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International Newsletter | v1 2022
Centre for International Affairs, TH Wildau

Dear International Partners, Colleagues, & Students,

We are excited to announce the inaugural issue of the Centre for International Affairs' new international newsletter.

We plan to publish the newsletter twice a year. Each newsletter will announce upcoming events, news from on campus, developments with a more international focus, and at least one portrait of someone on campus who embodies internationalisation at TH Wildau. From time to time, we will publish special thematic issues on topics of current interest.

We also have a webpage dedicated to this (and future) editions of the Newsletter. If you are not already subscribed, you can do so directly from the Newsletter website. For future editions, the International Newsletter will be available in both English and German.

We welcome your feedback, look forward to hearing from you, and hope you enjoy our inaugural issue.

Your International Newsletter Editorial Team

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Upcoming Events

The European Neigbours Initiative: First Annual Consortium Meeting (27. - 28. October)

TH Wildau is proud to be hosting the first-ever European Neighbours Initiative (ENI) annual consortium meeting from October 27 to October 28. Seventeen participants from TH Wildau's 6 ENI partners will converge on the TH Wildau campus for a social dinner, keynote speech, lively panel discussion, campus tour, and agenda-setting workshops.

The keynote speech is inspired by the question "What is the role and responsibility of universities in times of international conflict?" and will be delivered by Prof. Dr. Felix Ackermann, a professor at the Fern-Universität Hagen, where he is establishing a new field of public history.

European Neighbours

The European Neighbours Initiative is an informal alliance of 7 European higher education institutions committed to European values and the importance of sharing knowledge and experience between like-minded institutions.

The ENI is of great relevance for the internationalisation of TH Wildau. Among other things, it enables Wildau to increase the mobility of its students and staff, to apply for and implement a greater variety of joint international research projects, and to develop an interdisciplinary digital infrastructure, as well as to test other ideas of collaboration.

The European Neighbours Initiative consortium meeting will be held annually, rotating hosting duties among its members.

If you have further questions, please contact the coordinator of the Initiative, Dr. Jeffrey Wolf.

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Save-the-Date: 2023 Wildau International Week (8. - 12. May)

After a successful first edition of Wildau International Week earlier this year, the International Office of TH Wildau cordially invites you to the second edition of the event, which will take place from 8 till 12 May 2023. Up to 25 lecturers from partner universities are warmly invited to join the event and to get to know TH Wildau, its campus, and the vibrant German capital region of Berlin-Brandenburg.

The programme will include guest lectures in our different study programmes (a full list of our programmes can be found here), an excursion to the marvellous city of Potsdam, workshops on German language and culture, info sessions for local students interested in studying abroad, and a festive dinner.

TH Wildau International Week 2022

Guest lecturers are eligible for funding from the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union through their home institution. The main working language of Wildau International Week will be English. Registrations for International Week can be submitted through the registration form found online here.

If you have any further questions, please contact Simon Devos-Chernova. We look forward to welcoming you in Wildau next year!

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International Partners & Projects

CLIL4ALL Erasmus+ Cooperation Partnership (2022-2025)

The teaching of courses in a second language in higher education institutions in the European Union has gained importance in recent years. This development includes an approach known as Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL). In the CLIL4ALL project, which is funded by the European Union with 400,000€, TH Wildau together with the University of Córdoba (Spain), HAN University of Applied Sciences (Netherlands), Saint-Étienne University (France) and Karelia University of Applied Sciences (Finland) will facilitate the exchange of teachers and students, create scientific contributions to CLIL at European higher education institutions, strengthen CLIL practice and deepen its CLIL strategy in cooperation with its partners. The project offers the opportunity to compare different achievements in raising academic standards, especially in terms of internationalisation, inclusion and digitalisation. The exchange of experiences, research on CLIL and the joint development of teaching materials will be promoted and sustainably established in the project.

If you have any further questions, please contact John O'Donoghue or Simon Devos-Chernova.

CLIL4ALL contributors

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TH Wildau Deepens its Connection to Vietnam

New Campus of the Vietnamese-German University, Ho Chi Minh City

In addition to TH Wildau's involvement in the consortium association of the German-Kazakh University and exchange relations with the German-Jordanian University, the university is now linked to another binational university: the Vietnamese-German University.

