

European University Alliance

























ZUKUNFTSWERKSTATT: EXPERIENCE WHAT CREATES KNOWLEDGE



Together with partners from business and the community, HSO invites you to the Offenburg city center for the Zukunftswerkstatt. From October 5 to December 14, 2024, the University is expanding its campus and allowing space for new ideas, exchange and shared learning. Everyone is welcome to join in: Teachers, students, representatives from companies, institutions, action groups, local residents and visitors. The city of Offenburg supports this initiative.

At the Zukunftswerkstatt, we present current research results and new products. We want to show how important practical science is for everyday life. The varied program includes exhibitions, workshops, hands-on stations and events for all ages, for companies and the media.

Career Fair proved a full success again





After last year's successful premiere, HSO's 2024 Career Fair was once again held at the Offenburg Oberrheinhalle. More than 120 companies set up their stands to establish contacts with students from all four departments of the University at what has become one of the most important career fairs in the Upper Rhine region.

For the first time, an International Lounge was established for international students, who always make up a great share of fair attendees. Offering information about living and working in Germany and contacts with companies of particular interest to international students, the Lounge was very well received by visitors.



Inspiring exchange at the end of the anniversary year



With three events in one day, Offenburg University again celebrated its 60th anniversary on November 14.

It kicked off with the 6th Upper Rhine Artificial Intelligence symposium (URAI) under the guiding theme of "Applied AI in the age of generative AI". Afterwards, the TriRhenaTech association, which in 2019 initiated the URAI symposium, celebrated its tenth anniversary with more than 100 guests.

Finally, 130 invited guests from politics, business and society joined Hochschule Offenburg's anniversary celebration in a successful redesign of this classic event. Using the anniversary motto of "60 years of courage for the future", it focused on the opportunities of artificial intelligence for economic and social development. The keynote speech and panel discussion were artfully rounded off by an Al-generated music and visual performance.

Zero Risk Challenge: a week of awareness and prevention for students





From October 14 to 18, 2024, ECAM LaSalle warmly welcomed the Zero Risk Challenge, a national initiative supported by the Conférence des grandes écoles (CGE)*, aimed at promoting risk prevention within member higher education establishments.

The week enabled our students to become more aware of the risks they may face in their daily lives, from addictive behaviours to the use of protective equipment when working on technical machinery, not forgetting their physical and mental health. Through a series of workshops, interactive stands, a poster campaign and fun activities, the main message was to adopt safer practices, by integrating various safety reflexes.

The Zero Risk Challenge captured the attention of students, while providing concrete answers to the problems they may encounter. The commitment of student associations, partners such as SMERRA and the school's student life department enabled us to offer a varied program that appealed to the widest possible audience.

*a specific type of higher education institutions in France, which are distinguished from regular universities.



A look back at the Forum Commitment & Responsibility 2024



In early October, the Forum of associations brought together nearly 300 students from ECAM Arts et Métiers and ECAM Engineering in year 3, to discuss issues related to community and civic involvement. Organised as part of the "Commitment and Responsibilities" academic module, this forum enables engineering students to meet the prospective associations to which they will commit 25 hours of volunteer work.

The afternoon kicked off with a conference hosted by the ANCIELA association, focusing on the challenges of volunteer involvement among young people. The association emphasized the key role that students can play in society by getting involved in community projects, while also highlighting the positive impact of these commitments on their personal development and professional future. Emphasis was placed on the acquisition of cross-disciplinary skills and the creation of social links within a voluntary framework, in line with today's challenges.

Following the conference, students were able to talk directly to representatives of the many partners associations present on campus for the occasion. The stands were divided into several themes: health and disability, tutoring and mentoring, solidarity, ecology and the environment, and citizenship. These encounters gave students the opportunity to get to grips with a variety of areas of commitment, adapted to what they are looking for and their availability.

International focus





On October 17, ECAM LaSalle brought together students and international partners at its Lyon campus for the International Forum. The aim: to promote study abroad opportunities and prepare students for a possible international career.

"The international forum enabled me to discover different partner universities where I could do my academic mobility in the final year of my engineering cycle." Justin, ECAM Engineering 4 student.

