



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.

## **Mobility Participants**

**Erasmus+ Project: 2022-1-IT02-KA171-HED-000071925**

## **VIU Erasmus+ Mobility Consortium**

**Accreditation:2022-1-IT02-KA130-HED-000068577**



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



**Name: Luther Chipembere, Agricultural Economics (PhD)**

**Sending University:** Stellenbosch University

**Joint Activity at VIU:** Summer School on Equipping Researchers with Skills, Strategies and Confidence for Science Communication, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

**Duration of Mobility:** March 31-April 4, 2025

**Funding:** € 2090.00, Short Doctoral Mobility

**Description:** It is essential to make researchers more aware of the importance of public science communication and engagement, especially since these activities are increasingly demanded by research funders and policymakers as a pathway towards societal impact of research. But, to be effective public communicators, researchers need training to equip them with the key competencies and the confidence to communicate strategically using a wide range of tools and channels, and evaluating impact along the way. The Summer School drew upon the state-of-the-art of science communication literature as well as on relevant best practice in the field, combining lectures, exercises, simulations, discussions, case studies, and site visits.

[Linkedin](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



Name: **Lorenzo Favaro, Associate Professor, Agricultural Microbiology**

Sending University: University of Padova, Department of Agronomy Food Natural Resources Animals and Environment (DAFNAE)

Receiving University: Stellenbosch University, Department of Microbiology

Duration of Mobility: February 9-15, 2025

Funding: € 3120.00, Staff Mobility for Teaching

Description: Professor Favaro was hosted in the Stellenbosch University Microbiology Department. He taught HonsBSc students about the principles of industrial microbiology and biotechnology, focusing on circular economy approaches. The course highlighted how agricultural and industrial residues can be transformed into valuable compounds, aligning with commitments to sustainability and innovation. He also led seminars for PhD students on the industrial implementation of biorefinery concepts, offering a broad perspective of the biorefinery and bioeconomy landscape at the European level. These are the key activities of Waste to Bioproducts Lab, where Professor Favaro serves as principal investigator. He is also CEO of Agri-E and co-founder of Urobo Biotech. Professor Favaro, alongside Wessel Myburgh, co-founder and CEO of Urobo Biotech, also participated in a networking event in Cape Town organized by OneBio Innovation Centre, to connect with South African biotech start-ups.

[LinkedIn](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.

Name: **Angelo Maggi, Associate Professor, Department of Architecture and Arts**

Sending University: University Iuav of Venice, Department of Architecture and Arts

Receiving University: Stellenbosch University, Department of Visual Arts

Duration of Mobility: April 24-30, 2025

Funding: € 3120.00, Staff Mobility for Teaching

Description: Professor Maggi is also the Vice-Rector Delegate for International Relations and Agreements, Erasmus+ program, Double Degree program at the University Iuav of Venice. His lectures at Stellenbosch University covered Photography, Visual Arts and the Architectural History from the Western world and comparisons with their Visual Heritage and Architectural/Urban Design. He collaborated with other teaching members at Stellenbosch University on new media, photography and architecture, specific names of the visual arts and the perception of architectural design, as well as learning about the way they promote and encourage didactic activity and innovative forms of blended teaching/learning, in addition to initiatives for inclusion, transparency, civic engagement and active citizenship.



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



**Name: Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela, Professor and Research Chair for Historical Trauma and Transformation, and the South African National Research Chair (SARChI) in Violent Histories and Transgenerational Trauma, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**

**Sending University:** Stellenbosch University

**Joint Activity at VIU:** Summer School on Global Mental Health and Human Rights: Decolonial perspectives on Structural Violence and War, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

**Duration of Mobility:** July 21-25, 2025

**Funding:** € 2460.00, Staff Mobility for Teaching and Training

**Description:** In the Summer School's approach to foster a psychology of liberation that will provide theoretical and practical participatory tools to enable the adaptation and control of indigenous and self-determined models to understand mental health in low and middle-income countries (LMICs) and societies undergoing or coming to terms with political turbulence, war, and social upheaval, Professor Gobodo-Madikizela examined the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) as a cultural landmark that both commemorates traumatic memory and offers a space for transgenerational reckoning. Through a psychoanalytic lens, she explored how TRC testimonies interweave the personal and the political, and consider the complex interplay of historical, social, and psychological factors that shape traumatic memory.

