

Staff Week 2026

June 8-12





Program Staff Week

June 08 – 12, 2026

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WiFi

Network: uni-vechta-Gast

E-Mail: international.office@uni-vechta.de

Password: c4dbbwqukE5d



Welcome Address

Dear colleagues, dear guests,

Welcome to the Staff Week 2026 at the University of Vechta.

It is a great pleasure to welcome colleagues and partners from across Europe and beyond to our university. This week reflects one of the core ideas of the Erasmus+ Programme: bringing people together to learn from one another, to exchange experiences, and to strengthen cooperation across borders.

Erasmus+ has become far more than a mobility programme. For staff members in higher education, it creates opportunities for professional development, intercultural learning, and the sharing of innovative ideas and best practices. International staff exchange enriches not only the individual participants, but also strengthens our institutions, broadens perspectives within our university communities, and ultimately benefits the students we support and educate.

At the University of Vechta, we understand internationalization as an integral part of academic and administrative life. Through initiatives such as this Staff Week, we foster dialogue, build sustainable partnerships, and create networks that contribute to a more open, collaborative, and resilient Higher Education Area.

Over the coming days, I hope you will find inspiration in the workshops, discussions, and informal conversations alike. May this week offer valuable insights, new perspectives, and lasting connections.

I wish you an engaging and rewarding Staff Week and a wonderful stay in Vechta.

Prof. Dr. Christopher Osterhaus

Vice President for Research, Junior Researchers and International Affairs



Monday, June 8

 Komfortzone, R036

Time	Event
09:00 – 09:30	 Registration (On-site)
09:30 – 10:30	 Welcome & Networking Session
10:30 – 11:00	 Coffee Break
11:00 – 11:30	 University of Vechta: A small university in times of transformation <i>Dr. Natalia Petrillo</i>
11:30 – 12:30	 Guided Campus Tour  Campus
12:30 – 14:00	 Lunch - Please bring your meal voucher  University Canteen
14:00 – 15:30	 Guided City Tour & Free time (checks can be cashed at the bank)
18:00 – 20:00	 Opening Ceremony <i>Prof. Dr. Christopher Osterhaus,</i> <i>Vice President for Research, Junior Researchers and International Affairs</i>  Aula



Tuesday, June 9

 Komfortzone, R036

Time	Event
09:00 – 11:10	 World Café “Erasmus+ in Practice: Inclusion, Mobility & Partnerships” <i>Sarah Winkler</i> Topics:  Table 1: Inclusion & Equal Access to Mobility  Table 2: Administrative Barriers & Recognition  Table 3: Internationalisation within the Curricula  Table 4: Partnership Quality & Sustainable Cooperation
11:10 – 11:40	 Coffee Break
11:45 – 12:30	 Plenary Wrap-Up
12:30 – 14:00	 Lunch - Please bring your meal voucher  University Canteen
14:00 – 15:00	 Academic Support at the University Library – Open to all directions <i>Dr. Karolin Bubke</i>  University Library
15:30 – 16:30	 Science Shop Vechta/Cloppenburg - Building Campus Community Partnerships through Participatory Projects and Service Learning <i>Dr. Daniel Ludwig & Katrin Hedemann</i>  Komfortzone, R036

