

International Relations Newsletter



**NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

Department: Corporate Engagement
and Internationalisation



Table of Contents

Foreword	4
International Partners Week	
First International Partner Week a Success	6
SIAN Calls for Internationalisation Beyond Mobilities	9
NUST Explores Strategic Partnership with the University of Warwick	10
NUST Partners with EY to Host Higher Education Fair 2025	12
Strengthening Global and Inclusive Education Partnerships	14
Outbound Staff Exchange	
Polish University Welcomes NUST Academics	18
NUST Represented at Metropolia IPW, Again!	20
NUST Represented at DHBW Ravensburg International Partnership Week	22
Staff Network at Metropolia	24
Journalism and Digital Arts Lecturers Visit Poland	26
NUST Staff Attend International Staff Week in Lithuania	28
NUST Staff at Huelva	30
Inbound Staff Exchange	
Hungarian Academics Visit NUST for Teaching Staff Exchange	34
B360 Experts Share Knowledge and Experience with NUST Students	36
Visiting Professor from Huelva University meets Hon Dino Ballotti	38
Malaga University's Grand Office Administrator Orientates NUST Secretaries	40
University of Malaga Assist NUST to Introduce Translation and Interpretation Courses	42
Cullinary Arts Programme Hosts Turkish Academic	44
Students Exchanges Inbound and Outbound	
A Journey from Oranjemund to Clausthal-Zellerfeld	48
Exchange Students hosted by NUST	50
NUST Strengthens Ties with University of Oradea through Erasmus+ Blended Mobility	52
Six NUST Students Complete Swiss Internships	56
GIPE Project Returns in Full Swing in 2025	58
NUST Joins Global 5G Learning Initiative	60



Foreword

By Ms Gervasius Nashilongo
*Acting Director of Corporate Engagement
and Internationalisation*

With warmest regards and a spirit of global partnership, I welcome you to this edition of our University's International Relations Newsletter, a publication that celebrates the achievements, partnerships, and milestones of our university as we continue to strengthen our university's global footprint and build bridges of collaboration that reach far beyond our borders.

Looking back at 2024, one of our proudest moments was hosting the very first NUST International Partners Week, which brought together participants from 11 universities across 5 European nations to our campus. This historic event underscored our commitment to fostering enduring global partnerships, facilitating meaningful dialogue and nurturing collaborations that advance research in science, technology, innovation and entrepreneurship. This step demonstrated our small efforts towards inclusive and globally relevant education.

Our staff mobility programmes continue to grow increasingly, facilitating exchanges of both academic and administrative between our university and partners. We have proudly participated in international partnership weeks and short-term teaching mobilities with esteemed institutions such as the International University of Logistics and Transport in Poland, DHBW Ravensburg in Germany, Metropolia University of Applied Sciences in Finland, the University of Social and Media Culture in Toruń, and Vilnius University in Lithuania.



These collaborations enrich our staff professionally as they bring back valuable insights that strengthen our teaching, research, and administration, while enhancing the university's global visibility and academic standing. At the same time, we've welcomed inspiring visitors to NUST. This year, our Faculty of Human Science, Commerce and Education hosted a distinguished Professor of Sport Science, and we were equally delighted to receive Hungarian academics for a staff exchange in the Department of Logistics and Sport Management. These visits not only broaden perspectives but also remind us how interconnected our academic communities truly are.

Our partnership with the University of Oradea in Romania under the Erasmus+ 2021-2027 Blended Mobility Programme continues to grow, opening up new opportunities for collaborative teaching and learning that combine physical and virtual exchange.

Similarly, our ties with Spanish universities have deepened, especially through our long-standing relationship with the University of Málaga, where our shared passion for language and cultural exchange has fostered meaningful experiences on both sides.

Through our agreement with the B360 Education Partnerships Programme that has been in place since 2009, we continue to see encouraging growth in the number of students undertaking internships in various fields and industries in Switzerland. These internships provide invaluable hands-on experience, exposure to international work environments, and the development of global competencies that our graduates will carry into their professional careers. The B360 programme at the same time also facilitates mobility of Swiss experts into our academic activities across all faculties of which this year of 2025 Seven (7) Swiss Experts joined our Faculty of Health, Natural Resources and Applied Sciences.

As we celebrate a decade of NUST's existence as a university this year, we take pride in the Department's division of International Relations continued efforts to formalise partnerships through Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs), and in facilitating the hosting diplomatic guests and representatives from local businesses, national institutions, and regional academic partners. These engagements affirm our reputation as a reliable knowledge partner within Namibia and beyond. Our active affiliation with the Association of African Universities (AAU) and its regional body the Association of African Universities for Southern Africa (AAU SARO), as well as our ongoing involvement in global university ranking initiatives, bears testimony to our department's dedication to advancing the university's internationalisation agenda. These milestones speak of a story of progress - one of a university that is confidently positioning itself as a hub of research in science and technology and innovation, and a leader in collaboration in the same field offering academic excellence on the African continent. Most importantly, these engagements showcase how far our internationalisation agenda has come, and how much more we can achieve together.

This year of 2025, our department proudly embarked on the pivotal work of developing the university's internationalisation policy, laying the foundation for a more connected and globally engaged future. I am especially proud of the unwavering dedication shown by our working group, whose collaborative effort has brought forth the university's first-ever Internationalisation Policy with both vision and integrity.

Our collective work in furthering the internationalisation agenda of the university, reminds us at Department of the Corporate Engagement and Internationalisation, to remain committed to delivering on our mandate, extending our university's brand, values, and impact beyond the academic fora of Namibia, into the wider African region and the global community.

On a personal note, I was deeply honoured to lead a delegation of ten (10) administrative colleagues to the University of Huelva in southern Spain, an experience that reaffirmed the transformative power of mobility and exchange. The remote yet inspiring town of Huelva offered immense learning and renewed perspective - that even for a frequent traveller like myself, it served as a reminder that from our mighty land of sand dunes and the Namibia Desert, we will go anywhere in the world to meet our partners, share ideas, and co-create strategies for a globally relevant education that meets the challenges of the 21st century.

Together, we continue to tell the story of a university that is global in vision, African in spirit, and unwavering in its pursuit of excellence.



International Partners Week

First International Partner Week a Success

A new standard in the internationalisation of higher education in Namibia has been set by the International Relations (IR) section under the Department of Corporate Engagement and Internationalisation at the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), after hosting its first 2024 International Partner Week (IPW). Held from 04 to 08 November 2024, under the theme, "Cultural Competence for Diversity and Inclusion in Higher Education," the IPW hosted a week-long training event for administrative and academic staff members from its network of partner universities abroad.

In an increasingly globalised world, higher education institutions hold a crucial role in promoting internationalisation and cross-cultural understanding to demonstrate their commitment to advancing internationalisation. Thus, it has become a standard practice for International Relations offices at higher education institutions worldwide to organise and host week-long training programmes for administrative or academic staff from universities within their international partner networks commonly known as International Staff Week (ISW) or IPW. "Staff at NUST, particularly from the International Relations Section, have been fortunate enough to attend similar international training weeks at universities in Europe and South Africa. We thought it would be an interesting and rewarding challenge to organise and host such an event at NUST," said Nico Smit, the NUST IPW Coordinator.

The Usually the objective of ISW/IPW is to focus on specific themes and include workshops, seminars, and training sessions alongside networking events and cultural excursions to enhance professional development, promote cross-cultural competence, and strengthen international networks. The NUST 2024 IPW accommodated 21 participants from 11 universities across five European nations and was attended by participants from Germany, Austria, Finland, Switzerland and Lithuania. Beaming with pride, Smit is certain that the planning and organising of the NUST IPW, while hosting it for the first time, was a substantial success, and milestone moment for the IR Section, and the university at large. "We are incredibly proud of what we have achieved. This was an opportunity for us to learn, grow, and develop as professionals, and as a team," he said.