[Linkedin](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



Name: **Grant Keet, Chemical Engineering (PhD)**

Sending University: Stellenbosch University

Receiving University: University of Padova, Department of Industrial Engineering

Duration of Mobility: September 5-October 4, 2024

Funding: € 3280.00, Short Doctoral Mobility

Description: Grant's research employs a high frequency pulsed light as the source of illumination for a photobioreactor designed for the biological production of hydrogen using phototrophic bacteria. The bacteria exploited for their metabolic capabilities in his study is the species, *Rhodospseudomonas palustris*, and are immobilised in PVA-based hydrogels prior to employment in the photobioreactor. Grant's research topic is beneficial to both universities and this mobility provided an incredible opportunity to forge deeper connections, explore new academic perspectives, and use specialized equipment.

[Linkedin](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



**Name: Johann Andersen, Adjunct Professor, Civil Engineering**

**Sending University:** Stellenbosch University

**Joint Activity at VIU:** Summer School on Advanced Transportation, Logistics, and Supply Chain Management, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition

**Duration of Mobility:** July 1-5, 2024

**Funding:** € 2620.00, Staff Mobility for Teaching

**Description:** The Summer School developed an original comprehensive approach, bringing into focus the need for engagement among policymakers, planners, companies, and other private and public actors in transport, logistics and supply chain management. The student participants explored the latest innovations in technology, business models, and policy-making. Through rigorous and nonconventional empirical and theoretical approaches the Summer School explored emerging trends, strategic scenarios, IT and modelling tools (including demo labs), methods, case studies, and applied projects, and discussed how these can support business and policy-makers, achieve environmental sustainability, and socio-economic efficiency. Disruptive digital trends were confronted with the physical impacts on the territory (“bits vs bricks” perspective). Prof. Andersen presented the Stellenbosch Smart Mobility Lab, an innovative tool for transportation and logistics planning and policy-making reporting his mobility was a great opportunity to learn from others and share perspectives.

[YouTube](#)



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



Name: **Folco Soffietti, Culture del Progetto (PhD)**

Sending University: University Iuav of Venice, Department of Culture Projects

Receiving University: Stellenbosch University, Centre For Research On Evaluation Science And Technology

Duration of Mobility: February 24-March 15, 2025

Funding: € 2780.00, Short Doctoral Mobility

Description: Folco's research deals with design and science communication in the framework of marine spatial planning processes and his mobility provided a unique opportunity to obtain an insight into other techniques developed in another region and sea basin. Folco had the opportunity to see Stellenbosch University's great facilities, including its amazing library, and a sport area with huge pitches. He encountered kind people, passionate about what they study, finding it an intellectually vibrant place to be. He visited local aquariums which provided very interesting examples of science communication and efforts in awareness raising. Folco's specific interest in the science-to-policy interface and a non-European perspective were of interest to enable further replicability outside the European dimension. He learned more about environmental, climate and sustainability issues and learned more about new and useful ways to apply digital technology.

[Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



Name: **Daniele Vezzini, Crop Science (PhD)**

Sending University: University of Padova, Department of Agronomy Food Natural Resources Animals and Environment (DAFNAE)

Receiving University: Stellenbosch University, Department of Microbiology

Duration of Mobility: June 29-July 25, 2025

Funding: € 3230.00, Short Doctoral Mobility

Description: "In July, I had the privilege to work at the Yeast Biotechnology Lab of Prof. Marinda Viljoen-Bloom at Stellenbosch University, as part of my cotutelage PhD between the University of Padova and Stellenbosch University.

I advanced my research on "Biotechnological solutions for the end-of-life management of bioplastics under industrial conditions" and teamed up with Urobo Biotech's CEO, Wessel Myburgh, to develop enzymatic cocktails to break down bioplastic waste."

Beyond the lab, South Africa offered an unforgettable multicultural experience, meeting inspiring people from diverse backgrounds and exploring the natural wonders of Cape Town and the Cape Peninsula."

[Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



**Name: Thando Miranda Mkhombo, Economy (Post Doctorate Fellow)**

**Sending University:** Stellenbosch University

**Joint Activity at VIU:** International PhD Academy on Water and Climate Resilience

**Duration of Mobility:** July 8-12, 2024

**Funding:** € 1990.00, Student Mobility Traineeship

**Description:** Climate change has altered the water cycle from local to global scales, leading to more frequent extreme hydrometeorological hazards that affect environment, ecosystems, and socio-economic activities worldwide. Many extreme hazards are likely to trigger other types of hazards, including compound events that exacerbate the cascading impacts drastically, with water being the core element associating with various type of hazards. To investigate the risks that climate change poses to the human society and the natural environment, it requires a good understanding of the involved processes and causal connections from interdisciplinary perspectives. Thus, the next generation of researchers and engineers should be trained to equip such capacity to integrate methodologies and tools from various field for developing solutions to strengthening climate resilience. The main objectives of the PhD Academy were to bring multidisciplinary academics from VIU network together for widening early career researchers' vision on global challenges and offering transversal skill trainings for supporting the ECR's career development.

[International PhD Academy](#)



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



**Name: Lovejoy Mhishi, Electrical and Electronics Engineering (BEng)**

Sending University: Stellenbosch University

Joint Activity at VIU: Globalization Program Summer Session

Duration of Mobility: 2024

Funding: € 3230.00, Student Mobility for Studies short blended mobility

Description: The Globalization Program Summer Session is a one-month program for Bachelor's and Master's-level students in VIU's member institutions. The shorter Summer Session offers courses with a virtual component which may include online classes/presentations/discussions and asynchronous activities, extending the opportunities to study and teach at VIU. The aim of the virtual component is to facilitate interaction before and after the program and strengthen the network among the participants. The interdisciplinary course Lovejoy chose to study was *Interactive Data Visualization* which covered the concepts, skills and techniques of online, interactive data visualization and map making in both modern web development workflow and Javascript programming. The virtual components showed students coding can be fun and useful in any academic discipline, working on coding exercises in small groups offline in between online meetings.

[Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



**Name: Victor Ntsakiso Ndhambi, Electrical and Electronics Engineering (BEng)**

Sending University: Stellenbosch University

Joint Activity at VIU: Globalization Program Summer Session

Duration of Mobility: 2024

Funding: € 3230.00, Student Mobility for Studies short blended mobility

Description: The Globalization Program Summer Session is a one-month program for Bachelor's and Master's-level students in VIU's member institutions. The shorter Summer Session offers courses with a virtual component which may include online classes/presentations/discussions and asynchronous activities, extending the opportunities to study and teach at VIU. The aim of the virtual component is to facilitate interaction before and after the program and strengthen the network among the participants. The interdisciplinary course Victor chose to study was *Africa: Postcoloniality and the Modern World* which drew from a range of disciplines, including literature, art, history, politics, and cultural studies, as well the various African exhibitions at the 2024 Art Biennale, to offer a multi-disciplinary examination of postcolonial Africa. The virtual component assessed students existing knowledge to establish a baseline to which their gained knowledge at the end of term was measured.

[Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



**Name: Beneficiency Mwatsena, Electronic Engineering (MEng)**

Sending University: Stellenbosch University

Joint Activity at VIU: Globalization Program Summer Session

Duration of Mobility: 2024

Funding: € 3230.00, Student Mobility for Studies short blended mobility

Description: The Globalization Program Summer Session is a one-month program for Bachelor's and Master's-level students in VIU's member institutions. The shorter Summer Session offers courses with a virtual component which may include online classes/presentations/discussions and asynchronous activities, extending the opportunities to study and teach at VIU. The aim of the virtual component is to facilitate interaction before and after the program and strengthen the network among the participants. The interdisciplinary course Beneficiency chose to study was *Interactive Data Visualization* which covered the concepts, skills and techniques of online, interactive data visualization and map making in both modern web development workflow and Javascript programming. The virtual components showed students coding can be fun and useful in any academic discipline, working on coding exercises in small groups offline in between online meetings.

[Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



**Name: Nathaniel Jiri, Electronic Engineering (MEng)**

Sending University: Stellenbosch University

Joint Activity at VIU: Globalization Program Summer Session

Duration of Mobility: 2024

Funding: € 3230.00, Student Mobility for Studies short blended mobility

Description: The Globalization Program Summer Session is a one-month program for Bachelor's and Master's-level students in VIU's member institutions. The shorter Summer Session offers courses with a virtual component which may include online classes/presentations/discussions and asynchronous activities, extending the opportunities to study and teach at VIU. The aim of the virtual component is to facilitate interaction before and after the program and strengthen the network among the participants. The interdisciplinary course Nathaniel chose to study was *Interactive Data Visualization* which covered the concepts, skills and techniques of online, interactive data visualization and map making in both modern web development workflow and Javascript programming. The virtual components showed students coding can be fun and useful in any academic discipline, working on coding exercises in small groups offline in between online meetings.

[Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



Name: **Lisa Prinsloo, Teaching Assistant, Faculty of Engineering**

Sending University: Stellenbosch University

Joint Activity at VIU: International PhD Academy on Energy and Society. The case of fusion

Duration of Mobility: June 10-15, 2024

Funding: € 2780.00, Staff Mobility for Training

Description: This PhD Academy provided participants from various disciplines with a training opportunity, which merged science with society and delivered a grand view on the future of energy. The participants were exposed to a grand view of the interaction between energy and society, starting from a case study which is now very popular in the public debate. The added value of this PhD Activity is the transversal approach, which cuts across many aspects of the energy issue. On a fundamental topic for humanity, participants broadened their views out of the technical borders of their disciplines. A "Science Tour" led by a scientist living in Venice, was organized: Venice is in fact famous for its artistic and cultural heritage, but less is known about the strong relationships of the city with science history.

[International PhD Academy](#)



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



**Name: Tinashe Ashley Chikunichawa, Health Systems Engineering (PhD)**

**Sending University:** Stellenbosch University

**Joint Activity at VIU:** International PhD Academy on Wandering Across Sustainable Terrains and Environments

**Duration of Mobility:** July 7-12, 2025

**Funding:** € 2160.00, Short Doctoral Mobility

**Description:** The performing arts contribute to the environmental humanities, foregrounding their role in understanding and tackling the environmental crisis. In this PhD Academy, this relation was interrogated from the viewpoint of the city of Venice. The seminars and workshops aimed to transfer skills and methods to students from a range of disciplinary backgrounds. The broader field of study, environmental humanities, underpinned all activities which focused on the impact of environmental crisis and climate change on the city of Venice, looking, specifically, at the role of waste in society and the ways in which theorists and artists have engaged with this concept and related labour practices in Venice and beyond. The focus was deliberately placed on the performing arts, though methods and scholarship drew, characteristically for the performing arts, from a range of disciplines, empowering students to use innovative practices and explore strategies for knowledge production.

[LinkedIn](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



Name: **Denise Coetzee, Food Science (PhD)**

Sending University: Stellenbosch University

Joint Activity at VIU: International PhD Academy on Rethinking Rural Futures in an Age of Climate Change: Migration, Adaptation, and Sustainability Transitions

Duration of Mobility: May 12-17, 2025

Funding: € 2160.00, Short Doctoral Mobility

Description: Rural communities are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, having long relied on farming, fishing, and the natural environment for their livelihoods. Strategies to enhance climate resilience and to support rural flourishing will need to be multi-pronged, including institutional support and investments in in-situ adaptation, 'migration as adaptation', and more sustainable agricultural practices and food systems. Transitioning to sustainable agri-food systems is critical to averting food insecurity and climate-driven social and ecological disasters, yet this transition requires more than technical solutions. It calls for a new vision of rural transformation and rural thriving. This PhD Academy invited participants to learn from leading thinkers working in the fields of rural development, migration studies, climate adaptation, and sustainable food systems. Participants had the opportunity to workshop their research with peers and faculty, participate in field visits to small farms outside Venice, and benefit from faculty-led workshops strengthening transversal skills. Workshops focused on participatory scenarios planning, measuring well-being outcomes, and visual methods (photo voice).

[Linkedin](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



**Name: Ikechukwu Opara, Food Science (PhD)**

**Sending University:** Stellenbosch University

**Joint Activity at VIU:** International PhD Academy on Rethinking Rural Futures in an Age of Climate Change: Migration, Adaptation, and Sustainability Transitions

**Duration of Mobility:** May 12-17, 2025

**Funding:** € 2160.00, Short Doctoral Mobility

**Description:** Rural communities are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, having long relied on farming, fishing, and the natural environment for their livelihoods. Strategies to enhance climate resilience and to support rural flourishing will need to be multi-pronged, including institutional support and investments in in-situ adaptation, 'migration as adaptation', and more sustainable agricultural practices and food systems. Transitioning to sustainable agri-food systems is critical to averting food insecurity and climate-driven social and ecological disasters, yet this transition requires more than technical solutions. It calls for a new vision of rural transformation and rural thriving. This PhD Academy invited participants to learn from leading thinkers working in the fields of rural development, migration studies, climate adaptation, and sustainable food systems. Participants had the opportunity to workshop their research with peers and faculty, participate in field visits to small farms outside Venice, and benefit from faculty-led workshops strengthening transversal skills. Workshops focused on participatory scenarios planning, measuring well-being outcomes, and visual methods (photo voice).