Wednesday, June 10

 Conference Room, E131

Time	Event
09:30 – 10:30	 Welcome & Introduction: Setting the Focus for Today <i>Natalia Petrillo, Sarah Winkler</i>
09:30 – 11:00	 Panel 1: Internationalisation Strategies & Leadership (Each presentation 15 min + 30 min discussion after all presentations) Speakers: Erard Curcija, Erjola Djepaxhija, Lacaj Laca, Vilma Piroli , University of Shkodra, Albania “Challenges of Internationalization Process at Shkodra University” Sophia Moralishvili , New University, Georgia “Internationalisation, Strategic Development, and Ethical AI Integration at the New Higher Education Institute” Fiorella Bafundo , Universidad Católica del Uruguay, Uruguay “UCU's Internationalisation Strategy” Onésime Nzambimana , Great Lakes University, Burundi “Leadership”
11:00 – 11:15	 Coffee Break
11:15 – 12:30	 Panel 2: Partnerships & Mobility Speakers: Godwin Myovella , University of Dodoma, Tanzania “Partnerships and Institutional Collaborations” Diana Mikeladze , Sokhumi State University, Georgia “Internationalisation in Higher Education: Building Bridges through Cooperation and Mobility” Benson Charles Odongo Okong’o , JOO University of Science and Technology, Kenya “JOOUST and University of Vechta: Synergy in Student and Staff Mobility and Capacity Building Programmes”
12:30 – 14:00	 Lunch - Please bring your meal voucher



14:00 – 15:00	 Panel Discussion: Science and academic freedom in times of global polycrises Guests: Gabriele Dürbeck (Vechta, Germany), Lena Oetzel (Salzburg, Austria), Daniel Ramiro Sanchez Fernandez (Salta, Argentina), Veith Selk (Vechta, Germany) Chair: Christine Vogel (Vechta, Germany)
15:00 – 16:30	 Panel 3: Mobility, Teaching & Curriculum Internationalisation Speakers: Valeria Vorano , Universidad Católica de Salta, Argentina “COIL: the path followed in UCASAL.” Ann Kirugumi , Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, Kenya “Sustainability of Internationalization in Higher Education Institutions through Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL)” David Mrisho , Saint Augustine University of Tanzania, Tanzania “Student Exchange and Transformative Learning: Evidence from SAUT–Vechta Academic Mobility Programs”
16:30 – 17:00	 Poster Exhibition & Refreshment Break
17:00 – 18:00	 Panel 4: Innovative Teaching, Digitalisation, and Cross-Border Academic Collaboration Speakers: Heather Douglas , Algoma University, Canada “Barriers or Building Blocks? Transforming Historical and Geographical Challenges into Mobility Opportunities” Tetiana Semeniuk, Olena Bondarchuk, Lyudmyla Blyznyuk , Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University, Ukraine “Internationalisation of Literature Studies and Innovative Language Teaching in Challenging Contexts” Abdulla Rexhepi , University of Prishtina, Kosovo “Teaching & Learning and Internationalization of the University of Prishtina”
18:00 – 18:30	 Round Table Discussion & Plenary Wrap-Up
18:30 – 19:30	 Closing Session Prof. Dr. Oliver Schöndube & Pedro Carneiro The Participatory Orchestra Poster Prize Award and Closing Remarks Prof. Dr. Christopher Osterhaus
19:30	 Social Event / Student Party (Sports Field)



Thursday, June 11

 Komfortzone, R036

Time	Event
09:00 – 10:00	 Universities as an engine for entrepreneurial competences: TrENDi Entrepreneurship Service as an example <i>Dr. Maik Fischer</i>
10:00 – 16:00	 Cultural Program: Museumsdorf Cloppenburg https://museumsdorf.de/en/9246-2/ Please bring comfortable shoes for walking.
16:00	 Debriefing & Confirmation of Stay

Friday, June 12

 Hotel am Kamponier, Große Str. 47, 49377 Vechta

Time	Event
08:45	 Cultural Program: Visit to Osnabrück  Individual Departures

Andi Cekai

University of Shkodra "Luigj Gurakuqi"

Specialist at the Directory of Internationalization, Scientific Research and Projects, University Luigj Gurakuqi (UNISHK). President of the Albanian Red Cross Branch of Shkodra. Master's degree in International Relation at the European University of Tirana (Tirane, Albania). Diploma in Law at the University Luigj Gurakuqi. He completed postgraduate studies at the University Luigj Gurakuqi, in the area Public Administration. He has worked in the private sector and in the public administration for almost 25 years focused on national and international programme management, project preparation and management. Expert on PCM training and project evaluation with long-standing engagement in civil society initiatives, bringing long-term experience and commitment to local and regional development and humanitarian work.