ECAM LaSalle was delighted to welcome some of its partner universities, as well as organisations specialising in international mobility. Canada, England, Germany, Thailand...the universities were able to meet students and present their offers and programs. Students in their final year of the ECAM Arts et Métiers program were also on hand to talk about their past international mobility experiences and answer questions.

"Today I was able to help students interested in Mexico, to possibly do a semester there. We talked about the courses I took at University La Salle Mexico, the cost of living, cultural differences... to help them make the right decisions and take the right steps." Nassim, student-engineer ECAM Arts et Métiers 5.

Organised during Erasmus Days, the international forum also highlighted the importance of cultural diversity in Europe and the opportunities offered by the ERASMUS + program.

FHNW launches new Master in "Human-Centered Digital Innovation"

Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz



From autumn 2025, the FHNW School of Applied Psychology will be offering a new interdisciplinary Master of Science in Human-Centered Digital Innovation. It will train specialists who can develop, introduce and support technical and digital innovations holistically – with a focus on people.

Digital change offers Swiss companies great potential for innovation, growth and optimization. To realize this potential, companies need to adapt to change at all levels and respond to increased complexity with innovative solutions. They need specially trained experts who can take a holistic view of digital innovations and implement them profitably in interdisciplinary teams. The FHNW School of Applied Psychology is responding to companies' need for specialists with interdisciplinary training with the launch of its new Master's program in Human-Centered Digital Innovation (MSc HCDI).

The degree program combines knowledge from psychology, computer science, technology and economics and is characterized by an innovative methodological and didactic concept: Competences are acquired both in the classroom and through practical immersion in companies. In interdisciplinary groups and accompanied by coaches and experts from the field, students support companies in digital innovation projects with process-oriented and technical input. Equally important is the ability to adapt to new challenges and acquire new skills in a self-directed manner. This so-called 'learning agility' is taught during the program through structured learning coaching.

Further information: <u>Master of Science Human-</u> <u>Centered Digital Innovation | FHNW</u>

FHNW School of Life Sciences hosts 5th edition of the Biointerfaces International Conference





From August 20–23, 2024, about 150 researchers, industry representatives and clinicians from 19 countries gathered in Muttenz for the 5th edition of the Biointerfaces International Conference. It was the first time the event was hosted near Basel, Switzerland's pharmaceutical capital, which provided valuable networking opportunities between local and international experts.

Biointerfaces, where synthetic materials and biological systems interact with and engage each other, are one of the most innovative and rapidly expanding areas of science and technology. Understanding and steering bio-material interactions allows us to develop new medications, organoids, 3D cell models, medical devices, implants, and surgical instruments, all of which are important for a healthy population.

The conference opened with a keynote presentation by David Grainger from the University of Utah and closed with a virtual keynote by Molly Stevens from the University of Oxford. In addition to over 40 talks across 7 scientific areas, a pre-conference seminar enabled early-career researchers to directly connect with leading experts to discuss scientific and career development. The exhibition floor was lively, featuring 15 organizations active in microscopy, cell models, and more. Over 40 participants presented scientific posters.

Further information:

<u>Biointerfaces | FHNW</u>

<u>BioInterfaces - ICB Projektplattform</u>

FHNW Institute of Architecture wins Swiss Arc Award 2024 in the 'Next Generation' category





With its entry 'Constructive Futures' the FHNW Institute of Architecture beat off competition from other architecture schools.

The Institute of Architecture's contribution 'Constructive Futures' is characterized by the social and architectural transition to what is likely to be a post-fossil era. The effects of climate change are making us, as a society, aware of the urgency of a major cultural shift. As part of the resource-intensive and emissions-intensive construction industry, more more architects are recognizing responsibility. A wide range of construction approaches are now available for more sustainable spatial development. It is the task of contemporary architects to test these with courage and curiosity, especially within the protected framework of a study program.

The design projects submitted for the Swiss Arc Award for the two thematic academic years 'Beyond Concrete' (21/22) and 'Keeping What's Good' (22/23) are the result of the joint work of students, assistants and lecturers on new methodological, technical and design issues. They symbolize the search by our profession and the teaching that precedes it for new categories of quality and an appropriate architectural language for the building culture of a new era. Threshold projects have been created, characterized by the processes of negotiation and research, whose expression oscillates between the preserved history and the new life that has arrived.