[LinkedIn](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



Name: **Tinobokashe Ncube, Geo-informatics (PhD)**

Sending University: Stellenbosch University

Joint Activity at VIU: International PhD Academy on Improving Research Practice and Transversal Skills for Young Scholars

Duration of Mobility: September 11-15, 2023

Funding: € 2090.00, Short Doctoral Mobility

Description: Doing a PhD prepares one for a career in frontier research and education or for high-level roles in professional sectors where deep rigorous analysis is required. Besides the content specific to each discipline, there are some general procedures that are common and based on learning by doing and personal interactions. How should a research project be presented and funding secured? How to write a robust scientific paper? How do you develop your transversal skills and prepare yourself for your post-PhD career? Can you learn to deal with stress and train your resilience? The aim of this PhD Academy is to familiarize young researchers to practice in research activities and to introduce them to their peers from other sciences and the challenges of the world outside academia. The PhD Academy was highly interactive with several practical exercises. Through the participation of students from various disciplinary backgrounds (humanities, social sciences, hard sciences), it also explored similarities and differences across disciplines in the practice of the academic community. Tino reported learning more about environmental, climate and sustainability issues and more about new and useful ways to apply digital technology.

[International PhD Academy](#)



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



**Name: Mariska April, Student Mobility Coordinator, Centre for Global Engagement**

**Sending University:** Stellenbosch University

**Receiving Institution:** Venice International University

**Duration of Mobility:** September 9-13, 2024

**Funding:** € 2620.00, Staff Mobility for Training

**Description:** As the outgoing student mobility coordinator at Stellenbosch University International, Mariska's mobility was an opportunity to directly experience VIU's international campus, meet staff in person, and exchange best practices with VIU Erasmus+ mobility consortium members, laying the groundwork for deepened collaboration on student mobilities and enhanced understanding of student mobility opportunities. Her mobility was guided through the joint Globalization Program activity at VIU during its Orientation Week. Mariska attended practical orientation sessions on topics such as applying for residence permits and Erasmus+ mobility funding. Mariska also attended guided visits to relevant local cultural institutions and libraries with other students, in addition to 1:1 meetings with staff in the VIU Erasmus+ mobility consortium leading to increased cooperation. This supported her role in providing students and staff with accurate information and insights to help ensure they have a quality mobility experience to VIU Erasmus+ Mobility Consortium members. The mobility was very helpful to her position and provided firsthand experience and connections to better understand the joint activities at VIU and encourage more staff and faculty mobilities.

[Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



**Name: Carl Christiaan Burger, History (MA)**

**Sending University:** Stellenbosch University

**Joint Activity at VIU:** Globalization Program

**Duration of Mobility:** 1<sup>st</sup> semester 2024-2025

**Funding:** € 4475.00, Student Mobility for Studies long term

**Description:** “I think there is a lot of emphasis placed on presenting your work and contributing in class, speaking with others. I think that is such an important skill, not only as an academic scholar, but going on work one day. That is where the sense of interdisciplinary comes in as well. You’re gonna be working with different people one day – there is a lot to take away from this, you are constantly exposed, working together, and I think it is really nice element to take away from my time here.”

The Globalization Program brings together talented, motivated students from the member universities in a truly multicultural, international, and interdisciplinary environment. Students enjoy a powerful learning experience in which they develop their capacity for critical thinking, working across disciplines, creatively embracing new ideas.

[VIU People Profile](#) / [YouTube](#)



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



**Name: Gita Davids, History major, Ancient Cultures Sociology minor (MA)**

**Sending University:** Stellenbosch University

**Joint Activity at VIU:** Globalization Program

**Duration of Mobility:** 1<sup>st</sup> semester 2024-2025

**Funding:** € 4475.00, Student Mobility for Studies long term

**Description:** The Globalization Program brings together talented, motivated students from VIU member universities in a truly multicultural, international, and interdisciplinary environment. Students enjoy a powerful learning experience in which they develop their capacity for critical thinking, working across disciplines, creatively embracing new ideas. Gita took an Italian language course in addition to the History of Venice course which focused on the relationship between the environmental setting, morphology of the city, social life, and political institutions, along with corresponding site visits. She also took The Art and Architecture in Renaissance Venice course which examined in depth all the possible cultural nuances that are hidden behind a work of art.