In July 2022, the consortium association of the Vietnamese-German University (VGU) accepted TH Wildau as a new member. More than 30 universities are part of the consortium association. The VGU offers English degree programmes for around 1,700 students at two faculties, Engineering and Economics & Management. The Vietnamese-German University was founded in 2008 and is supported by the German Academic Exchange. The VGU was the first university in Vietnam to be founded with foreign participation.

VGU not only has similar faculties to TH Wildau but also devotes its research to the topics of transport and sustainability. This opens up interfaces in teaching and research for future cooperation between the two universities. Additional information can be found here.

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German-Kazakh University (DKU): Project Meeting at TH Wildau

On June 23 and 24, the project members of the DKU project consortium met on the TH Wildau campus. Among the participants were representatives of the Kazakh Embassy, the consortium universities, the DAAD, the administration of the German-Kazakh University (DKU), and the project offices in Almaty and Schmalkalden.

Since 2008, seven German universities have been actively supporting the German-Kazakh University (DKU), Almaty, Kazakhstan. The consortium's main objective is to support the German-Kazakh University (DKU) in its development and to ensure successful cooperation between DKU and its German partner universities.

DKU Project Consortium Meeting at TH Wildau (June 23-24, 2022)

The consortium consists of TH Wildau, Hamburg University of Applied Sciences, Mittweida University of Applied Sciences, Schmalkalden University of Applied Sciences, Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences, Zittau/Görlitz University of Applied Sciences, and since July 2022, Freie Universität Berlin.

TH Wildau has been working closely with the DKU for several years and has established two double degree bachelor programmes in Telematics and Logistics. Since 2008, around 100 students from DKU have come to Wildau as part of this cooperation and more than 60 students have so far obtained a double degree.

For more information about the project, please visit https://www.dku-projekt.de.

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Al-Quds University (AQU) in Jerusalem: Workshop "Entrepreneurship & Data Science/Artificial Intelligence"

At the beginning of September, Prof. Dr. Marcus Frohme and Prof. Dr. Alina Nechyporenko of TH Wildau visited the Al-Quds University (AQU) in Jerusalem as part of the programme "Reducing the Unemployment Rate in Palestine through Dual Studies Courses at Al Quds University" (VN 81179170). The programme by the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) aims to improve employment opportunities for Palestinian youth through a labor market-focused set of study courses.

Prof. Frohme and Prof. Nechyporenko held a two-day workshop entitled "Entrepreneurship & Data Science/Artificial Intelligence an academic – industrial synergy from idea to enterprise and from fundamentals to business." The workshop combined both fields as an interdisciplinary basis for the creation of Startups and further successful and sustainable development in Palestine. Units of theory and practical training should help students and young scientists understand the applications and uses of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in entrepreneurship.

Participants of the Workshop at Al-Quds University in Jerusalem

Nowadays, AI for entrepreneurs is becoming one of the most immersive and promising computer technology fields to work in. So ideas and Startups from academia powered by AI and Data Science may serve as key factors for the further sustainable development of wealth in Palestine. The Workshop aimed to explain fundamentals of entrepreneurship and Data Science/AI and covered such aspects as creation of business ideas, starting a business, and the development and implementation of Data Science and AI. Moreover, attendees were encouraged to create their own projects and were also evaluated by an interdisciplinary team of experts. Such conditions allowed participants not only to promote idea generation and innovation, but also facilitate future communication between students, young scientists, and experts from academy and industry.

Prof. Dr. Marcus Frohme (TH Wildau) presenting, with Prof. Dr. Alina Nechyporenko (TH Wildau)

The participants took an active part and generated several business ideas such as a Machine Learning based application for the optimised use of 4G Internet, solving differential equations with Machine Learning as well as AI to improve weather forecasts for the optimisation of water consumption. One project was generated from scratch as an excellent example of synergy that puts entrepreneurial and data science skills into practice: a medication reminder application which is a mobile app that allows the user to manage numerous medication regimens and track prescriptions, and even health measurements, such as weight, blood pressure, or glucose levels.