Further information: Institut Architektur | FHNW

NOVEMBER – LATVIA'S MONTH OF CELEBRATION





November is a special time for Latvians to reflect on their history, honor their heroes, and celebrate the freedom they enjoy today. It is a month filled with meaningful traditions and events that bring people together to remember the sacrifices of the past and to appreciate those shaping the nation's future.

At LBTU, the community joins in these celebrations, from artistic performances that uplift the spirit to sporting traditions that highlight unity and perseverance. The illumination of Jelgava Palace Park with candles serves as a heartfelt tribute to Latvia, symbolizing hope, gratitude, and shared pride in the nation. Together, these moments remind us that every small act contributes to the greater good and strengthens the legacy of those who came before us.



PROFESSOR AT MID SWEDEN UNIVERSITY RECEIVES RECOGNITION FROM THE BRITISH ROYAL FAMILY



Professor Koustuv Dalal, at Mid Sweden University, has been elected as a Fellow of the prestigious Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH). The prestigious recognition is awarded to researchers and experts who have made significant contributions to improving public health.

"It's a great recognition of my work, and an opportunity to support younger researchers globally. It is also an important channel for my work with Mid Sweden University's internationalization," says Koustuv Dalal.

International engagement with a global perspective

Koustuv Dalal has been active in the international arena for a long time, including through his work with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other international organizations. His research efforts are particularly focused on health economic evaluations and to create an understanding of public health problems and interventions based on cultural and regional conditions.

"We cannot apply a European view to problems that concern, for example, Asia, Africa or South America. Culture-adapted solutions are crucial to effectively address their specific challenges," he says.

Koustuv Dalal is also active as a distinguished visiting professor at the University of Johannesburg, where he has conducted important health economic studies on gender-based violence. A report he presented showed that the violence cost South African society over SEK 22 billion in 2019 alone.

The results led to concrete measures from the government, such as investments in women's shelters and telephone lines for abused women.

Current research projects

Koustuv Dalal continues to be involved in international collaborations and research projects. At the moment, he is working on an extensive project, funded by the Swedish Research Council, on air pollution from stump burning in India, where the final report will soon be presented to the Indian ambassador at the final report in Sundsvall.

"The Swedish Research Council has also funded a research project that aims to evaluate the 1177 Healthcare Guide together with Umeå University," he says.

Non-profit work

Despite the many international projects, he emphasizes that much of his work is done on a voluntary basis, especially when it comes to dealing with complex social and economic problems such as sexual violence and "sextortion" in South Africa.

"It's a job that requires a lot of commitment and time, but which is incredibly important for influencing and changing societies,"

Koustuv Dalal's recognition from the British royal family is a testament to his long-standing work to improve public health, and his continued international efforts demonstrate a profound desire to influence both the scientific community and the communities in which he works.

New initiative for research leaders aims to increase international collaborations





More international researchers and improved opportunities for companies in the region to recruit internationally – these are some of the goals as Mid Sweden University launches an acceleration programme for future research leaders.

Three researchers from the strategic environment, Transformative Technologies, will be the first to join the pilot initiative.

"There is a need to improve international research funding at Mid Sweden University, and we want to work dynamically to develop our academic environment at the university," says Hans-Erik Nilsson, Professor and Deputy Vice Chancellor for Innovation and Industry Collaboration at Mid Sweden University.

Mid Sweden University's vision is to be a global university with a regional commitment, which includes initiatives for international collaborations. The goal of the acceleration programme is to write at least six successful applications for funding from Horizon Europe, as well as several new international research partners and collaborations in various networks.

"We also hope that more international researchers will start working at Mid Sweden University, and that we will see an increase in mobility for our researchers, both outgoing and incoming. Another vision is to help companies in the region succeed when they recruit international employees and form collaborations," says Hans-Erik Nilsson.

