "This convincing ensemble of five pieces of furniture, which make it possible to experience the human resources 'relationship', 'sympathy', 'trust', 'movement' and 'support' both on a visual metaphorical level and in a completely practical way, creates an optimal, prophylactic space for protection against mental illness," the jury emphasized in its reasons for the verdict. Furthermore: "This is achieved through a minimalist design of archetypal stools and one complementary red element for each. The reduced design line is continued holistically – like a red thread – including the very clear and convincing presentation." This thesis was supervised by Professor Tim Brauns and Visiting Assistant Professor Aysin Ipekci.



◀ Birte Riediger received a commendation for her Master's thesis "The prophylactic room – a family of furniture shows what protects us".

Detmold graduates awarded

Marlyne Nordmann was honored as the best of 43 Bachelor graduates in Interior Architecture. Of the two Master's students in Interior Architecture – Spatial Arts (MIAR), Rahil Nasser achieved a perfect grade of 1.0. Among the 21 Bachelor of Architecture graduates, Greta Gensch was the best, while Kira Grundler was honored among the two Masters in Architecture (MIAD). Can Ziegler received the award as the best of five Urban Planning graduates. In the Master of Integrated Design (MID) program, with its specializations in façade design and computational design, Ilyas Abdelmoula achieved the best final grade out of a total of six graduates.

In addition to the award for best graduate, Marlyne Nordmann also received the "bdia ausgezeichnet!" award of excellence from the NRW regional association of the Association of German Interior Designers (BDIA) for her Bachelor's thesis on "The Wasserläufer – a semi-natural neighborhood for cyclists along the Weser Cycle Path". According to the jury, the design is characterized by an architecture and interior design that is completely in harmony with the location and nature and offers users a special overnight accommodation with comfort and a completely unique experience of nature. The jury awarded a commendation to Julia Zambrzycki. In her thesis, she designed an exhibition of three installations "that



▼ Marlyne Nordmann was awarded by the BDIA for her Bachelor's thesis on "The Wasserläufer – a semi-natural neighborhood for cyclists along the Weser Cycle Path".

raise awareness about the critical consequences of sand mining," the BDIA jury said in its statement, adding: "In her presentation and a video that could itself be part of the exhibition, Julia Zambrzycki creates an impressive interactive space with a message."

Budding architects did not go away empty-handed either: This semester, the **Prize of the Association of German Architects East Westphalia-Lippe (BDA OWL)** goes to the Bachelor's graduate Vivien Bendt for her thesis on the topic of "Green Office", a design for an office complex in Hamburg's Hafencity. Likewise, Master's graduate Kira Grundler also received an award from the BDA OWL for her thesis on the topic of "Diverse Water Architecture". In her thesis, Kira Grundler dealt with the preservation of old water towers through the development of new building uses.

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**Sprechtage jeden Mittwoch von 10 bis 13 Uhr
an der TH OWL in Lemgo (Raum 1.115)**

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