The IPW participants each delivered a presentation on the policies and formal approaches taken by their home universities to foster cultural diversity and promote inclusivity. Suvi Ruippo, International Relations Advisor at Metropolia University of Applied Sciences, Finland, delivered a presentation on the Inclusive Comprehensive Internationalisation (ICI) Project, which aims to enhance global learning opportunities for all students. This is a multi-year, five-partner consortium project of which the Metropolia University of Applied Sciences is a participant. A key event of the IPW was a roundtable discussion featuring Namibian students that had participated in Erasmus+ or German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) funded semester mobilities abroad. During this session the participants heard first-hand accounts of the challenges faced by young Namibians taking international mobilities.

With cultural exploration and exchange being a primary objective of the IPW, the event participants enjoyed numerous opportunities to expand their horizons. Included in the programme was a Food Sharing and Cultural Evening, where all participants brought along and shared food and drinks typical of their home country or region. The NUST IR Team put to the test the adventurous nature of the IPW participants, offering traditional Namibian delicacies such as Smileys, Matangara, Marathon Chicken, and Chicken Feet. Also included in the programme was a tour of Windhoek city, culminating in a visit at the Katutura Single Quarters, where the participants had the opportunity to sample Kapana and Vetkoek.

The 2024 IPW ended with a visit to Harnas Wildlife Foundation and Guest Farm near Gobabis in the Omaheke region. Here the participants took part in the Ancient San Skills Academy, which exposed them to traditional San culture, touching on survival in the bush, traditional medicine, hunting techniques and animal tracking.



Ms Annastasia Sinalumbu, Erasmus+ Focal Person in the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sport Arts and Culture , Ms Himeesora Kaimu, Director of Quality Assurance, H. E. Ana Beatriz Martins, European Union Ambassador to Namibia , Prof Eroid Naomab, NUST Vice-Chancellor pictured with NUST staff and International Staff Week Participants .



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SIAN Calls for Internationalisation Beyond Mobilities

The Stellenbosch International Academic Network (SIAN) Partner Week held in Western Cape, South Africa, in March this year emphasised that internationalisation must transcend mobility metrics.

The gathering brought together higher education institutions from across the globe to deepen international cooperation and reflect on responsible global engagement. SIAN reinforced the importance of responsible internationalisation that prioritises mutual benefit, social impact, and contextual relevance, particularly within the Global South.

The Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) was represented by Ms Yatva Hinda, International Relations Officer, who participated in strategic dialogues, networked with current and potential partners, and engaged in critical discussions on the evolving role of international relations in higher education.

A key message echoed throughout the week was that internationalisation is more than staff and students mobilities. Speaker after speaker called for academic global collaborations which support global justice and offer a framework for institutions to realign their internationalisation agendas. As Prof Luciane Stallivieri from the Federal University of Santa Catarina, Brazil, noted: "Internationalisation should be a behaviour, not a department".

Panel discussions and workshops offered a refreshing perspective on partnership typologies, advocating for tailored engagements based on the depth and nature of collaboration. Whether research-focused, mobility-based, or centred on capacity building, categorising partnerships enables better alignment of expectations, resources, and institutional strategies. The importance of accountability was also highlighted, with recommendations to adopt clear governance structures, define performance indicators, and utilise agile evaluation tools to track partnership impact over time.



NUST Explores Strategic Partnership with University of Warwick

The Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) is currently in discussions with the University of Warwick in Coventry, United Kingdom, to establish a partnership in areas such as Business and Management, Computer Science, and Information Technology.

The dialogue was initiated during a meeting between Professor Daniel Branch, Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Africa) and Academic Director of the Doctoral College at Warwick, and Mr Nashilongo Gervasius, Acting Director of Corporate Engagement and Internationalisation at NUST. Professor Branch had earlier attended NUST's recent graduation ceremony as a guest speaker.

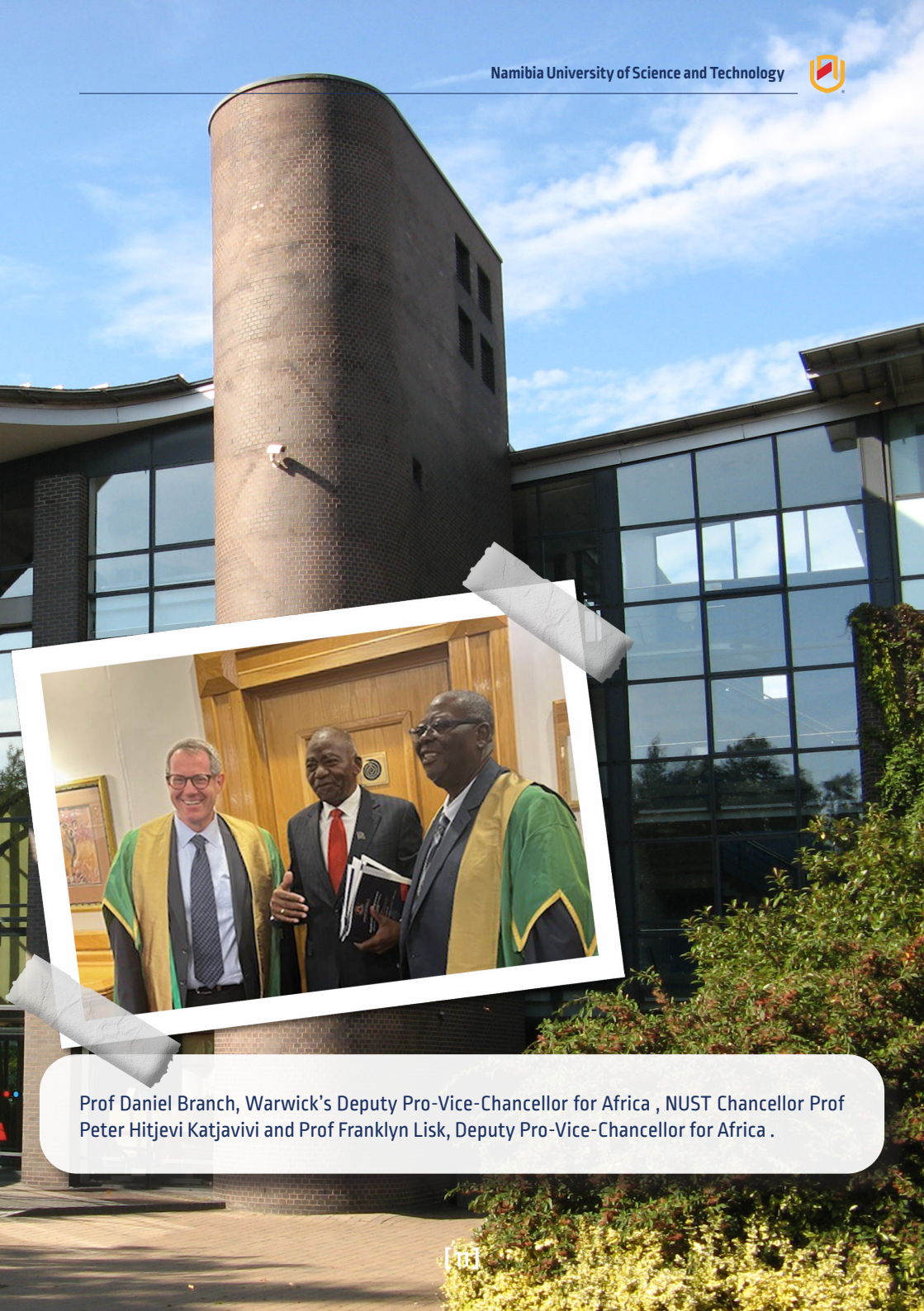
Discussions centred on faculty collaboration, with both institutions exploring opportunities for joint research projects, curriculum development, and the exchange of best practices in teaching. Further areas of interest included dual-degree programmes in Business, Engineering, Computer Science, and Environmental Sciences. Another exciting proposal under review is the establishment of a joint Innovation and Entrepreneurship Hub to support start-ups targeting both African and European markets.

