

International Quarterly #3, 1 July 2022



University
of Basel

National and International Cooperation



**** See English Version Below ****

Liebe Dozierenden, Liebe Kolleg*innen

Scholars at Risk Ukraine: Über 1 Million CHF Unterstützung für Forschende aus der Ukraine an der Universität Basel

Der aggressive Einmarsch von russischen Truppen in der Ukraine am 24.2.2022 hat auch für viele Akademiker*innen die Lebens- und Karriereplanung auf den Kopf gestellt. Es ist zu einer bedeutenden Fluchtbewegung gekommen. Der Schweizerischen Nationalfond (SNF) hat gemeinsam mit Scholars at Risk (SAR) sehr schnell ein Hilfsprogramm zur Unterstützung von Forschungs-aktivitäten für schutzsuchende Akademiker*innen aus der Ukraine an den Hochschulen der Schweiz initiiert.

Das Programm wurde am 2.3.2022 vom Generalsekretär Roger Pfister, SAR Schweiz angekündigt. Der Prozess für die Einreichung von Gesuchen am 4.3.2022 publiziert. Vorerst stand 1 Million CHF zur Verfügung. Es zeigte sich sehr rasch, dass der Bedarf sehr hoch ist und so wurde der Betrag auf insgesamt 9 Millionen CHF erhöht. Dieser Betrag war schon am 11.4.2022 voll ausgeschöpft.

Für die unterschiedlichen Akademischen Stufen gab es 2 Optionen der Einreichung:

- PostDoc und höher: Direkte Einreichung für einen Exchange Grant durch die SAR Koordination der entsprechenden Hochschule
- PostDoc oder PhD Studierende: Antrag für Zusatzgelder in bereits laufenden SNF Projekten durch die Projektleitenden.

Als SAR Koordinatorin der Universität Basel war dies für mich eine herausfordernde Zeit, einerseits die Ansuchen entgegen zu nehmen, eine entsprechende Forschungsgruppe im Fachbereich zu finden und dann möglichst schnell den Antrag beim SNF einzureichen. Insgesamt konnten **1'251'056,00 CHF** eingeworben werden. Dies ist ein substantieller Mehrwert nicht nur für die Forschenden aus der Ukraine, sondern auch für die Forschungsgruppen der Universität Basel. Hier gilt ein besonderer Dank allen aufnehmenden Verantwortlichen der Forschungsgruppen für ihre aktive und rasche Bereitschaft. Wir hoffen, dass sich daraus auch längerfristige Kooperationen ergeben werden. Eine weitere Herausforderung war Kompetenz im Umgang mit den Fragen zum Schutzstatus S, der Unterbringung, der Schule für die mitgereisten Kinder, dem Zugang zum Studium oder Sprachkurse etc. aufzubauen. Es wurde vom Rektorat eine Task Force beauftragt, dies in der Anfangsphase zu bewerkstelligen. Dank des aktiven Engagements der Mitglieder konnten rasch Lösungen erarbeitet werden und die Task Force wurde aufgelöst.

Wichtige Informationen zur Ukraine sind auf dem Intranet für alle Mitarbeitenden zugänglich.

<https://intranet.unibas.ch/pages/viewpage.action?spaceKey=REK&title=Ukraine+Support>

Es gibt weiterhin Anfragen von PostDocs und PhD Studierenden wobei die Platzierung aufgrund der fehlenden Finanzierungsmöglichkeiten schwierig ist. An der Philosophisch-Historischen Fakultät konnte ein eigener Pool für Unterstützungsgelder initiiert werden. Zusätzliche Mittel wären eine wirkliche Hilfe für die Geflüchteten in dieser unfassbaren humanitären Katastrophe.

Neues Angebot: Aufbau interkulturelle Kompetenz

Die Universität Basel versteht interkulturelle Kompetenzen als eine Schlüsselfunktion im globalen Hochschul- und Wissenschaftssystem. Strategisches Ziel seit 2022 ist es, Universitätsangehörige auf allen Ebenen durch entsprechende Trainingsangebote zu fördern, um angemessen und effektiv im interkulturellen Kontext agieren zu können. Interkulturelle Kompetenz ist hierbei mehrschichtig definiert und umfasst Wissen, Fähigkeiten/Haltungen und Handlungskompetenzen, die sich gegenseitig beeinflussen.