Bresena Kopliku

University of Shkodra "Luigj Gurakuqi"

Prof. As. Dr. Bresena Kopliku is a lecturer and researcher at the Department of Geography, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Shkodra "Luigj Gurakuqi," where she has been teaching since 2000. She currently serves as Director of Scientific Research and Internationalization, contributing to the university's academic development and global engagement.

Her work lies in the field of human geography, with a particular focus on migration, diaspora, transnationalism, labor markets, and gender studies. Through her research, she explores the links between migration and development, as well as broader socio-economic transformations in Albania and the Western Balkans.

She has authored and co-authored several publications in international journals and edited volumes, and regularly participates in international scientific conferences. In addition to her academic work, she is actively involved in research and development projects with international partners and contributes to the academic community as a reviewer and editorial board member for scholarly journals.

Erard Curcija

University of Shkodra "Luigj Gurakuqi"

Head of the International Relations Office, Luigj Gurakuqi University, Shkodra, Albania. Educational Background: Erard Çurçija holds a degree in English and American Studies (2002) and a Master's in International Relations (2010). He is

furthering his expertise in public administration by pursuing a Master's in Financial Management, Accounting, and Control, focusing on applying these skills to public administration and university operations. Role and Contributions: As the Head of the International Relations Office at Luigj Gurakuqi University, Çurçija oversees various international collaborations, including partnerships under the Erasmus+ program and other EU-funded educational initiatives. He is responsible for coordinating programs that enhance student mobility and international cooperation, emphasizing cultural exchange and global educational standards at the university. Çurçija's dedication to fostering international connections has positioned Luigj Gurakuqi University as a key player in cross-border academic collaboration, benefiting students and faculty alike by expanding opportunities in higher education across Europe and beyond.

Erjola Djepaxhija
University of Shkodra "Luigj Gurakuqi"

Specialist at the Office of Internationalization within the Directorate of Scientific Research, Projects, and Internationalization at the University of Shkodra "Luigj Gurakuqi," where she has been engaged since 2018 in the implementation of international projects and institutional agreements.

She holds a Diploma in English Language Teaching (2004) from the University of Shkodra, a Master's degree in Linguistics and Translation from the University of Tirana (2010), and a Professional Master's degree in Financial Management, Accounting and Control in Public Administration (2019) from the University of Shkodra.

She has prior experience as a part-time lecturer of English at the UNISHK (2005–2009) and worked in Shkodra University Library (2007–2018), supported by professional training at the National Library of Tirana. She also completed advanced training in project management awarded a certificate of the professional training "Professional Career Development Advanced Executive Course" in the field of Project management (ISSAT, Tirana, 2018).

She has participated in numerous international training and staff mobility programs within Erasmus+, CEEPUS, and other projects across Europe, follow-up of new international partnerships within ongoing projects; preparation of diploma confirmations for students, contributing to the internationalization, cooperation, and institutional development of the University of Shkodra.

Lacaj Lidia
University of Shkodra "Luigj Gurakuqi"

Specialist at the International Relations Office, Directory of Internationalization, Scientific Research and Projects, University Luigj Gurakuqi (UNISHK). Master's degree in Political Sciences at the University of Trieste (Italy). Diploma in Foreign

Languages at the University “Luigj Gurakuqi”. As a specialist at the international Relations Office focused on coordinating academic partnerships, facilitating mobility programs, and contributing to the implementation of international projects, including those within the Erasmus+ framework. She worked organizing institutional activities, managing communication with partner universities, and assisting academic staff and students throughout mobility processes. With strong organizational and interpersonal skills, she committed to fostering internationalization and building sustainable collaborations that enhance institutional growth and global engagement.

Vilma Piroli

University of Shkodra "Luigj Gurakuqi"

Dr. Vilma Piroli is a Biologist with about 15 years of experience in scientific research, teaching and academic engagement. She currently serves as a Researcher at the Shkodra Region Water Study Center, Faculty of Natural Sciences, University of Shkodra “Luigj Gurakuqi”.

She completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Tirana in biology, while she continued her master’s degree in environmental biology and her PhD in conservation biology at the same university. Her research interests include studies on endangered species and their habitats, zoology, herpetology and aquatic ecology, with a special focus on studies on the marine environment and sea turtles.

Dr. Piroli is the author and co-author of several publications, as well as a participant in national and international conferences. She is a member of MTSG-IUCN and over the years has led and contributed to over thirty research projects funded by the European Union, GEF, UNDP, RAC-SPA, UNISHK, NASRI, Ministry of Education of Albania, etc.

In addition to her academic engagement, since 2022 she has served as Head of the Scientific Research and Projects Unit at the University of Shkodra “Luigj Gurakuqi.” In this role, she coordinates collaboration with donors, research institutions, and academic staff, contributing to the development of state-of-the-art practices for designing and implementing projects funded by both international and domestic sources. She also supports the development and implementation of policies related to cooperation agreements in scientific research, fostering the advancement of research activities at her home institution.

Argentina

Valeria Raquel Vorano

Universidad Católica de Salta

Secretary of International Affairs at the Catholic University of Salta (UCASAL). Master's degree in Mercosur and the European Union from the National University of Cuyo (Mendoza, Argentina) and the University of Udine (Udine, Italy). Diploma in Internationalization of Higher Education - College of the Americas of the Inter-American University Organization (COLAM-OUI). She

completed postgraduate studies at the University of Barcelona, Spain, in the area of Administration and Political Science. She pursued her Law studies at the National University of Córdoba, Argentina, obtaining her degree in 2000. She has also worked in the private sector and in the public administration. She was a member of the International Law Institute at UCASAL, where she did research in the areas of regional integration, the Falkland Islands and international treaties of the Argentine Republic and was Coordinator of the ODUCAÉDRAS Program of ODUCAAL (Organization of Catholic Universities of Latin America and the Caribbean).

Burundi

Onésime Nzambimana
Great Lakes University

Onésime Nzambimana, M.Ed. is an academic and university leader affiliated with Université des Grands Lacs (UGL), Burundi, where he serves as Deputy Director of Research. Nzambimana has also served in university leadership as General Secretary at the same University, contributing to institutional governance, academic coordination, and strategic development.

He holds a Master's Degree in Educational Administration from Kenyatta University. His work bridges educational leadership, institutional development, and peacebuilding studies. He is an author and researcher with scholarly publications focusing on instructional leadership and its relationship to teacher professional development and student academic performance.

His work connects education, institutional strengthening, and reconciliation, promoting strong educational systems as foundations for sustainable development and social transformation in Africa. He has contributed to the editorial work of *Healing through Remembering: Sharing Grassroots Experiences of Peace, Reconciliation and Healing in the Great Lakes Region of Africa*, a scholarly volume examining memory work, reconciliation processes, and grassroots peacebuilding initiatives in post-conflict societies.

Canada

Heather Douglas
Algoma University

Heather Douglas is the Coordinator of Global Engagement and Mobility at Algoma University (Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada). This includes coordinating student mobility programs including North2North (N2N), the Queen Elizabeth Scholars Program, and the World University Service of Canada Student Refugee Program (WUSC/SRP).

She has a Master of Science in Biology with a focus on education from Point Loma Nazarene University (San Diego, California) and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Algoma University (Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada). She holds expertise in the internationalization of higher education, with a focus on student exchange,

intercultural competency, and cross-cultural communication frameworks. She also has contributed to university governance initiatives, including presidential search committee work.

In her professional practice, she develops branded communications, digital content, and intercultural training resources in support of outbound and inbound student mobility. She has built and maintained partnerships with universities across Finland, Norway, Iceland, Morocco, Colombia, France, and beyond.