Also present at the meeting were Professor Franklyn Lisk, Co-Director for Africa in the International Strategy and Relations team, and Ms Sally Smith, Director of International Strategy and Relations at Warwick.

The Warwick delegation to Namibia comprised seven members, including Mr Sachdev Nilesbhai Jayantilal, the incoming Chair of the University Council, and Professor Stuart Croft, Vice-Chancellor and President of the University. Their visit was also marked by a special celebration in honour of Warwick's seventh Chancellor, Advocate Bience Gawanas.

The celebration, held at the NUST Hotel School, featured presentations, speeches, and an alumni panel that engaged with current Warwick students and staff.

Reflecting on the visit, Professor Branch emphasised that both the engagements with NUST and the Chancellor's celebration underscored Warwick's commitment to forging deep, strategic partnerships across Africa, while strengthening its reputation as a truly global university.



Prof Daniel Branch, Warwick's Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Africa , NUST Chancellor Prof Peter Hitjevi Katjavivi and Prof Franklyn Lisk, Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Africa .



NUST Partners with EU to Host Higher Education Fair 2025

The International Relations Office (IRO) at NUST partnered with the European Union (EU) Delegation to Namibia, member states, and other local universities for the 2025 edition of the EU Higher Education Fair in June 2025.

As NUST celebrates its 10-year anniversary, IRO found the event fitting as a celebration of the University's decade of eminence and its continuous partnership with the EU. Fourteen exhibitors from various institutes excitedly engaged with students and stakeholders on what they had to offer - ranging from undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD opportunities as well as capacity-building and professional development programmes. IRO prides itself in facilitating exchanges of this calibre with student and staff exchanges, faculty visits and ensuring all memoranda of understanding are implemented to the benefit of the institutions involved.

The EU Higher Education Fair was officially opened by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Eroid Naomab, while H.E. Ms Ana Beatriz Martins, the European Union Ambassador to Namibia, Deputy Executive Director Ms Edda Bohn from the Ministry of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sport, Arts, and Culture and Hon Mbahimwa Fenny Tutjavi, member of Parliament, delivered remarks.

Prof Naomab reiterated that "internationalisation of higher education is increasingly becoming a strategic policy objective of many universities, and as education changes globally, the need to produce holistic graduates with the requisite knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes to function in diverse cultural and competitive global contexts has increased too."

Over the past five years, NUST has sent more than 100 students and staff for exchanges to Europe through Erasmus+ mobilities, as well as participated in several EU member states mobilities and scholarship educational programmes facilitated by the IRO.

The fair offered an opportunity to strengthen existing partnerships, create collaborative opportunities, and build new networks. NUST exchange students from various faculties shared their experiences with fellow students from application, studies and cultural perspectives.

Speaker after speaker urged universities to continue encouraging staff and students to pursue various opportunities and provide education fit for global citizens.

Namibian universities have a collective responsibility to internationalise education, and there is no other better enabler than the EU-Namibia Higher Education Fair 2025.



Representatives from EU countries: Ms Emilia Colemin Redond, Deputy Head of Mission Spanish Embassy, H.E Rui Carmo Ambassador of Portugal in Namibia, Ms Anastasia Sinalumbu from Education Ministry, H.E Ana Beatriz Martins- EU Ambassador to Namibia, Hon. Mbahimwa Fenny Tutjavi- Member of Parliament, Ms Edda Bohn - Deputy Executive Director - MEIYSAC and NUST Vice-Chancellor Prof Erol Ndumab.



Strengthening Global and Inclusive Education Partnerships

...welcoming two key partners aboard

Nurture Higher Education Group

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between NUST and the Nurture Higher Education Group (UK), a transnational education provider focused on expanding access to international learning opportunities. The agreement aims to support NUST's internationalisation strategy by exploring a Global Academy Partnership Model, broadening student and faculty development opportunities, and fostering academic collaborations.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, NUST Vice-Chancellor, Prof Eroid Naomab, highlighted the importance of such partnerships, stating that "this agreement paves the way for transformative academic engagement, providing our students and staff with invaluable global exposure."

Representing the Nurture Higher Education Group, Mr Oscar Colin praised NUST's forward-thinking approach. "NUST is at the forefront of embracing internationalisation, and we are excited to collaborate in shaping the future of transnational education," he said.

Foundation for Information Technology Accessibility (FITA)

Further strengthening NUST's commitment to accessibility in education, a Collaboration Agreement was signed with the Foundation for Information Technology Accessibility (FITA), in Malta. This partnership seeks to enhance digital accessibility and develop innovative solutions that support less able students.

The signing ceremonies were attended by distinguished guests, including Dominic McVey, Honourary Consul of Namibia to Wales; H.E Linda Scott, High Commissioner to the UK, Malta, Greece and Ireland; and Charles Moore, representing the British High Commissioner to Namibia.

H.E Scott passionately spoke about advancing international growth between Europe and Africa, leveraging on different areas that equally benefit all parties involved.





Outbound Staff Exchange







Polish University Welcomes NUST Academics

Three lecturers from NUST's Faculty of Commerce, Human Sciences and Education spent a week at the International University of Logistics and Transport (IULT), Poland, on international staff exchange which saw them lecture and provide Namibian perspectives to Polish students on global topics.

Dr Gloria Tshoopara, *Head of the Department of Marketing, Logistics, and Sport Management*, **Prof Nikodemus Angula**, *Head of the Department of Governance and Management Sciences*, and **Mr Moses Shuuya**, *a Management Sciences Lecturer*, travelled to Wroclaw, Poland, during May 2025 to visit IULT on Erasmus+ funded exchanges.

The three NUST academics participated in IULT's Global Webinars, a series of seminars delivered by global academics and experts in the Transportation, Forwarding and Logistics (TFL), industry.

Dr Tshoopara's participation in the Global Webinar Series saw her deliver a lecture on Road and Rail Transportation Systems, allowing her to share African transportation perspectives. For his seminar, Prof Angula gave a talk on Business Information Systems, while Mr Shuuya delivered a lecture on the Framework for the Management of Technological Innovations. The seminars delivered by the NUST lecturers were well attended by IULT staff and students alike, and each was followed by lively engagement and dialogue.

The three NUST staff members also had the opportunity to deliver guest lectures to IULT students as part of their normal curriculum. Prof Angula, Mr Shuuya and Dr Tshoopara presented topics to IULT students that are taught at NUST, and in this way introduced the Polish students to new concepts and contexts, providing a globalised perspective that will broaden understanding application.



This was a second visit to IULT for Dr Tshoopara, who had visited the Wrocław-based university in 2023. “I am very happy to have been given the opportunity to return to IULT, and deepen the connections made two years ago,” she said. During the visit Dr Tshoopara also met with representatives from IULT’s International Relations Department, where discussions revolved around opportunities for strategic collaboration in the field of Transport and Logistics. “Joint curriculum development, and the integration of eLearning strategies to enhance knowledge exchange across borders were key focus areas that we touched on,” she commented.

For both Mr Shuuya and Prof Angula, this was their first visit to IULT. They both made the most of the opportunity to broaden their professional networks and lay the foundation for collaborative projects with academics from IULT.

“It has been a great learning experience, and participating in the Global Webinars Series was a wonderful opportunity to gain exposure, to put ourselves out there, to showcase what NUST and Namibia has to offer and build the reputation of our university,” Prof Angula said. His sentiments were shared by Mr Shuuya, who said that teaching foreign students in a new environment had been a very enriching and rewarding experience.

Dr Tshoopara also met with Chrisley Dlamine, a NUST student who was on an Erasmus+ funded semester exchange at IULT. Between 2022 and 2025 seven international mobilities from NUST to IULT have taken place. Three have been students, each taking part in a semester exchange while four have been staff exchanges.