[LinkedIn](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



**Name: Anna Elizabeth De Villiers, History (MA)**

**Sending University:** Stellenbosch University

**Joint Activity at VIU:** Globalization Program

**Duration of Mobility:** 1<sup>st</sup> semester 2024-2025

**Funding:** € 4475.00, Student Mobility for Studies long term

**Description:** The Globalization Program brings together talented, motivated students from VIU member universities in a truly multicultural, international, and interdisciplinary environment. Students enjoy a powerful learning experience in which they develop their capacity for critical thinking, working across disciplines, creatively embracing new ideas. Annie took an Italian language course in addition to volunteering in the VIU library. She also completed the History of Venice course which focused on the relationship between the environmental setting, morphology of the city, social life, and political institutions, along with corresponding site visits, as well as the Art and Architecture in Renaissance Venice course which examined in depth all the possible cultural nuances that are hidden behind a work of art.

[Linkedin](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



**Name: Mikayla Daniell Janse van Rensburg, Industrial Psychology (MCom)**

Sending University: Stellenbosch University

Joint Activity at VIU: Globalization Program Summer Session

Duration of Mobility: 2024

Funding: € 3230.00, Student Mobility for Studies short blended mobility

Description: The Globalization Program Summer Session is a one-month program for Bachelor's and Master's-level students in VIU's member institutions. The shorter Summer Session offers courses with a virtual component which may include online classes/presentations/discussions and asynchronous activities, extending the opportunities to study and teach at VIU. The aim of the virtual component is to facilitate interaction before and after the program and strengthen the network among the participants. The interdisciplinary course Mikayla Daniell chose to study: *"Form follows function!" – Social Psychological Concepts and how they Uncover the Logic of Group Dynamics, Conflicts and Ways towards a Solution*. The virtual component provided a quick run through of several aspects covered in the course followed by a breakout rooms task. Students were inspired to detect psychological constructs followed by a discussion.

[Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.

Name: **Robert Kotze, Senior Director, Stellenbosch University International**

Sending University: Stellenbosch University

Receiving Institution: Venice International University

Duration of Mobility: April 8-12, 2024

Funding: € 2620.00, Staff Mobility for Training

Description: The VIU Erasmus+ mobility consortium members met with Robert in group and individual meetings dedicated to implementation of its international strategy, especially regarding the dimensions of international engagement and student experience, building bilateral partnership through shared consortium membership/multi-lateral partnerships, and enhancing participation of Stellenbosch University, benefitting staff and student mobilities. Future Erasmus+ co-operation was planned and Erasmus+ mobility projects were promoted. Top level meetings with the VIU Executive Director of Academic Programs, VIU Executive Director of Program on Sustainability, VIU Program Coordinator of Intensive Graduate Activities, VIU Globalization Program Faculty Meeting, International Offices of VIU Erasmus+ mobility consortium universities, and the VIU Academic Council meeting. Robert reported that his mobility led to new/increased cooperation with the partner universities as well as contributing to his understanding of VIU.



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



**Name: Paola De Rossi, Mobility Officer in charge of Incoming Students**

**Sending University:** Università Iuav di Venezia, Servizio Mobilità Internazionale

**Receiving University:** Stellenbosch University International

**Duration of Mobility:** March 10-15, 2025

**Funding:** € 2940.00, Staff Mobility for Training

**Description:** Paola's reflections on her mobility to Stellenbosch University for their International Academic Networks meeting continue to inspire her. One of the more lasting impressions she reports from the various sessions she attended is that education for peace benefits from learning and understanding a partner's practices, languages, and education systems, as trust is built not only through words but through deeply recognizing and respecting different cultures and contexts. Collaborations emerge when time is taken to acknowledge the richness of individual cultures, histories, and societal frameworks, making space for genuine dialogue and understanding. A solid Fair Partnership is not an end in itself but a continual process of growth and learning. The journey doesn't end. Bridges are meant to be built not just for today, but for tomorrow as well!