In her personal time she enjoys bird watching, cross country skiing, cycling and community events with newcomers to Canada. This is her first time in Vechta, Germany!

Georgia

Tamar Gardapkhadze
New Uni

Tamar Gardapkhadze is a distinguished legal scholar, higher education leader, and academic administrator with extensive experience in university governance, research development, and institutional innovation in Georgia. She holds a Doctor of Law (PhD) and the academic title of Professor, and is widely recognized for her contributions to legal studies and higher education advancement.

She is the Founder and Rector of the New Higher Education Institution – NEWUNI, where she also serves as Chair of the Academic Council, leading strategic development, academic policy formation, and institutional growth. In addition, she holds the position of Vice-Rector at NEWUNI, contributing to the enhancement of academic standards and internationalization processes.

Professor Gardapkhadze is actively engaged in scholarly and editorial work as the Head of the Editorial Board of the scientific journal *Diplomacy and Law*. She is a Full Member (Academician) of the Georgian Academy of Social Sciences, reflecting her significant impact on academic research and intellectual life in Georgia.

Sophia Moralishvili
New Uni

Vice-Rector of the New Higher Education Institute (NEWUNI), Georgia.
Professor of Education at Akaki Tsereteli State University (ATSU).

Dr. Moralishvili is a higher education expert specializing in innovative pedagogy, artificial intelligence in education, teacher education, and Universal Design for Learning (UDL). She holds a PhD in Philology from the Arnold Chikobava Institute of Linguistics, Georgian Academy of Sciences.

She has authored over eighty scientific publications and has presented her research at numerous international conferences across Europe and the United States. She has participated in international academic and research projects, including collaborations with American institutions under the “Teachers of Tomorrow” and “Education for the Future” programmes.

She serves as a UNICEF Georgia Child Rights Teaching Expert and is actively engaged in curriculum development, academic leadership, and quality assurance in higher education.

Diana Mikeladze
Sokhumi State University

Doctor's Degree in English Philology, Associate Professor at Sokhumi State University, Head of Master Program in English Philology. Member of editorial boards and competition commissions at Georgian universities. Reviewer of books and academic materials in English Philology. Supervisor of BA and MA diploma Works. Researcher, scientific works about how the English language functions not only as a global means of communication but as a space where cultures meet, clash, and negotiate. She designs courses that combine linguistic precision with cultural awareness and critical thinking. Diana actively participates in academic conferences and projects focused on intercultural dialogue, student adaptation, and innovative teaching practices. She is particularly interested in integrating artificial intelligence into language learning to create more responsive and human-centered educational experiences. Her work reflects a commitment to empowering learners to use English thoughtfully and critically across cultures.

Elene Davitashvili
Caucasus University

Marketing Communications Manager at Caucasus University (MK Department).
Areas of Expertise: strategic planning, managing internal and external communications, coordinating Marketing efforts. Large-scale student event planning and organization, Social media Marketing and Web Administrative.
Education: Holds a BA degree in Psychology from the Caucasus School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Participated in the Erasmus Student Mobility Program in 2016–2017 at Middle East Technical University, Turkey.

Mariam Okruashvili
Caucasus University

Mariam Okruashvili, a Dean of the Caucasus Medicine School at Caucasus University and a Fellow Researcher at the Council of Foreign Affairs. She holds a PhD in International Relations (research on South Caucasus geopolitical alliances) and a Master's, as well as a bachelor's in International Relations, with advanced training in research methods from Radboud University Nijmegen.

Mariam has progressed through roles in student services and learning-process monitoring, serving as coordinator and then Deputy Director, where she coordinated international student programs and supported institutional internationalization. In her current role as Dean, she leads academic and administrative initiatives to strengthen program quality, student success and global partnerships.

As an educator and trainer, regularly delivers lectures on security and healthcare services and conducts workshops and training sessions on diplomacy, migration

and human-rights topics. She has run community-focused projects and acted as a trainer on themes such as strengthening knowledge in regional communities and protecting women's rights.