NUST Represented at Metropolia IPW, Again!

For the third year running an academic from the Namibia University of Science and Technology travelled to Helsinki, Finland, to participate in the International Project Week (IPW), an internationalisation activity that brings together students and academics from across the world.

Dr Gloria Tshoopara, Head of the Department of Marketing, Logistics and Sport Management, participated in the 21st IPW at Metropolia, becoming only the fourth academic from NUST to participate in this prestigious activity. The IPW is an annual event, organised and hosted by the Helsinki-based university, where international students and faculty collaborate on projects related to a specific business theme, often focusing on sustainability and corporate social responsibility.

This year the IPW took place from 12 – 16 May 2025. The week-long event involves lectures and workshops facilitated by academics, from Metropolia and that university's network of international partner institutions, and project work culminating in student presentations. Business Management students from Metropolia and its partner universities attend the IPW lectures and are divided into mixed groups for the project work and presentations. The initiative aims to foster cross-cultural collaboration, knowledge exchange, and the development of innovative solutions to real-world business challenges.

At the 2025 IPW Dr Tshoopara delivered lectures focused on Sustainable Transportation in Namibia, with particular emphasis on business ethics, green logistics, mode choice, and accessibility.



Her sessions had a high attendance rate from among students and faculty members, leading to insightful discussions. “My participation in Metropolia’s IPW was a thoroughly rewarding academic experience, and the event’s theme, “Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility,” set the stage for rich engagement, innovation and cross-cultural learning,” Dr Tshoopara said.

The NUST academic also had the opportunity to coach a group of undergraduate and postgraduate students on a sustainability case focused on rail transportation in Namibia, with TransNamib as the subject.

“Despite only having online access to company information, the students demonstrated remarkable critical thinking and analytical skills, crafting a well-informed presentation that reflected their grasp of both global sustainability principles and regional transport dynamics,” she said.

Dr Tshoopara added that this kind of international problem-solving exercise not only deepened their understanding of the complexities involved in sustainable infrastructure but also reinforced the valued of global learning perspectives in higher education.

The IPW also included a well curated social programme, which further elevated the experience, offering cultural immersion, networking with fellow academics, and exposure to Helsinki’s sustainability initiatives and architectural heritage. Dr Tshoopara’s participation in the Metropolia IPW was made possible through an International Credit Mobility (ICM) funded by Erasmus+.



NUST Represented at DHBW Ravensburg International Partnership Week

Two NUST staff members, **Kuda Brandt** and **Cheryl Kahatjipara**, recently travelled to Germany to represent the university at the International Partnership Week, hosted by Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg (DHBW) Ravensburg. Funded by the Erasmus+ programme and facilitated by NUST's International Relations office, the event brought together university professionals from around the world to foster collaboration and share best practices in higher education.

During the week-long engagement, the NUST representatives participated in numerous sessions and interactive discussions covering a wide range of topics relevant to global higher education. "Something that particularly piqued my interest was Germany's free education system," said Brandt from the Corporate Engagement and Internationalisation Department. "I believe public lectures and panel discussions could serve as effective platforms to engage key stakeholders and raise awareness about the growing movement toward tuition-free tertiary education."



Kahatjipara, the Office of the NUST Vice-Chancellor, added, “I greatly appreciate this opportunity. I was impressed by their innovative integration of industry partners throughout a student's journey. Moreover, their commitment to Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) and providing students with a modest salary showcases a thoughtful model that effectively bridges education and real-world experience.”

The participants were also given a tour of DHBW Ravensburg's in-house production studio, which offers TV and radio services to the public, a valuable resource for community engagement that strengthens the university's brand.

The tour highlighted the vital role of digital storytelling and media in enhancing institutional visibility and international branding.





Staff Network at Metropolia

Three NUST Administrative Staff attend the International Staff Week (ISW) at the Metropolia University of Applied Sciences in Helsinki, Finland.

Zodidi Gaseb, an *International Relations Officer*, **Dione Izaks**, the *Coordinator: Academic Support* at *Harold Pupkewitz Graduate School of Business*, and **Brownyn Mutrifa**, *Chief Operation Officer in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor* attended the intensive five-day ISW programme designed for administrative staff from partner institutions from all over the world with the aim to honour their partnerships.

The purpose of the Staff Week was to network; share experiences and best practices regarding one's own work with the international colleagues and the hosts at Metropolia.

For Gaseb, it was imperative to promote and honour collaboration and partnership within the two universities, whilst engaging in conversations to share challenges faced by students and staff when participating in semester exchange programmes.



The visit enables staff cohesion among NUST colleagues for better support with IR activities, enhanced employee experiences and cultural exchange. "One of the top priorities of a visit such as this is to continuously build better strategies for enhancing student and staff exchange programmes by exchanging best practices in Erasmus+ mobility management", emphasised Gaseb.

"The approach of the Finnish education system would benefit Namibian students because of its practical and industrial approach. The emphasis on real-world projects and collaborations with companies can have a fundamental impact on the overall learning experience, but this goal can only be achieved if we develop and foster a deep understanding of cross-cultural collaboration," Izaks narrated.

Other Universities which attended the ISW were the Durban University of Technology (South Africa) and Lakehead University (Canada).

Sharing his visit experience, Mutrifa exclaimed excitement through the experience and shared how "enhancing digital infrastructure is an investment in smart learning environments by ensuring well-equipped facilities that support innovation and collaboration."

Overall, exchange programmes facilitated by the International Office are important because they offer transformative thinking, educational, cultural and professional benefits for students and staff.



Journalism and Digital Arts Lecturers Visit Poland





Two academics from the Departments of Journalism and Media Technology and Digital Arts and Animation, respectively, travelled to the hometown of famous Polish astronomer, Nicolaus Copernicus, for a week-long exchange to the University of Social and Media Culture of Torun (AKSiM).

Dr Hugh Ellis, a *Senior Lecturer in the Department of Journalism and Media Technology*, and **Jordaan Andima**, a *Senior Lecturer in the Department of Digital Arts and Animation*, travelled to Torun during the 2025 first semester for international exchanges. Their exchanges were made possible through International Credit Mobility (ICM) grants funded by Erasmus+.

During their visit to AKSiM, Dr Ellis and Ms Andima lectured students at the Polish university on numerous topics. These included Photojournalistic Coverage of Disasters and Conflicts in the Global South, the Symbolic Significance of Herero Culture in Namibia, the Potential Risks of Using Artificial Intelligence in Newsrooms, and the Ethical Use of Social Media by Journalists. Dr Ellis and Ms Andima also delivered presentations at AKSiM's International Conference, New Media: #Credibility.

"This was my first visit to AKSiM and Poland, more generally, and I must say that it was been an incredibly rewarding experience, both professionally and personally," Dr Ellis commented of the exchange. He added that the exposure to new and different methods and strategies for teaching and learning, and the opportunity to present at an international conference were key moments that stood out for him.

For Ms Andima, this trip marked a return to Torun as she had previously visited the institution in 2022. "I am very happy and honoured to have had the opportunity to return to AKSiM to once again lecture students, and this time deliver a presentation at a prestigious conference," she said.

As part of their visit, Dr Ellis and Ms Andima were also given a tour of AKSiM's TV station studio, where they had a chance to exchange ideas with the studio manager and learn more about the station's operations. The NUST academics also had an opportunity to meet with Prof. Veslava Osinska and Prof Anna Rakowska, both lecturers at AKSiM who will visit NUST in the 2025 second semester. They also met with Priskilla Petrus, a Journalism and Media Technology student from NUST, who took an Erasmus+ funded semester exchange to AKSiM in the first half of 2025.

The partnership between NUST and AKSiM, while still relatively young, has seen a number of student and staff exchanges take place. Since 2022, 6 NUST staff members have visited AKSiM, while 6 students from the institution have each spent a semester at the Polish university. In 2023 NUST hosted 3 staff members from AKSiM for exchange and is expecting another three academics from Poland in August 2025 and September 2025.