Es ist ein neues Zertifikatsprogramm für Admin-Technisches-Labor-Personal in Entwicklung. Es möchte diese Fähigkeiten weiter fördern, indem bestehende Kompetenzen stärker kontextualisiert und zugleich nachhaltiger gestaltet werden, um im Arbeitsalltag noch besser zur Wirkung zu kommen. Bereits in diesem Bereich Engagierte sollen unterstützt und weiter bestärkt werden, bestehende Leistungen anerkannt und Angebote ergänzt entwickelt werden, um insgesamt Sensibilisierung wie Sichtbarkeit dieser Schlüsselkompetenz zu steigern.

Die inhaltliche Bandbreite vereint Theorie und Praxis, ist didaktisch und zeitlich gemäss individuellen Möglichkeiten und Interessen angelegt, umfasst Mehrsprachigkeit in verschiedenen Graden und auf allen Niveaus und bietet von der aktiven Teilnahme und kompletten Immersion über beobachtende Teilnahme bis zum Selbststudium und individuellen Reflexion verschiedene Stufen des Kompetenzerwerbs und Austauschs.

Das Zertifikatsprogramm wird auch im Rahmen eines «Projekts zur Förderung von Mobilität» von movetia, der nationalen Agentur für Mobilität auf allen Stufen, unterstützt. Verantwortlich für dieses Projekt sind in unserem Team Andrea Delpho, MA und Dr. Tanja Popović; weitere Details folgen weiter unten und im nächsten Newsletter.

Wir wünschen Ihnen anregende Lektüre und erholsame Sommertage*

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

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

Dear Lecturers and Colleagues

Scholars at Risk Ukraine: Over 1 Million CHF of Support for Researchers from Ukraine at the University of Basel

The aggressive invasion of Russian troops into Ukraine on 24 February 2022 has also turned many academics' life and career plans upside down. There has been a significant migration of refugees. Together with Scholars at Risk (SAR), the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) quickly initiated an aid program to support research activities for academics from Ukraine seeking protection at Swiss universities.

The program was announced on 2 March 2022 by Roger Pfister, the Secretary General of SAR Switzerland. The process for submitting applications was published on 4 March 2022. At first, 1 million CHF was available. It quickly became apparent that the need was very high, so the amount was increased to a total of 9 million CHF. This amount was already fully used up on 11 April 2022.

There were two different options for submitting an application, depending on one's academic level:

- Postdoc and above: Direct submission for an exchange grant through the SAR coordinator of the relevant university.
- Postdoc or PhD student: Application through project leaders of already running SNSF projects for additional funds for new postdocs or PhD students.

As the SAR coordinator at the University of Basel, this was a challenging time for me, as I received the applications, found a corresponding research group in a department, and then submitted an application to the SNSF as quickly as possible. In total, we were able to secure **1,251,056 CHF** in funding. This is a substantial amount of money not only for the researchers from Ukraine but also for the research groups at the University of Basel. Special thanks are due to all the leaders of research groups who took in new researchers for their readiness to act quickly. We hope that this will also result in longer-term collaborations. Other challenges included building competence in dealing with the issues of protection status S and in providing accommodation, schools for the accompanying children, and access to study programs or language courses, etc. In the beginning, the president's office appointed a task force to manage this. Thanks to the active commitment of its members, solutions were quickly found, and the task force was dissolved.

Important information on Ukraine is available on the intranet for all employees. <https://intranet.unibas.ch/pages/viewpage.action?spaceKey=REK&title=Ukraine+Support>

There are still requests from postdocs and PhD students, but placement is difficult due to the lack of funding. The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences was able to establish a separate pool of support funds. Additional funds for refugees would be a real help in this unfathomable humanitarian catastrophe.

New opportunity: Building intercultural competence

The University of Basel understands intercultural competences to have a key function in the global university and academic system. A strategic goal starting in 2022 is to promote the ability of university employees at all levels to act appropriately and effectively in intercultural contexts by providing appropriate training opportunities. In this context, intercultural competence is defined in a multilayered way and comprises knowledge, skills, attitudes, and competences to act, all of which influence one other.

A new Certificate Program for Admin, Tech, and Lab Personnel is in development. It aims to further promote these skills by contextualizing existing competences more strongly and at the same time by making them more sustainable so that they have an even better impact on everyday work. Those already engaged in this area are to be supported and further encouraged, existing achievements should be recognized, and additional opportunities will be developed in order to increase the overall awareness and visibility of this key competence.