Kenya

Ann Kirigumi

Dedan Kimathi University of Technology

Head of Department, International Office at the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, (DeKUT). She holds a PhD in Business Administration and Management in Strategic Management from Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, Kenya (DeKUT) and is responsible for leading internationalization efforts on behalf of DeKUT within the country, the region, and beyond.

She underwent a Train of Trainer (TOT) programme at the University of Potsdam, Germany in July, 2023 and is a Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) champion having been involved in the implementation of a National Multiplication Training Programme in Kenya on The Role of Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) and Virtual Exchanges in promoting Internationalization at Home in Higher Academic Institutions in Kenya a project that was funded by the DAAD in 2023/2024.

She was pivotal in establishing DeKUT's International Office and through her efforts, DeKUT has strengthened partnerships with institutions in all regions of the world significantly enhancing its international ranking and mobility programs.

A Dialogue on Innovative Higher Education Strategies (DIES) alumna, Dr. Kirugumi has been serving as a Coordinator and Facilitator for the DIES Africa Regional Training Workshop on Management of Internationalization since 2019 working in partnership with Leibniz University of Hannover, Germany to host the programme.

She has also organized and facilitated national multiplication training workshops on internationalization in Kenya and Egypt, sharing her expertise with higher education stakeholders.

Dr. Kirugumi is a Founding Member and current National Secretary of the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE) Kenya, an organization that connects Kenyan students to international placement and training opportunities. Passionate about youth empowerment, she also serves on the Board of the Office of Career Services at DeKUT and has played a vital role in supporting Kenyan students' access to global opportunities.

Benson Charles Odongo Okong'o

Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology

Prof. Benson Charles Odongo Okong'o, is an Associate Professor of Curriculum & Instruction at Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology. He

is an International Honor Society of Education Fellow by KAPPA DELTA PI. He is the immediate former dean, School of Education. He has extensive experience in Research and has supervised many postgraduate students with extensive presentation of scientific papers in world international conferences, regional and local. He has attracted funds from several academic networks and belongs to several professional membership. Prof Odongo is an active member of several committees, a consultant in the area of education and active in community service.

Anthony Chebe Kang'ara
Kenyatta University

Assistant Registrar at the Centre for International Programmes & Collaborations(CIPC), Kenyatta University. Master in Public Policy and Administration. Interest in internationalisation of Higher Education and international cooperation. In charge of staff and student mobilities, both incoming and outgoing. Also, formalisation of partnerships through the processing of MOUs and MOAs.

"Learning is weightless; carry it wherever you go."

James Gichingah Kareithi Kaimi
Kenyatta University

Senior Administrator in the Vice-Chancellor's Office, Deputy Registrar Academic and Lecturer, Department of Educational Foundations in the School of Education and Life-Long Learning at Kenyatta University, which currently the leading higher education institution in Kenya.

Previously worked as the Acting Registrar Academic, Head Graduation, Transcripts and Certificates, School and Departmental Examinations Coordinator. Currently also serving as the Kenyatta University focal person for the Inter-University Council of East Africa.

Holds a Bachelor's in Education and a masters of Arts (Education) from Kenyatta University. Area of specialization Comparative and International Education, with special interest in Higher Education, particularly gender equity in access and success.

Has extensive experience in university teaching, administration and management of student affairs, management of examinations, certification and accreditation of academic programmes.

Has served as a Senior Administrator in the Vice-Chancellor's office for the last ten years, during which the major role has been to act as Secretary to the University Management Board, coordinating appointment of senior university officers, and dealing with staff and student issues escalated to the CEO.