NUST Staff Attend International Staff Week in Lithuania

Two administrative staff members from NUST travelled to the eastern European nation of Lithuania in May 2025 to participate in an International Staff Training Week at Vilnius University (VU).

Both **Cindy van Wyk**, *NUST Public Relations Officer*, and **Helena Shipanga**, *Senior Business Development Coordinator: Entrepreneurship Development Academy* at the Harold Pukewitz Graduate School of Business, participated in an international staff exchange for the first time in 2025 as they visited the Lithuanian state capitol for a week-long professional development event. Their participation in this event was made possible through Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility Grants.

VU annually organises and hosts an International Staff Training Week, with the 2025 training themed around “Strategic International Communication.” The event provides a platform for administrative and academic staff from its network of international partner institutions to share experiences, learn from experts and engage with the academic and cultural environment of Vilnius University.

This year the event brought together university staff from Montenegro, Georgia, Germany, Jordan, Namibia, and the Ukraine, amongst others. Included in the programme was a workshop on Strategic International Communication, and a seminar on changes that the human brain undergoes over time.



Apart from formal training and professional development activities, the event programme also included cultural activities, such as a tour to the city of Kaunas and visit to Lithuania's first Science and Innovation Promotion Centre.

"This has been an eye-opening and deeply enriching experience," van Wyk said, adding that the opportunity to travel internationally for staff exchange had been very rewarding. She pointed to the informal networking opportunities with staff from across the world, and the exposure to new and different work systems and processes that stood out the most for her. For Shipanga the workshop and seminar were standout components of the VU International Staff Training Week. "The topics were covered in depth, but in an engaging and very practical way, making it easy for participants to apply to their work," Shipanga said.

During their time in Lithuania, van Wyk and Shipanga also met with Eleanor Linno and Ashleigh Chabvuta, two NUST students taking a semester exchange at VU.

The participation of the two NUST staff members in the VU International Staff Training Week underscores NUST's ongoing commitment to strengthening its international footprint and enriching the global perspectives of its staff. Between 2022 and 2025, eight international mobilities took place between NUST and VU. Four students from NUST each undertook a five-month semester exchange, while 2 staff from VU visited NUST to participate in the Namibian university's International Partner Week in 2024. Van Wyk and Shipanga's international exchanges from NUST to VU were the last two mobilities to take place in the three-year cycle.



NUST Staff at Huelva

- Partnership Week at the University of Huelva, Spain



A delegation of ten (10) staff members from the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) travelled to Spain to attend the International Partnership Week 2025 hosted by the University of Huelva (UHU). The week-long event brought together faculty, researchers, and administrators from across the globe to engage in knowledge exchange, benchmarking, capacity building, and institutional networking.

The participation of NUST in this international gathering reflects the university's continued commitment to fostering global linkages, promoting cross-cultural understanding, and broadening academic opportunities for both its staff and students through its Erasmus+ partnerships. The delegation, comprising members from diverse faculties and administrative departments, actively engaged in discussions, workshops, presentations and cultural emersion throughout the week.

The Summer Partnership Week at the University of Huelva is designed to serve as a platform for universities worldwide to share best practices in teaching, research, and administration, while also exploring opportunities for collaborative projects. The workshops provided an excellent opportunity for the delegation to showcase NUST's institutional strengths in areas such as applied research, innovation, technology, and community-focused development.

Equally important, the event facilitated meaningful networking opportunities with representatives from universities across Europe, Latin America, Africa, and Asia. These interactions laid the groundwork for potential student and staff exchange programs, collaborative research initiatives, and dual-degree opportunities that could be pursued in the future.

Several bilateral meetings were also held between the NUST delegation and host faculty at the University of Huelva, focusing on building pathways for sustainable academic collaboration.

** The International Partnership Week also offered a rich cultural immersion. The NUST team experienced Spanish heritage through guided tours, cultural evenings, and community engagements arranged by the University of Huelva. These cultural exchanges strengthened bonds beyond the academic sphere, fostering deeper understanding and appreciation of diverse perspectives**

Reflecting on the experience, NUST Acting Director for Corporate Engagement and Internationalisation, Nashilongo Gervasius, who led the 10 members delegation, expressed gratitude for the warm hospitality extended by the University of Huelva and highlighted the immense value of such platforms in broadening professional horizons.

"This exposure to international best practices, not only enhances individual skills but also contributes to the overall growth of NUST as a globally competitive institution" she said.

The visit also reinforced NUST's strategic vision to position itself as a leading African university of science and technology with a strong global footprint. By engaging with top universities abroad, NUST aims to equip its faculty and staff with international competencies, ensuring that students in Namibia benefit from the latest academic and research advancements.





Inbound Staff Exchange







Hungarian Academics Visit NUST for Teaching Staff Exchange

Two senior academics from the University of Debrecen (UD), Hungary, visited the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) during May 2025 as guest lecturers, teaching students and establishing connections with staff at the institution.


Prof István Szücs, *Head of the Institute of Economics in the Department of Agricultural Policy and Environmental Economics at UD*, and **Dr Kristián Kovác**, *an Assistant Professor also at the Institute of Economics*, undertook a week-long staff exchange, hosted by the Department of Agricultural Sciences and Agribusiness. Their exchange to NUST was made possible through Erasmus+, and contributed to international academic collaboration and cultural exchange.

During their stay, they added significant value to the academic environment by delivering guest lectures and thereby exposing NUST students to international perspectives.

The lectures covered topics related to Research Methodology and Applied Project Management, providing students with valuable insights into global practices and frameworks. Beyond imparting knowledge in the classroom, the visit also served as an opportunity to establish meaningful connections with staff members, paving the way for future collaborations between the two institutions.

During their time in Namibia, the Hungarian academics participated in site visits to Gondwana Collection Namibia, Namibia Dairies, and Meatco.

Through these visits, Prof Szücs and Dr Kovác engaged with industry practitioners and were exposed to agribusinesses. They were able to gain first-hand insight into the workings of Namibian businesses in these sectors and also share knowledge and insights of similar operations in Hungary.



"Visiting Namibia has been a wonderful experience - from our engagement with academics, lecturing the very keen, motivated and engaged students to meeting with industry representatives," Prof Szücs said when asked about their exchange. These sentiments were echoed by Dr Kovác, who added that being a first-time visitor to the African continent, Namibia exceeded his expectations.

Staff exchanges between universities are grounded in the aim of fostering global partnerships in education, enabling academic institutions to share expertise and broaden perspectives. The hosting of international academics at NUST is a key component of the institution's strategy for internationalisation at home.

This extends the reach of internationalisation activities, as more staff and students are exposed to global views, international perspective and new cultures.

The visit to NUST by the academics from UD not only strengthened ties between the two universities, but also underscored the mutual benefits of such exchanges in creating a dynamic and inclusive academic landscape. Later in 2025, two administrative staff members from NUST will take Erasmus+ funded exchanges to UD for the purpose of benchmarking, job-shadowing, identification of collaborative projects, and further strengthening the relationship between two institutions.



B360 Experts Share Knowledge and Experience with NUST Students

Six Swiss-based industry experts visited NUST in the 2025 first semester as volunteer guest lecturers, as the B360 Sending South Programme continued its legacy of skills transfer between European professionals and undergraduate students in Namibia.

Tobias Furrer, Markus Hübscher and Prof Corinne Gantenbein got the 2025 B360 expert volunteer assignments at NUST underway, arriving in Namibia in mid-February. Furrer and Hübscher visited the Faculty of Health, Natural Resources and Applied Sciences, where they taught senior Environmental Health Sciences (EHS) students. The two delivered B360's Career Starter Week workshop during the first week of their assignment and focused on project management during their final week.