[X](#) / [Facebook](#) / [Linkedin](#) / [Instagram](#)



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



**Name: Laura Brandolin, International Relations Officer, Projects and Mobility Office**

**Sending University:** University of Padova, International Relations Division

**Receiving University:** Stellenbosch University International

**Duration of Mobility:** March 10-15, 2025

**Funding:** € 2940.00, Staff Mobility for Training

**Description:** Laura's participation in the International Academic Networks meeting provided access to a new network, discussing current matters regarding internationalization and a direct introduction to Stellenbosch University. Responsible internationalization, fair partnerships from an African Perspective, the value of a partnership framework, sharing best practices on enabling integration within international student cohorts, digitally enhanced global learning and mapping sustainability were presented and discussed during her mobility. In addition to a study abroad fair, the mobility provided an opportunity to spend quality time with partners to grow and strengthen collaboration and deepen partnerships.

[Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)

Erasmus+ Project Code: 2022-1-IT02-KA171-HED-000071925

VIU Erasmus+ Mobility Consortium Accreditation: 2022-1-IT02-KA130-HED-000068577



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



Name: **Bijoue Meslye Schailde Obanda, Mechanical Engineering (PhD)**

Sending University: Stellenbosch University

Joint Activity at VIU: International PhD Academy on Improving Research Practice and Transversal Skills for Young Scholars

Duration of Mobility: September 11-15, 2023

Funding: € 2090.00, Short Doctoral Mobility

Description: Doing a PhD prepares one for a career in frontier research and education or for high-level roles in professional sectors where deep rigorous analysis is required. Besides the content specific to each discipline, there are some general procedures that are common and based on learning by doing and personal interactions. How should a research project be presented and funding secured? How to write a robust scientific paper? How do you develop your transversal skills and prepare yourself for your post-PhD career? Can you learn to deal with stress and train your resilience? The aim of this PhD Academy is to familiarize young researchers to practice in research activities and to introduce them to their peers from other sciences and the challenges of the world outside academia. The PhD Academy was highly interactive with several practical exercises. Through the participation of students from various disciplinary backgrounds (humanities, social sciences, hard sciences), it also explored similarities and differences across disciplines in the practice of the academic community. This program made a significant positive impact on Bijoue's research project and has enhanced her ability to collaborate with individuals from diverse backgrounds and cultures. She would enthusiastically recommend study mobilities to her peers.

[International PhD Academy](#)



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



**Name: Hendrik Philippus Beyers, Political Science, Philosophy, Economics (BA)**

Sending University: Stellenbosch University

Joint Activity at VIU: Globalization Program Summer Session

Duration of Mobility: 2024

Funding: € 3230.00, Student Mobility for Studies short blended mobility

Description: The Globalization Program Summer Session is a one-month program for Bachelor's and Master's-level students in VIU's member institutions. The shorter Summer Session offers courses with a virtual component which may include online classes/presentations/discussions and asynchronous activities, extending the opportunities to study and teach at VIU. The aim of the virtual component is to facilitate interaction before and after the program and strengthen the network among the participants. The interdisciplinary course Henrik chose to study was on *Gender, Media and Politics: Rewriting the Story* connected issues of diversity and inclusion in the media to democratic developments and challenges in different societies: it frames media inequality issues within the reflection of democratic quality and the role of news media therein. The virtual interactive components introduced the course, students and topics.

[Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



Name: **Mohhadiyah A. C. Rafique, Psychiatry (PhD)**

Sending University: Stellenbosch University

Joint Activity at VIU: Summer School on Global Mental Health and Human Rights: Decolonial perspectives on Structural Violence and War

Duration of Mobility: July 21-25, 2025

Funding: € 2090.00, Short Doctoral Mobility

Description: Conflicts and wars have plunged the planet into a vortex of environmental, climate, societal, gender, and racial crises, undermining human rights and self-determination on a global scale. Mental health and human rights are dramatically interlocked constructs. There is no mental well-being without peace and equity and vice versa. Mental prosperity seems to be thought of as a consolidated right just for privileged groups; in contrast, oppressed and marginalized individuals most often resulted in being blamed for their incapability to handle their living conditions and adjust to challenges and adversities because of a lack of civilization, poor personal and social capital or inadequate relational skills. The Summer School's approach is to foster a psychology of liberation that will provide theoretical and practical participatory tools to enable the adaptation and control of indigenous and self-determined models to understand mental health in low and middle-income countries (LMICs) and societies undergoing or coming to terms with political turbulence, war, and social upheaval. Mohhadiyah reports learning more about the European Union and its values. She also learned more about new and useful ways to apply digital technology and is eager to use them.