Abdulla Rexhepi
University of Prishtina

Abdulla Rexhepi was born in 1980 in Presheva. He completed his BA-level studies at the Department of Orientalistics at the University of Prishtina. He completed his MA-level studies in the Department of Persian Language and Literature at Shahid Beheshti University in Tehran. He defended the topic: "The influences of Rumi on the poetry of Naim Frashëri." Finished his Ph.D. studies at the University of Tarbiat Modares in Tehran and defended the thesis: "Traces of Persian Literature in Albanian Literature." The fields of his scientific research are Persian Language and Literature, Philosophy, Islamic Mysticism, Albanian texts with the Arabic alphabet, and the Albanians' oriental heritage. He has been working since 2016 in the Department of Orientalistics, University of Prishtina, lecturing courses in Persian Language and Literature and Islamic Civilization. From 2020, he is the head of this Department. During 2013-2016, he led Institute for Human Studies "Ibn Sina." During 2013-2016, he was the editor-in-chief of the scientific journal "Hikmet." From 2014 to 2022, he worked in the Department of Oriental Philology at the University of Tetova. Since 2018, he has been a member of the editorial board of the scientific journal "Journal of Iranian Studies," an organ of Sakarya University in Turkey.

Gentiana Berisha
Universum College

Gentiana Berisha has over a decade of experience in higher education, international cooperation, and academic development. She currently serves as the Head of the International Office at UNI-Universum International College in Prishtina, Kosovo, where she leads the institution's internationalisation strategy, Erasmus+ programmes, and the development of global academic partnerships.

She is an experienced academic lecturer and researcher, specialising in economics, sustainable development, and education reform. As a Fulbright Program grantee, Gentiana conducted research at the University of Arkansas, further strengthening her international academic profile.

Gentiana holds degrees in Development Economics and Business Administration, complemented by interdisciplinary studies in law, economics, and sustainable development. With a strong international academic and professional background, she is committed to fostering intercultural dialogue and contributing to impactful advancements in education and economic policy.

Linda Okereke
Saint Augustine University of Tanzania

Sr. Linda Oluchi Okereke is an Assistant Human Resources Officer and Assistant International Director at St. Augustine University of Tanzania, as well as an Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Procurement and Logistics Management/HRM. She is currently pursuing her PhD in Human Resources Management at the Open University of Tanzania, a journey she began in 2024.

Sr. Linda holds both a Master's and a Bachelor's degree in Human Resources Management from St. Augustine University of Tanzania. In her professional role, she coordinates staff affairs and delivers high-quality teaching to students, utilizing both in-person interactions and various digital platforms to support the University's mission and vision.

Known for her friendly and accommodating nature, Sr. Linda is a God-fearing individual, dedicated to service, and committed to her duties. She is jovial, compassionate, highly ambitious, and an effective communicator who is fluent in English. She is also self-motivated, analytical, and a strong team player.

Godwin Myovella
University of Dodoma

Lecturer in Economics and Coordinator of International Students at the University of Dodoma (UDOM), Tanzania. Currently serving as Acting Director of Internationalisation, Convocation and Continuing Education (ICCE). He holds a PhD in Economics from Ege University, Turkey, and a Master's degree in International Trade from the University of Dar es Salaam. His academic and research work focuses on digitalization, economic growth, labour markets, and development in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Dr. Myovella has over 16 years of experience in teaching, research, and academic administration, with publications in leading international journals and involvement in national and international research and consultancy projects. In his current role, he coordinates internationalisation activities and institutional partnerships, supporting academic collaboration and mobility programmes.

Walter Onen
Uganda Christian University

I am Rev. Ocen Walter Onen, a lecturer and researcher at Uganda Christian University. I am currently doing a PhD in Practical Theology at the University of Pretoria, South Africa. My research is examining how church's approaches to urban poverty in Kampala is contributing to addressing the systemic and structural root causes of urban poverty.

Tetjana Semeniuk

Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University

Lecturer at the Department of German Philology and Deputy Dean for Student Affairs at the Faculty of Foreign Language Philology, Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University. Head of the Scientific Section for German Language and Literature at the Junior Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.

She obtained her Master's degree in 2006 from Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University and earned her PhD in Philology from Zaporizhzhia National University. In 2017, she defended the thesis entitled "Cognitive-Semantic and Pragmatic Features of Multimodal Texts."