Speaking about their experience at NUST, the two experts highlighted the connections they formed with Namibian students and witnessing these individuals grow and develop over a very short period of time as the highlight of their trip. "It was amazing to see how quickly they grasped and applied new concepts in creative and imaginative ways," Furrer said.

Prof Gantenbein, a retired Food Microbiologist formerly from the Zurich University of Applied Sciences, has visited NUST on numerous occasions in the past. She led microbiology practicals for third-year EHS students.

Prof Gantenbein has, over the years, become well acquainted with NUST staff in the Department of Preventative Health Sciences and the International Relations Unit. Her previous exposure to NUST students has proven irresistible. The lure of working with eager, intelligent and inquisitive African youth has been the key factor motivating her decision to return to NUST on an annual basis. "It is very rewarding to be able to spend a little bit of time with these amazing young people, and to pass on to them some of my knowledge and skills," she said.

Meanwhile, Miklós Soltész, a certified Safety Engineer and the Head of Logistics at Cosanum AG, returned to NUST for the second time in 2025. He too lectured students in the Preventative Health Sciences Department.. Amongst other topics, he lectured Occupational Health and Safety Auditing, Accident Investigation and Prevention, and Emergency Preparedness and Response in the workplace. An avid footballer, Soltész also participated in training sessions with the NUST Soccer Club while he visited the Institution.



"I have had an incredibly enriching experience in Namibia in general, and in particular at NUST," Soltész said of his trip. He added that the engagement with students and lecturers created a new dimension in work-related travel that he had not experienced previously. "The staff in the Preventative Health Sciences Department are excellent. I think the students are lucky to have such knowledgeable and dedicated individuals at their disposal," he said.

The last B360 Expert to arrive at NUST for the 2025 first semester was Dr Marcus Schuppler, who taught Medical Microbiology to students in the Health Sciences Department. A lecturer in Microbiology at the Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH Zurich), Dr Schuppler had visited NUST on numerous occasions in the past. In fact, Dr Schuppler delivered remote, online lectures to NUST students during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic when international travel was restricted. "It was very exciting to have another in-person teaching assignment at NUST, following the virtual teaching during the Covid pandemic," Dr Schuppler said.

Noting the growth of student enrolment in the Medical Laboratory Science programme at NUST, Dr Schuppler lauded the support, commitment, and dedication of the academic and administrative staff in the department for contributing to the success of his lecturing assignment. "The positive feedback from the local staff on the impact of my assignment has been very rewarding and hugely encouraging, and I am happy that my efforts will positively impact the education of their students," he said.

The six B360 experts taught for a total of 15 weeks and reached well over 300 students during this time. Since its inception in 2009, well over 130 Swiss-based industry experts have undertaken volunteer lecturing assignments to NUST under the B360 Sending South Programme. This initiative is therefore a significant contributor to the skills and knowledge transfer between experienced industry professionals, academics and university students in Namibia. NUST and B360 Education Partnerships have been in partnership for 15 years.



Visiting Professor from Huelva University meets Hon Dino Ballotti

The Department of Marketing, Logistics and Sport Management in the Faculty of Commerce, Human Sciences and Education at the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) hosted **Professor Pedro Sáenz-López Buñuel**, a *lecturer and expert in Motivation and Emotional Intelligence from Huelva University, Spain*, during July 2025.

Professor Sáenz-López Buñuel, who is a coach in Sport Science and a passionate athletic development lecturer, had a hectic schedule while at NUST, culminating in an impromptu meeting with Hon Dino Ballotti, Deputy Minister of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture.

According to his hosts, lecturers in Sport Management Mr Peter Haufiku and Mr John Graft Ndugaua, their guest participated in a Media and Public Relations class on campus, where he observed a session, engaged with students, and delivered a 20-minute talk in which he shared his sport-related professional background and provided his views on the role of media in sport.

Prof Buñuel additionally attended the Financial Techniques for Sports Management class, where he observed Honours students presenting their final projects.

"He offered constructive feedback and co-assessed the presentations, enriching the academic experience with an international perspective," Mr Haufiku said.

"After we immersed him in a tour of the Faculty of Commerce, Human Sciences and Education to gain insight into the academic structure and areas of study offered, we discussed academic collaboration, sports development, and cultural exchanges," he added.

"I was excited to attend the Namibia vs Comoros Under-17 Women's COSAFA match at the Hage Geingob Stadium," Prof Sáenz-López Buñuel said. He added, "this live international fixture provided me with an opportunity to experience event execution in Namibia and gain insight into their approach to youth tournaments and fan engagement."

It was during this match that he had a high-level engagement with Hon Ballotti.

"I toured both the Hage Geingob and Independence stadiums. These visits allowed me to assess Namibia's current sports infrastructure and understand some of the challenges being faced," the professor explained.

Apart from meeting Hon Ballotti, the professor also met Ms Hanganeni Ganee Fikunawa, an Honours student in Sports Management and a national athlete, who was training at the track.

According to Mr Haufiku, their brief conversation focused on her preparation for upcoming international competitions, highlighting the dual commitment of NUST student athletes.

Commenting on Prof Buñuel's visit, Mr Haufiku said it "successfully blended academic, cultural, and professional engagement, offering valuable exchanges between NUST and our international guest." He added that the professor's involvement in both classroom and community activities provided meaningful insight and inspiration to students and staff alike.





Malaga University's Grand Office Administrator Orientates NUST Secretaries

Caption: Namibia University of Science and Technology Office Administrators and Secretaries with the staff members of International Relations and visiting guest from University Malaga.

In its quest to promote internationalisation at home activities, International Relations section, hosted Ms Maria Isabel Garcia Ruiz, a Personal Secretary to the Vice-Rector for Coordination, Communication and Rector's Board at the University of Malaga in Spain.

Garcia Ruiz is a seasoned Office Administrator and has been responsible for the Universities' s Vice-Rector's schedule, coordinating, organising events, handling protocol duties, supporting team development, and preparing annual reports for the past two years.

During her visit, Ms Garcia Ruiz facilitated a workshop with NUST Office Administrators and Secretaries on the importance of their duties as managers of their offices.

She covered topics such as drafting and distributing meeting agendas, reserving classroom or conference rooms, preparing attendance sheets and sign-in form, sending official meeting invitations via university emails and organising refreshments or technical setup when needed (projector, whiteboard, microphones).

Secretaries Share Key Takeaways:

"I admire that she evaluates her events afterwards."

"Regular event reviews help improve future planning."

"We should keep a task list – we do it but never go back to use it. It was a good reminder."

"A well-organised to-do list helps prioritise effectively, prevents feeling overwhelmed, and ensures important tasks aren't missed."

"Keep a folder for template documents. These can be reused and saves time."

"Using shared templates boosts efficiency and consistency."

"Their institution uses e-invites – barcoded cards for big events."

"Digital invites simplify event coordination."

"We were introduced to the Trello organiser – something I'll definitely work on."

"Trello offers an easy, modern way to manage tasks and team projects."

"These insights highlight simple but effective ways to improve our daily office operations."



University of Malaga Assist NUST to Introduce Translation and Interpretation Courses

The department of Communication and Languages in the Faculty of Commerce, Human Science and Education hosted Professor Mercedes Enríquez-Aranda an Associate Professor (with tenure) of translation and interpreting [English] at the University of Malaga, Spain in May 2025.

According to **Dr Theresia Mushaandja**, a Senior Lecturer in the department who hosted **Prof Enríquez-Aranda**, “her main role was to take us through the translation and interpretation courses”.

The Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) is in the process of introducing Translation and Interpretation Courses and Professor Enríquez-Aranda happened to have come at the right time.



During her one-week visit, she reviewed the curriculum of “our linguistics courses, and also looked at how we pitched the Courses in terms of content per student’s level”, Dr Mushaandja explained. Commenting on her visit, Prof Enríquez-Aranda expressed “we had fruitful discussions on our relationships as Departments” She added that she agreed and was thereafter registered as co-supervisor to one of NUST’s Master’s student who is going to Malaga for 5 Months.