The range of content will combine theory and practice, be tailored to individual possibilities and interests with regard to teaching method and time, encompass multilingualism in various degrees and at all levels, and offer different levels of skill acquisition and exchange from active participation and complete immersion to observational participation, self-study, and individual reflection.

The certificate program is also supported by Movetia, the national agency for mobility at all levels, as part of a project to promote mobility. In our team,

Andrea Delpho, MA, and Dr. Tanja Popović are responsible for this project; more details can be found below and in the next newsletter.

We hope you find the newsletter interesting and wish you relaxing days this summer. *

Hedwig J. Kaiser

Head of National and International Cooperation

www.unibas.ch/intoffice

* This newsletter is for all university employees; in order to reach as many people as possible, we publish it largely in English.



Spring term 2021

SEMP / Erasmus+

In higher education, mobility projects for students, academics, and administrative staff are mainly funded through the Swiss-European Mobility Programme SEMP. The Swiss Programme for Erasmus+ also offers opportunities to plan and implement transnational institutional partnerships and collaborations. For the next program period (2022–2028), all departmental and faculty agreements had to be reviewed and renewed.

In 2020 and 2021, many of the originally planned mobilities had to be cancelled due to the ongoing pandemic, which led to a significant drop in numbers. Some students who were able to travel were on-site, others had to attend classes online.

The goal for 2022 is to increase the mobility figures, particularly for outgoing students and staff. Together with the national agency "movetia", the Student Exchange Office has launched a promotion scheme for the programs and opportunities at the University of Basel. The events and activities will include additional support for departments and faculties, promotion of exchanges at departments and faculties, intercultural staff training, and events such as an international lunch offered by ESN (Erasmus Student Network) Basel at the Back-on-Campus site.

Contact: mobility@unibas.ch

Link to departmental and faculty agreements:

<https://unibas.moveon4.de/publisher/1/eng>

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

Student Exchange / Welcome & Euraxess Center

“Intercultural Competence in Higher-Education Situations”: Training for Administrative Staff

In the context of the University of Basel’s overall strategy regarding intercultural competence on all staff levels, National & International Cooperation conceptualized and conducted a new intercultural training for administrative staff in April/May 2022. The module was very quickly filled. In two afternoon sessions, fourteen staff members from almost all the faculties

reflected and worked on intercultural developments and concrete challenges at the University of Basel. The training evaluation was very positive and showed the high interest and demand for further intercultural training. The course was run by the intercultural trainers Andrea Delpho, MA, and Dr. Tanja Popović. The course will be offered again in spring 2023 and will be announced on Leadership & Development's intranet training platform (formerly: Staff Development/Personal- & Organisationsentwicklung).

Contacts: Tanja.Popovic@unibas.ch and Andrea.Delpho@unibas.ch

Link: <https://www.unibas.ch/intoffice>

Student Exchange / Welcome & Euraxess Center

Intercultural-Competence Certificate for Administrative Staff

A new certificate is being developed for administrative staff seeking to deepen and contextualize their intercultural skills. Based on existing training offers with intercultural aspects—internal, regional (EUCOR), national (*movetia*), and international (SEMP/Erasmus Staff Exchange)—the certificate components will be able to be combined with self-learning, online modules, and language courses. The certificate will have a time frame of (up to) three years and will be individually tailored and methodologically diverse. This highly interesting offer will provide motivated staff members with an opportunity for professional advancement in a soft skill that is more and more in demand.

Contacts: Tanja.Popovic@unibas.ch and Andrea.Delpho@unibas.ch

Link: <https://www.unibas.ch/intoffice>

Welcome & Euraxess Center

Euraxess Africa

Since the beginning of 2022, there has been another Euraxess Hub, Euraxess Africa, which means that all the continents are now represented. Euraxess Africa informs researchers in Africa and those worldwide with a connection to Africa about current calls for proposals and developments, and it enriches the Euraxess exchange with diverse perspectives on Africa. For researchers from Europe, Euraxess Africa offers important information, exciting contacts, and valuable support in research mobility.

Foundation Guest House of the University of Basel / Welcome & Euraxess Center

Zaeslin Guest House Seminar Room

The Zaeslin Guest House (Nonnenweg 56), the newest among the four university guest houses, has a new offer for university staff. Staff can use the building's seminar room on the ground floor free of charge. The space is convenient for quiet university meetings. The room is equipped with WLAN, a kitchenette with a coffee machine, a restroom, a wardrobe, and a terrace with access to the garden. University of Basel staff members have been able to book this room since May 2022 in the [Raumportfolio](#) (includes technical details). The room offers seats for 10–14 people, depending on the seating arrangement. Booking requests should be addressed directly to uni@guesthousebasel.ch. The Welcome & Euraxess Center is member of the Foundation Guest House Board and hosts the Guest House website.