Her teaching portfolio includes courses in German Language and Literature, Literary Studies, and Media Communication. Her research and publications focus on German literature from the 18th to the 21st century, Ukrainian War literature as well as on multimodality, conceptology, and text-image interaction. She is an active member of various professional associations in Ukraine, such as the Ukrainian Association of German Teachers and Germanists.

Olena Bondarchuk

Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University

Lecturer at the Department of German Philology

Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Foreign Language Philology in the area of 'International Relations'. Master's degree in 2009 at Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University. PhD at the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, 2015, on the topic "The cultural-linguistic type 'Aussteiger' in German-language discourse". She teaches the following courses: German, Cultural Linguistics, Literary Translation, Specialised Translation, Written Communication, Children's and Young Adult Literature. Main interests: cultural linguistics, conceptology, discourse, trends in translation, Skopos theory, intercultural communication.

Active member of several professional associations in Ukraine, such as the Ukrainian Association of German Teachers and Germanists.

Lyudmyla Blyznyuk

Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University

Lyudmyla Blyznyuk holds a PhD in German Philology and serves as Associate Professor at the Department of German Philology of Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University. She is a tutor of the international program *Deutsch Lehren Lernen (DLL – Learning to Teach German)* and acts as the representative of the *Dhoch3* program in Ukraine. In addition, she contributes as a lecturer to the project "*Maus auf Reisen*" and is an active member of the Association of Ukrainian Germanists. Her areas of specialization include teaching German as a Foreign Language (DaF), methodology and didactics of German language teaching,

German Studies, creative approaches to grammar learning, and the supervision of students' school teaching practice as well as their academic term papers. She defended her dissertation on "Structural-Semantic and Cognitive Aspects of the Concept HEIMWEH in the German Language."

Lyudmyla Blyznyuk has completed numerous professional development programs that reflect her commitment to intercultural competence and innovative didactics. These include the BAYHOST-Workshop "Cooperation with Ukraine in the Humanities: Multilingualism, Digital Humanities, Digital Education, and Other Topics" at Andr ssy University in Budapest; the Dhoch3 seminar "Diskursive Landeskunde" organized by DAAD at the University of Rzesz w; and a series of seminars "Blended Learning mit Dhoch3 gestalten" focusing on blended learning strategies. She also participated in the International Summer Academy for Teachers and Lecturers of German "Creative Learning and Cultural Teaching at the Black Sea" organized by the Goethe-Institut in Varna, Bulgaria, as well as in BARCAMP 2024 and 2025. Most recently, she undertook an international internship through the seminar "KI in der DaF-Didaktik. Einsatz und Integration von K nstlicher Intelligenz im Deutschunterricht" (AI in DaF Didactics: Application and Integration of Artificial Intelligence in German Language Teaching).

Uruguay

Fiorella Bafundo
Universidad Cat lica del Uruguay

MSc. Fiorella Bafundo is the Director of International Affairs at the Catholic University of Uruguay and a professor of Business Internationalization in the International Business program. She has a significant track record in international relations and integration issues, having previously served as a senior consultant for the Integration and Trade sector of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and as an Investment Attraction Specialist at Uruguay XXI (the national trade and investment promotion agency). She holds a Master's degree in Economics and Finance for Development from the University of Bradford (UK) and a Bachelor's degree in International Relations from the University of the Republic (UY). She also received a scholarship from the U.S. Department of State to study International Studies for a year at North Central College (US).



Universität Vechta
University of Vechta

www.uni-vechta.de

Contact

Dr. Natalia Petrillo
Head
Email: natalia.petrillo@uni-vechta.de
Fon: +49. (0) 4441.15 613

Sarah Winkler
Erasmus+ Coordinator
Email: sarah.winkler@uni-vechta.de
Fon: +49. (0) 4441.15 660

Dina Gurnizki
Organization
Email: dina.gurnizki@uni-vechta.de
Fon: +49. (0) 4441.15 135