“The student’s study is directly in Prof Enríquez-Aranda’s research and Teaching area. This was another milestone in our relationship with the University of Malaga’s department of Translation and Interpretation,” an exited Dr Mushaandja explained. Adding that she highly values the mobility of Prof Enríquez-Aranda and that

NUST “remain in touch and share notes and expertise with our counterparts at Malaga as they continue to advise us as we grow our new area of Translation and interpretation in multilingual Namibia.”

Apart from being a guest lecturer at NUST, Prof Enríquez-Aranda has taught at the Bachelor, Master and Doctorate levels at the University of Malaga, the Pablo de Olavide University in Seville, the National University of the Northeast (Argentina), the University of Orleans (France), Aston University, Middlesex University and the University of Roehampton (United Kingdom), the University of Cyprus and the Karkonosze University of Applied Sciences (Poland), the University of Nairobi (Kenya) and the Universidad Jean Piaget of Cape Verde.





Cullinary Arts Programme Hosts Turkish Academic

A lecturer from the Alanya Alaaddin Keykubat University (AAKU), Turkey, spent one week visiting NUST's Department of Hospitality and Tourism early in the 2025 first semester on an international teaching mobility.

Dr Nurgül Boz, a lecturer in *Gastronomy and Culinary Arts* at AAKU visited the Culinary Arts Programme at NUST, in February 2025, spending time with students, academic staff, and the team of the NUST Hotel School. Her exchange to NUST was funded through and International Credit Mobility Grant by Erasmus+.

The exchange to NUST saw Dr Boz deliver lectures on gastronomic tourism and sustainability to students, as well as explore potential research collaboration with staff from the Department of Hospitality and Tourism. "I gained valuable insights into the structure and delivery of both theoretical and practical courses at NUST and comparing these approaches to those in my home institution allowed me to reflect on different pedagogical strategies and how they contribute to student engagement and learning outcomes," Dr Boz said of her time at NUST.

Apart from the academic engagements at NUST, Dr Boz also had the opportunity to visit key cultural sites and notable tourist attractions in Namibia. "This further deepened my understanding of the local food culture and its connections to sustainable tourism.

The experience has been incredibly valuable in broadening my perspective on global culinary education, and its implications for future collaborations.

The Turkish Ambassador to Namibia, H.E Mrs Feral Çekerek Oruçkaptan, hosted Dr Boz and staff from NUST's International Relations Department and the Department of Hospitality and Tourism for dinner at her residence. This event was held in honor of Dr Boz's visit to Namibia and was a showcase of Turkish cuisine.

Dr Boz's visit to NUST is a step towards further strengthening the partnership between that Namibian university and AAKU. The exchange enabled NUST students to gain exposure to a globally renowned academic, who shared with them valuable knowledge, skills and techniques. Hosting incoming international staff exchanges is an important aspect of NUST's strategy of internationalisation at home. In this way NUST staff and students are exposed to global perspectives and latest international trends. During the 2025 first semester three staff members from the Department of Hospitality and Tourism also undertook Erasmus+ exchanges to AAKU.





Students Exchanges Inbound and Outbound







A Journey from Oranjemund to Clausthal-Zellerfeld

By Megameno Maxmillion Fortune Nickanor

Participating in an international exchange was one of the most defining experiences of my academic journey. Leaving Oranjemund, a small diamond town in Namibia, and going on an exchange to Clausthal-Zellerfeld, Germany, was both exciting and transformative at the same time.

Adjusting to a rigorous academic schedule in a foreign environment challenged me intellectually, but I learned with each passing day. I was exposed to advanced engineering techniques and academic standards that refined both my technical and soft skills.

These are skills I believe will make me a more competent and confident professional in any workplace.

Travelling across Europe was a major highlight. I made the most of my time abroad by joining the Society of Petroleum Engineers International as an Associate Member and immersing myself in cross-cultural interactions. One unforgettable moment was a historical mining tour in Clausthal, which deepened my appreciation for the enduring legacy of German engineering; built to last.



Punctuality, planning and structure defines German life, even down to casual meetups, everything is set via online appointments. Oddly enough, Deutsche Bahn trains are often delayed despite this precision. I also had to adjust to the local dialect in Clausthal, which differs from standard German.

Taking German B1 lessons, journaling, and staying active helped me settle in and curb culture shock.

To future exchange students, embrace all the free services and resources at your host institution. Network widely, ask questions, and make sure your academic documents are in order before departure. Most importantly, represent Namibia with pride.





Exchange Students hosted by NUST

By Ruusa Nghishongwa

The International Relations section under the Department of Corporate Engagement and Internationalisation at the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) hosted 34 international exchange students from ten different Universities in Germany, while others hailed from Austrian, Finnish, Danish, and South African Universities.

During the exchange, students are taken through orientation sessions aimed to help them integrate into the NUST community, and the local Namibia society. Orientation sessions are usually opened with a lively Namibian cultural performance which is followed by an introduction to the University's vibrant academic life, student support services, and security tips around the city.

Delivering the Welcoming Remarks, Theodora Mweuta, Manager of the International Relations section said that facilitating exchanges are some of the deliberate activities aimed at promoting the internationalisation agenda of the university. "Through these partnerships we are positioning and building the NUST brand, and its reputation across the globe."

As an international student himself, Student Representative President, Michee Masengo, assured the students that they too, will fall in love with NUST and Namibia at large. While NUST is not able to send its students abroad through mobilities, Mweuta explained that having exchanges on campus will expose national students to international practices through everyday interactions.



Orientation sessions are traditionally ended on a high note with a guided city tour for the students to absorb local sights, sounds, and stories that makes Namibia unique. After taking in the breathtaking scenery, the group took on a local township tour through the ever-famous Single Quarters Open Market. Here the students tucked away into local flavours such as juicy kapana hot off the braai, and decadently spiced mopane worms while sipping on chilled oshikundu.

Participating Universities were the University of Applied Sciences of Stuttgart [Germany], JLU Giessen [Germany], FH Westfälische [Germany], Rhodes University [South Africa], Technical University of Munich [Germany], HSRheinmain [Germany], Bremen University of Applied Sciences [Germany], TU Munich [Germany], TU Clausthal [Germany], FH Aachen [Germany], Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences [Germany], Bremen University of Applied Sciences [Germany], FH Joanneum [Austria], Aalto University of Applied Sciences [Finland], and Aalborg University in Denmark .



NUST Strengthens Ties with University of Oradea through Erasmus+ Blended Mobility

NUST recently participated in a blended mobility initiative from the University of Oradea, Romania, under the Erasmus+ 2021–2027 programme. This innovative model combines virtual and short-term physical mobility, offering flexible international learning and collaboration opportunities.

A total of 63 students and professors from African partner universities and institutions from Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka and Namibia took part in the exchange.

Through this initiative, students and staff gained exposure in diverse academic cultures, enhanced research collaboration, and developed key global skills. The programme supports curriculum development and intercultural understanding, furthering NUST's commitment to academic excellence and internationalisation.







Two NUST Students, **Zenodine Bassinghtwaighe** and **Johanna Ambata**, were among 28 International exchange students who spent their 2025 second semester at Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg (DHBW) Ravensburg in Germany.

The two NUST students who are from the Department of Marketing, Logistics and Sport Management in the Faculty of Commerce Management Science and Education, were joined by other fellow exchange students from Mexico, Taiwan, Turkey, Chile, South Africa, Ruanda, India, Bhutan, and Canada.

NUST and DHBW have been partners for over a decade. Exchange mobilities are sponsored by European Union (EU) Erasmus Mobilities Programme.