Knowledge Foundation support

The Knowledge Foundation grants SEK 5 million to support the development of the acceleration programme within the strategic environment, Transformative Technologies. This will include mentoring from research leaders at Mid Sweden University and the recruitment of an international guest professor with extensive experience in applications to Horizon Europe programmes. In total, the initiative involves SEK 14,5 million over three years, including co-financing from eight partner companies and Mid Sweden University. "It is gratifying that Mid Sweden University is investing in young, future research leaders.

TransTech has had successful development over several years and was designated as a Strategic Environment by the Knowledge Foundation in 2022. This acceleration programme aligns perfectly with the university's strategy and the Knowledge Foundation's ambition for the environment's development. The initiative has great potential to further strengthen TransTech as a strategic international research and education environment," says Eva Schelin, CEO of the Knowledge Foundation.

Carol Ann Featherstone from Cardiff University has been recruited as a guest professor and mentor in the programme. She is an internationally recognized researcher with extensive experience as a leader of EU projects in coproduction with industry.

Janani wants to create textiles that make a difference





Janani Thiyagarajan, a new PhD student in mechanical engineering at the Sports Tech Research Centre, is researching sustainability in outdoor textiles. "I hope to be able to create solutions that really make a difference.

30-year-old Janani Thiyagarajan, who comes from Chennai in southern India, has extensive experience in the textile field. During both her bachelor's and master's studies, she has studied sustainability in the textile industry and has a total of five years of study experience in the subject. It was obvious that she would continue to research sustainability and outdoor textiles. "My goal is to develop innovative, sustainable solutions for outdoor textiles during my time here at Mid Sweden University," she says.

Janani has now been in Östersund for just over two months and is starting to prepare for his first winter with snow. She spends most of her time in STRC's Material Testing Lab, where textiles can be tested on everything from waterproofness to air permeability and durability.

Where do you see yourself in ten years?

"Then I am an expert in sustainable outdoor textiles and contribute to shaping the future of the industry.

SEEU Takes Part in the Berlin Process Conference for Science, Education, and Innovation





To mark the 10th anniversary of the Berlin Process, South East European University, represented by its rector, recently participated in the 8th Annual Conference of Science, Education, Research, and Innovation Stakeholders, held from September 30 to October 1, 2024, in Berlin, Germany.

The conference focused on building strong scientific and innovation networks across the region, aiming to create a collaborative space that encourages groundbreaking research and technological advancements. SEEU's presence highlighted key discussions on crafting effective policies to increase both public and private research funding—a crucial step for supporting cutting-edge projects in the Western Balkans.

One of the main outcomes of the event is expected to be a Joint Statement with recommendations for the upcoming Western Balkans Summit, where leaders will consider these ideas as part of a strategy for regional growth and cooperation. SEEU is proud to be part of this journey towards a future driven by science, education, and innovation!



Health Sciences Hosts Breast Cancer Awareness Event: Knowledge, Prevention, and Empowerment









The Faculty of Health Sciences, with the support of the Rotary Club of Tetova, held an impactful event in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month (BCAM). The session, focused on "Breast Cancer Prevention and Raising Awareness," aimed to empower students and the community with knowledge on breast health and the critical importance of early detection.

The event offered practical insights on staying proactive about health, from regular check-ups to lifestyle tips that can help boost the chances of survival for those at risk. With discussions led by medical experts, students learned how small habits—like regular screenings and exercise—can make a huge difference.

The session was a powerful reminder that awareness saves lives and emphasized the importance of self-care for everyone. Thanks to the Faculty of Health Sciences for helping spread knowledge that can truly make an impact!

SEEU's First-Ever Paintball Tournament Hits the Mark!





South East European University hosted its inaugural paintball tournament, a high-energy event organized by the Student Parliament and Association. This exciting initiative gave students a fantastic opportunity to break away from the books, make new friends, and add some action-packed memories to their university life.

"When we decided to organize the tournament, our goal was clear: to create a tradition that brings students together every year," said Student Parliament President Mevlan Ademi. "The turnout and enthusiasm from everyone proved just how eager students are for more events like this."