Contact: Tanja.Popovic@unibas.ch

Link: <https://www.unibas.ch/welcome> > Foundation Guest House

Launch of Interreg VI Funding Period

Living in a border region invites collaboration and discovery. In order to strengthen scientific-network building and increase the value of collaborations between companies and research institutions, the sixth funding period of Interreg NRP was launched by the Interreg Secretariat and the Regio Basiliensis (IKRB) on 12 May at the Volkshaus in Basel. It invites companies and researchers from neighboring France and Germany to apply for funding for convincing joint projects with their peers from northwestern Switzerland. The funding period runs from 2021–2027. A maximum of 60% of the project costs can be covered from Swiss sources.

This program is jointly funded by the European Commission (Interreg Secretariat in Strasbourg), the five cantons of northwestern Switzerland, and the Swiss Federal Government (NRP secretary of the Regio Basiliensis in Basel). NRP (New Regional Politics) is the name of the Swiss cofunding instrument.

Contact for inquiries within the University of Basel: Erich.Thaler@unibas.ch

Link (list of past projects and templates for the application):
<https://www.regbas.ch/de/foerderprogramme/interreg/interreg-a-oberrhein/>



Launch of Interreg VI funding period at the Volkshaus Basel

International Relations / Student Exchange

Change of Staff: Goodbye Dorina Kühner - Welcome Sedef Biçer!

With this newsletter, our dear colleague Dorina Kühner is finishing her time with us. She has been part of the International Relations Unit together with Erich Thaler since 2010. As an economist, she has worked on the South Africa and Sub-Sahara Desk and has been in charge of building up and promoting start-up businesses and entrepreneurship for university partners in both Switzerland and Africa in close collaboration with Swiss embassies, the State Secretariat for Education, Research, and Innovation (SERI), and Swiss TPH. Her primary achievements include establishing a UNESCO Chair in Physical Activity and Health in Educational Settings together with the Department of Sport, Health, and Exercise at the University of Basel and the Nelson Mandela University in Port Elizabeth (Gqeberha). Last year, she additionally took over the SEMP internship section of the Swiss European Mobility Program (SEMP) within Student Exchange and made an impact in promoting this new and interesting program of SEMP to students and departmental staff. After twelve years at the University of Basel, Dorina has decided to pursue a

new career path. We will miss her as a very dear colleague and a great professional!

On July 1 we are welcoming Sedef Biçer as her successor. Biçer is a political scientist and is coming to International Relations / Student Exchange from the International Scholars Center at the University of Zurich. She will be the main contact point for the AIT Swiss–African Science and Business Innovators Program (SASBI), and she will take over the internship mobility programs at Student Exchange.

Welcome & Euraxess Center / Student Exchange / Language Center

Café international Goes Onboard: Boat Trip on the Rhine, 9 June 2022



After two years of various outdoor and online events due to the pandemic, Café international embarked on a small voyage. One hundred and one participants (international and local researchers, students, and staff) enjoyed a trip on the MS *Christoph Merian*. Cruising up and down the Rhine where the borders of Switzerland, France, and Germany meet, they

discovered Basel's sights from a completely fresh perspective and toasted to four years of Café international!

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

Links: <https://www.unibas.ch/welcome> > Café international
<https://sprachenzentrum.unibas.ch/en/> as well as
<https://intranet.unibas.ch/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=58851778>

Student Exchange

Swiss Federal Excellency Grants (ESKAS/FCS Program): Chocolate Atelier

After two pandemic years, twenty young researchers in the Swiss Excellency Scholarship Program in Basel dropped their work in labs, libraries, or orchestra rehearsals to participate in a workshop at Basel's very own Confiserie Besche.

In two very productive hours, they learned a lot about chocolate, the cocoa trade, and Switzerland. They also produced their own chocolate bars. It was a very sweet and rewarding experience, and everyone left the workshop filled with new energy.

Contact: Andrea.Delpho@unibas.ch

Link: <https://www.unibas.ch/en/Studies/Mobility/Mobility-Global/In-Coming/Swiss-Government-Excellence-Scholarships.html>