Six NUST Students Complete Swiss Internships

Mechanical Engineering, Journalism and Media Technology, and Communications students from the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) spent three months in Switzerland during the 2025 first semester doing internships at companies in that country. The end of January 2025 saw the departure of six NUST students for the central European nation, as they embarked on a journey that would see them gain invaluable work experience and life skills. **Llewellyn Poulton, Delcia Muafeca, Quinteline Nunuhe, Renee Sapala, Mirjam Nakatana** and **Nadia Filex** embarked on a life-changing adventure as they prepared for placements in world-renowned organisations. During their stay in Switzerland, they were placed with host families, giving them a true taste of Swiss life, and enriching their cultural experience.

Poulton, a Mechanical Engineering student, was placed with Hivoduct AG, a tech startup that specialises in the development of sustainable electrical energy transmission technologies. The Communications students, Muafeca and Nakatana, were placed with Mediaschneider AG and LGT Bank Ltd, respectively. Mediaschneider is Switzerland's leading independent media agency. Sapala and Nunuhe, both Journalism and Media Technology students, were placed with Julius Bar and LGT Bank Ltd respectively. Lastly, Felix, also a Mechanical Engineering student, was placed with Büchi Labortechnik AG, a leading laboratory equipment manufacturer.

When asked about her experience in Europe, Felix said she had a wonderful internship, filled with moments of learning and personal development at home and at work. "My time at work was very thoughtfully structured; I spent time on the assembly line, but also in a number of other departments, giving me the opportunity to be involved in different stages of product development and organisational departments," she said.

Speaking about his experience at Hivoduct AG, Poulton said he had the opportunity to work in a dynamic and supportive environment that encouraged growth and learning. "This experience enhanced my technical and soft skills, especially in problem-solving and time management." He added that on the whole, the Swiss internship had not only broadened his horizons, but also deepened his sense of purpose.

Muafeca echoed their sentiments, adding that working in a Swiss business environment helped her develop essential life skills such as teamwork, time management, creative thinking, and effective communication. "The company really offered me the perfect space to grow both personally and professionally," she said.

In March 2025, the next cohort of NUST students set to travel to Switzerland in the second half of the year for internships were selected. For this intake of the B360 Internship Programme, five students from the Faculty of Health, Natural Resources and the Faculty of Commerce, Human Sciences and Education were selected.

"We are very happy that such a large number of NUST students will participate in the B360 Internship Programme this year," NUST International Relations Officer, Nico Smit, said. He added that the total of 11 students doing internships in Switzerland in 2025 is the second highest number that have participated in the B360 Northbound Programme – just behind 2023's 12 students.

The Swiss internships are made possible through a 15-year partnership between NUST and B360. During this period, well over 100 NUST students have each spent three months working at Swiss companies in the banking, information technology and engineering sectors. The partnership between NUST and B360 was established in 2009. The Swiss-based non-governmental organisation works with universities in Namibia, Zambia and South Africa. B360 focuses on skills and knowledge transfer by facilitating the placement of industry experts at southern African universities as volunteer guest lecturers, as well as coordinating industry internships for students from these countries with Swiss organisations.





GIPE Project Returns in Full Swing in 2025

The Global Intercultural Project Experience (GIPE) initiative re-launched in 2025, once more bringing together academics and students from four continents to develop solutions for real-world business cases.

The GIPE Project was first launched in 2020, and is a collaborative initiative between NUST, the Westphalian University of Applied Sciences in Germany, Universidad Católica San Pablo in Peru, and Atma Jaya Catholic University of Indonesia. This initiative brings together students and academics from the four partner institutions to work, remotely and across numerous time zones, on real-life projects provided by businesses in the home country of each institution.

At its core, GIPE aims to foster cultural exchange, enhance understanding, and empower participants to collaboratively address global challenges. A key aspect of this initiative is that each project undertaken has a real client, and the participating students are tasked with delivering a workable solution. This multidisciplinary and project-based approach to learning creates an enriching experience as students develop and apply holistic solutions.

By working alongside young people and academic mentors from various countries, GIPE enables an immersion in new and unfamiliar cultural contexts. The project offers participants a profound opportunity to broaden perspectives, challenge biases, and build networks that transcend geographic

and cultural barriers. GIPE is grounded in its commitment to creating spaces where collaboration leads not only to personal growth, but to real-world solutions that benefit humanity.

Funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and Erasmus+, GIPE includes a Summer School hosted annually in Gelsenkirchen, Germany. This year, five NUST students, selected from the faculties of Computing and Informatics, and Commerce, Human Sciences and Education respectively, attended from 28 April 2025 to 09 May 2025. They were accompanied by Informatics lecturer Dr Sebastian Mukumbira. During the Summer School, all GIPE participants put the final touches on their solutions and products for the 2025 GIPE Project Client, the community of Untung Jawa Island in Indonesia.

The Summer School programme also included cultural excursions that afforded the participants some time relax and take in the sights of Gelsenkirchen. This included a tour of historical buildings and sites of the German city, as well as a visit to the Bocholt campus of Westphalia University of Applied Sciences.



"GIPE never fails to deliver as an excellent platform for multidisciplinary and project-based learning," Dr Mukumbira said when asked to comment on the initiative. He added that the students had an opportunity to work in project teams remotely alongside German, Peruvian and Indonesian students, and then had the opportunity to meet them in person in Germany. Dr Mukumbira also highlighted the holistic development of the GIPE participants, pointing to their personal and academic growth, the broadening of their mindsets and the evolution of their worldview and perspectives. "All this is thanks to GIPE."

Originally, the GIPE project ran from 2020 to 2023. With new funding secured, the project was re-launched earlier this year and will run until 2027. The ongoing success of the GIPE projects since 2020 now serve as a reference model, acting as a potential building block for collaborative partnerships. The GIPE model combines virtual and in-person international exchange and collaboration. This type of internationalisation activity is growing in popularity among universities from across the world.



NUST Joins Global 5G Learning Initiative

Dr Gabriel Nhinda (NUST) meets with Prof Beneyam Haile and Prof Bisrat Derebssa from Addis Ababa University [Ethiopia], Dr. Karin Fröhlich, Dr Alexis Dowhuszko, and Prof Marko Nieminen from Aalto University [Finland], and Prof. Adeolu Babatunde Ayanwale from Obafemi Awolowo University [Nigeria] to discuss the practicalities of their Erasmus+ funded 5G for Business & Entrepreneurship in Emerging Markets COIL project at Aalto University, Finland.

In April, the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), in partnership with Aalto University in Finland, Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia, and Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria, launched a Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) project.

The initiative focuses on exploring 5G applications for business and entrepreneurship in emerging markets. Out of a total of 150 registered students, Namibia had the privilege to register 30. “The project consisted ten online lectures, five group work sessions, three presentation slots, and a final exam/quiz. This was an inter-disciplinary, voluntary and non-credit-bearing course”, said Dr Gabriel Nhinda, coordinator of the course at NUST, and a lecturer in the Department of Informatics, Faculty of Computing and Informatics.

During the hybrid launch at NUST, both participating Universities praised the organisers for an innovative cross-border learning and teaching experience aimed at internationalising their campuses. Prof Abiade Akeem Tijani from the Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria said that the training is “testament to the power of global collaboration.”

Acting Executive Dean of the Faculty of Computing and Informatics at NUST, Prof Fungai Bhunu-Shava expressed her excitement of one of the modules that is a “human-centred design prototyp and pilot of 5G products and mobile services” controlled in student communities to allow them to provide solutions to livelihoods in nearby villages. Meanwhile, Prof Jyri Hämäläinen, Vice President (Research) at Alto University called on the participating students to challenge their lecturers to examine each idea and urged them to have fascinating straregies that will bring impact to their societies.

The four Units covered throughout the course were: 5G mobile technologies; human-centred design, prototyping and piloting of 5G products and mobile services; introduction to entrepreneurship and business models, commercialisation and finance.

The 5G for Business and Entrepreneurship COIL project was funded by the European Union through Erasmus Plus Mobility.





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