The tournament saw eight teams made up of students from various faculties battle it out in friendly competition. While the focus was on fun and friendship, there was also a little something extra for the top teams: certificates of appreciation for the first three places, provided by SEEU's Sports Department.

With such a successful start, this paintball tournament promises to become a favorite annual tradition at SEEU—so gear up for even more thrills in the years to come!





Universidad Europea de Valencia launches grants to promote inclusion and diversity in academia





The European University of Valencia has launched a new initiative to promote inclusion and diversity in the academic environment. Under the name 'Inclusion: The path that unites us', this proposal of the European University Foundation, in collaboration with Santander Universities and the Educational Guidance, Diversity and Inclusion Unit (ODI), aims to promote equal opportunities. The call seeks to support students who may have limited access to higher education, promoting academic progress on equal terms.

The initiative offers six financial aid grants for students with Specific Educational Support Needs. With a total fund of 11,000 euros, these grants aim to facilitate access to and participation in doctoral, master's, bachelor's and vocational training studies. This effort is in line with the UN's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4, which seeks to ensure inclusive, equitable and quality education to improve people's lives.

With this first call for diversity grants, the European University Foundation reaffirms its commitment to creating a more inclusive and accessible university community. 'Inclusion: The path that unites us' not only promotes the academic development of students with special needs, but also contributes to building a more equitable and caring society, in line with the global goals of sustainable development.

See the rules and regulations

https://app.santanderopenacademy.com/es/program/ayudas-a-la-diversidad-2024

UNIVERSIDAD EUROPEA DE VALENCIA ORGANISES THE 1ST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON AI WITH INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS IN COLLABORATION WITH THE GENERALITAT VALENCIANA



Organising research group, INJURSOC: Esma Kucukalic Sonia Iborra, Vanessa Pérez and José Tomás Arnau, with the Congress director, Dr. Antonio Quirós.

The European University of Valencia, in collaboration with the Department of Education of the Generalitat Valenciana, is organising a transdisciplinary International Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AI) entitled 'Intelligence in the classroom: Experiences and challenges for an ethical use". The event, aligned with the European Research and Innovation Strategy 2020–2024, aims to explore innovative, people-centred solutions and facilitate the digital transition through an ethical and regulated approach to AI.

The conference, which was held in hybrid mode, was attended by international experts from countries such as the United States, Mexico, Colombia, France, Spain and the United Kingdom. The main topics include the use of AI in education, the development of digital skills, the social and environmental impact of AI, and its integration in research work.

During the conference, there will be plenary sessions, symposia and interactive workshops, with a keynote lecture by Dr. Nuria Lloret, who will address the challenges and opportunities of Al in education. The event will end with the presentation of certificates and the special session 'Al and Health', led by Professor Raymond Duch from Oxford University.



Universidad Europea de Valencia inaugurates the academic year with a solemn opening ceremony on its Alicante campus





The European University of Valencia officially opened the 2024-2025 academic year with a solemn ceremony at its Alicante campus, which was attended by regional and academic authorities. In its second year in this city, the campus welcomes more than 500 undergraduate and postgraduate students in the field of health, highlighting innovation and sustainability as the central themes of its educational proposal. During the ceremony, the rector Rosa Sanchidrián highlighted the social and economic impact that the university seeks to generate in the region.

For her part, the regional secretary for Universities, M. Esther Gómez, underlined the European University's commitment to innovation and academic excellence, highlighting its role within higher education in the Valencia Region. Gómez also praised the scholarships and grants offered by the institution, assuring that these initiatives, together with those of the Consell, guarantee access to education for all students with potential.

The day included a masterclass focused on vaccination and motherhood, given by Dr. Noelia Rodríguez, director of the Alicante campus. The importance of training health professionals and the crucial role of the university in this process was also emphasised.



Student EXPO at UWM: Opportunities Beyond the Classroom



For the third time, the University Council of the Student Government at the University of Warmia and Mazury (UWM) invited students to the University Library for Student EXPO, an open day showcasing extracurricular opportunities. The event brought together dozens of students scientific circles, companies, social organizations, cultural groups, and sports teams, offering students a chance to explore their passions and talents.