To sum up: a deeper integration of data science into entrepreneurship and the development of a better understanding of how data science works and on the other hand, interdisciplinary educational activities for young people in Palestine, supported the conditions for sustainable business development and employment in the country.

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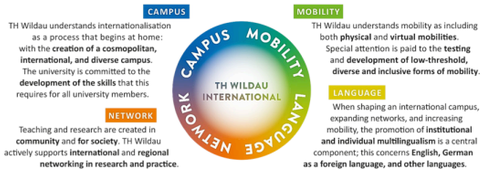
Internationalisation at TH Wildau

First Internationalisation Strategy Adopted

TH Wildau has been internationally active in many ways for years. However, a formulated internationalisation strategy has been lacking until now. Based on the development of the mission statement in 2019 as well as the higher education contract and the higher education development plan, TH Wildau developed its first, university-wide internationalisation strategy in the years 2020 to 2022.



The Senate of TH Wildau unanimously adopted the internationalisation strategy on 04.07.2022 (after prior endorsement in both departmental councils). The strategy focuses on four central fields of action: Campus, Language, Mobility, and Networks. The strategy was developed as part of a participatory process and was supported by all areas of the university.

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New International and Interdisciplinary Modules

From the summer semester 2023, TH Wildau will begin to offer exciting new interdisciplinary course modules that enable competence- and project-oriented teaching and learning in interdisciplinary teams.

Through possible cooperation with external partners, students learn in a practical context, complete tasks together in interdisciplinary teams, find solutions independently and get to know the challenges and working methods of tomorrow.

The Centre for International Affairs has proposed two new internationally-focused, interdisciplinary modules of its own, which it is hoped will be appealing to exchange and full-time international students.

"Bacteria, Cars, and Quanta: Innovations and Ideas that Shaped Modern Germany"

Dr. Jeffrey Wolf (International Office) and Dr. Ariane Schröder (Office of the Vice President for Studies & Teaching) have developed an interdisciplinary course module in English to be offered in the summer semester 2023. They hope that the module is of particular interest to English-speaking exchange students with a background in business and economics, but it is open to students from a variety of study programmes.

It starts with the question: How did Germany - the land of poets and thinkers - come to pioneer modern bacteriology, the automobile, and quantum theory, as well as produce more Nobel laureates than any other nation by the 1930s? Students can expect an exciting examination of some of the seminal innovations that were developed in Germany in the late-19th and early 20th-centuries, in the fields of science, technology, and medicine. The module will explore not just what those innovations were and how they came about, but also the ethical and moral implications to how they were developed and used. While the focus will be on study innovations of the recent past, the module will explore how this knowledge can help Germany become more innovative today.

Germany - old and new

Some special features of the module include two on-site excursions to visit historical sites, monuments, or museums in Berlin-Brandenburg that are directly relevant to the course content. Possible excursions might be:

- A walking tour of where Albert Einstein lived and worked in Berlin, or a trip to his villa outside Potsdam
- A guided tour of the Medical History Museum of Berlin
- A walking tour of important sites in Berlin related to the founding and development of Siemens, e.g. its founding in Kreuzberg, or the location of the first electric tram, or a stroll through Siemensstadt

Other features include a 'film week' devoted to watching an important 1920s German film, a 'story week' devoted to reading and analysing an early 20th -century German story, and at least 3 guest lectures on special topics or case studies.

Internationalisation at Home - Experience Interculturality - Build Intercultural Competence

Staff from the Language Centre and the Welcome Centre/Wildau Foundation Year are further developing the teaching and learning offer at TH Wildau: from the summer semester 2023, they will offer a new Interdisciplinary Module entitled "Internationalisation at Home - Experience Interculturality - Build Intercultural Competence (IKK)." Based on the theme of "Internationalisation at Home", students will have the chance to create their own module by developing their own programme for intercultural experiences.

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TH Wildau Successful as a Test Centre for the German Language Test for University Admission (DSH)

TH Wildau has been an HRK-registered DSH centre since 2017.