Vice Chair of the Student Government, Iwona Pająk, emphasized the event's growing popularity, attracting students from all years. "With 72 exhibitors this year, students can discover opportunities in sports, culture, and research, or join social initiatives and companies. It's a chance to learn that university life goes beyond lectures—it's about self-discovery and skill-building."

UWM leaders, including Rector Prof. Jerzy Przyborowski, praised the initiative. "I'm impressed by this event—it's a fantastic way for students to discover passions that could shape their future careers," the Rector noted.

Student EXPO also highlighted career prospects, featuring employers like EY Poland and the Police Recruitment Section. In parallel, UWM's University Guard offered first aid workshops, and the Open Academic Budget initiative encouraged students to contribute ideas to enhance campus spaces.

With its mix of sports, culture, science, and career opportunities, Student EXPO has firmly established itself as one of key events at UWM, inspiring many students to pursue new passions and personal growth.

ChallengeEU



UWM organized an event to celebrate Poland's two decades in the European Union



The University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, in collaboration with the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, organized an event to celebrate Poland's two decades in the European Union. The academic community, joined by special guests such as Jerzy Buzek, Dorota Wellman, and Radek Kotarski, reflected on the opportunities and challenges of EU membership. The event featured discussions, joint cooking, artistic performances, and showcased how belonging to the European community has connected diverse experiences.

The celebrations began with a performance of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" at the UWM Conference Centre on October 17, followed by a series of events reflecting on Poland's EU journey. It was also an opportunity to look ahead, considering the Europe we want for future generations.

Guests, including former Prime Minister and European Parliament President Jerzy Buzek, journalist Dorota Wellman, and science popularizer Radek Kotarski, joined UWM Rector Jerzy Przyborowski for a debate on Poland's integration into the EU. Prof. Buzek discussed the challenges and criticisms faced before Poland's accession, including legal adjustments and certifications, but stressed the importance of careful negotiations. He also highlighted the significance of the EU and the need for cooperation, especially in light of the current geopolitical situation.

Discussions continued with a panel on the impact of EU membership on society, featuring regional leaders such as Warmian-Masurian Voivode Radosław Król and Marshal Marcin Kuchciński. They emphasized the improvements in the region, such as reduced unemployment and the benefits of EU investments. Kuchciński pointed out key future challenges, including green transformation, renewable energy, and technological innovation.

In another discussion, local authorities stressed the importance of private investments in Olsztyn's growth, while UWM's Prof. Jerzy Przyborowski highlighted the university's responsibility to align education with regional needs, focusing on smart specializations like healthy living and green digitalization.

ChallengeEU

UWM RECOGNIZED IN THE GLOBAL RANKING OF ACADEMIC SUBJECTS (GRAS)





The University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn has once again been recognized in the Global Ranking of Academic Subjects (GRAS), also known as the Shanghai Subject Ranking. This prestigious list includes the university for its achievements in two disciplines: Veterinary Sciences and Agricultural Sciences. Of particular note is the success of Veterinary Sciences, which ranked in the 51–75 range. This makes UWM the undisputed leader in this field in Poland.

Veterinary researchers from Olsztyn have every reason to be proud—their efforts have placed the University of Warmia and Mazury among the world's top institutions. he Kortowo veterinary faculty has steadily climbed the rankings: two years ago, it was ranked in the 151–200 range, last year in the 101–150 range, and this year it has reached 51–75.

Meanwhile, Agricultural Sciences maintained its position in the same range as last year (201–300). In the Shanghai ranking, this discipline encompasses not only agriculture and horticulture but also animal husbandry and fisheries. UWM's success in this category is the result of efforts by representatives from the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry and the Faculty of Animal Bioengineering.

This year's GRAS edition introduced several methodological updates, particularly regarding the evaluation of academic excellence. This includes metrics such as prestigious awards won by researchers, inclusion on the Highly Cited Researchers list, roles as editors-in-chief of journals indexed in Journal Citation Reports, and leadership positions in international scientific organizations.

In 2024, the GRAS ranking evaluated over 1,900 universities from 96 countries. The assessment covered 55 disciplines across five fields: natural sciences, engineering, life sciences, medical sciences, and social sciences.