The Language Centre of TH Wildau offers the German Language Test for University Admission (DSH) three times a year. Successful completion of the DSH examination guarantees the language requirements for admission to a German college or university. Interested students can prepare for the DSH exam in the semester-long online DSH courses offered by the Language Centre. Interested students from Germany and abroad can take part in the online courses. Further information can be found online here.

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The Welcome Center and Wildau Foundation Year Begin Courses

For the winter semester 2022/23, the Welcome Center will again offer various study preparation measures for refugees.

Applicants from the Welcome Center will be prepared over one year linguistically and professionally for studying in Germany (through Wildau Foundation Year). Two courses offer refugees, with direct university access, the opportunity to prepare themselves linguistically for studying in Germany. In addition, an intensive A2 course for refugees from Ukraine will be offered. In addition to language and subject lessons, the Welcome Center offers workshops on various study-related topics and cross-level English lessons.

A warm welcome from the Welcome Center

During the preparation period, course participants can take advantage of a variety of extracurricular activities and familiarise themselves with university life and the region, for example, through sports and cultural activities.

We advise and accompany the course participants during their preparation for studies, during their studies at TH Wildau, and during their transition into the German job market. As part of an international team, we work closely with other projects and actors from the university, civil society, institutions and organizations, both regionally and nationally.

A warm welcome!

Further information about the Welcome Center at TH Wildau can be found online here. Please contact Katrin Gebhardt, the head of the Welcome Center, for additional inquiries.

In addition to the Welcome Center, the Wildau Foundation Year (WFY) also began its courses for the year. The WFY prepares the participants professionally and linguistically for their Bachelor studies. They can choose between a "T" course, which prepares them for technical-engineering degree programmes, and a "W" course, which prepares them for business degree programmes. In addition to the subject-specific lessons, German language skills (including technical German) with the aim of taking the DSH examination are taught. Laboratory practicals provide an exciting insight into science and technology.

Opening Day for the Wildau Foundation Year

WFY participants have diverse educational backgrounds. These do not always enable direct entry into bachelor's degree programmes. The WFY team checks the certificates and supports the applicants in the application process.

However, the WFY is not only a professional preparation programme. It also provides participants with a smooth start in Germany, as they receive comprehensive support in official matters, such as registration, applying for a residence permit, and much more.

In addition, participants get to know the university from the very beginning, take advantage of the sports and cultural opportunities offered, the library and cafeteria, and network with former WFY participants and TH Wildau students. This makes it easier for them to start their studies.

Welcome to TH Wildau, dear participants, who come from 15 different countries, including Kazakhstan, India, Nigeria, South Korea, Syria, Russia, Ukraine, Yemen, Mauritius, Egypt, Hong Kong (PR China), USA, Belarus, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka.

Further information about the Wildau Foundation Year can be found online here. For additional inquiries, please contact the Administraive Manager of WFY, Claudia Steinborn-Maglóczki.

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Portraits

Yentl D'hoine: International Student Assistant at the International Office

Yentl D'hoine, enrolled in the European Management Master's programme at TH Wildau this semester, assists the International Office by organising the cultural programme for international students and providing administrative support for the team. He is a student from Belgium, who completed his internship with the International Office during the last summer semester.

Why did Yentl choose Germany and TH Wildau specifically? He really wanted to go abroad, as early as his first year at VIVES University of Applied Sciences in Kortrijk. Furthermore, the German language appeals to him, and he can study it more completely at TH Wildau, in addition to English. The many new friends he made here also contributed to a very successful internship.

"In the International Office, I had many chances to grow as a full employee. I learnt how to communicate properly to colleagues and students at the university, and I feel like I improved my creative side too. Organising the cultural programme for the international students was a fun thing to do. The reactions of the students afterwards were really heartwarming for me."

"In this semester, I hope to further improve my communication skills in different languages, as well as being better at creative tasks. I would also like to follow courses to learn Spanish, as it is one of the most beautiful and most spoken languages in the world. It is an exciting year ahead."

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Technical University of Applied Sciences Wildau / Technische Hochschule Wildau
Centre for International Affairs / Zentrum für Internationale Angelegenheiten
Hochschulring 1 • 15745 Wildau • Germany

international@th-wildau.de

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