[Linkedin](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



Name: **Ashraf Kagee, Professor, Department of Psychology**

Sending University: Stellenbosch University

Joint Activity at VIU: Summer School on Global Mental Health and Human Rights: Decolonial perspectives on Structural Violence and War, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

Duration of Mobility: July 22-26, 2024 & July 21-25, 2025

Funding: € 5240.00 / Staff Mobility for Teaching

Description: Conflicts and wars have plunged the planet into a vortex of environmental, climate, societal, gender, and racial crises, undermining human rights and self-determination on a global scale. Mental health and human rights are dramatically interlocked constructs. There is no mental well-being without peace and equity and vice versa. Mental prosperity seems to be thought of as a consolidated right just for privileged groups; in contrast, oppressed and marginalized individuals most often resulted in being blamed for their incapability to handle their living conditions and adjust to challenges and adversities because of a lack of civilization, poor personal and social capital or inadequate relational skills. Prof. Kagee led an interactive session on epistemology and its discontents. Realist, phenomenological and social constructionist approaches were discussed and student participants were asked to engage with several questions.

[YouTube](#) / [Linkedin](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



Name: **Lou-Marié Kruger, Professor & Chair, Department of Psychology**

Sending University: Stellenbosch University

Joint Activity at VIU: Summer School on Global Mental Health and Human Rights: Decolonial perspectives on Structural Violence and War, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition

Duration of Mobility: July 22-26, 2024

Funding: € 2620.00 / Staff Mobility for Teaching

Description: Conflicts and wars have plunged the planet into a vortex of environmental, climate, societal, gender, and racial crises, undermining human rights and self-determination on a global scale. Mental health and human rights are dramatically interlocked constructs. There is no mental well-being without peace and equity and vice versa. Mental prosperity seems to be thought of as a consolidated right just for privileged groups; in contrast, oppressed and marginalized individuals most often resulted in being blamed for their incapability to handle their living conditions and adjust to challenges and adversities because of a lack of civilization, poor personal and social capital or inadequate relational skills. Prof. Kruger designed and presented interactive self-reflective/critical sessions for the beginning of each day leading to student participant's final projects on their processes.

[Summer/Spring/Winter Schools](#)



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



**Name: Abdelrahman Elmahadi Gasim Badri, Psychology (PhD)**

**Sending University:** Stellenbosch University

**Joint Activity at VIU:** Summer School on Global Mental Health and Human Rights: Decolonial perspectives on Structural Violence and War, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

**Duration of Mobility:** July 21-25, 2025

**Funding:** € 2090.00, Short Doctoral Mobility

**Description:** Conflicts and wars have plunged the planet into a vortex of environmental, climate, societal, gender, and racial crises, undermining human rights and self-determination on a global scale. Mental health and human rights are dramatically interlocked constructs. There is no mental well-being without peace and equity and vice versa. Mental prosperity seems to be thought of as a consolidated right just for privileged groups; in contrast, oppressed and marginalized individuals most often resulted in being blamed for their incapability to handle their living conditions and adjust to challenges and adversities because of a lack of civilization, poor personal and social capital or inadequate relational skills. The Summer School's approach is to foster a psychology of liberation that will provide theoretical and practical participatory tools to enable the adaptation and control of indigenous and self-determined models to understand mental health in low and middle-income countries (LMICs) and societies undergoing or coming to terms with political turbulence, war, and social upheaval.

[Linkedin](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



**Name: Alex Freeman, Psychology (PhD)**

**Sending University:** Stellenbosch University

**Joint Activity at VIU:** Summer School on Global Mental Health and Human Rights: Decolonial perspectives on Structural Violence and War, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

**Duration of Mobility:** July 21-25, 2025

**Funding:** € 2090.00, Short Doctoral Mobility

**Description:** Conflicts and wars have plunged the planet into a vortex of environmental, climate, societal, gender, and racial crises, undermining human rights and self-determination on a global scale. Mental health and human rights are dramatically interlocked constructs. There is no mental well-being without peace and equity and vice versa. Mental prosperity seems to be thought of as a consolidated right just for privileged groups; in contrast, oppressed and marginalized individuals most often resulted in being blamed for their incapability to handle their living conditions and adjust to challenges and adversities because of a lack of civilization, poor personal and social capital or inadequate relational skills. The Summer School's approach is to foster a psychology of liberation that will provide theoretical and practical participatory tools to enable the adaptation and control of indigenous and self-determined models to understand mental health in low and middle-income countries (LMICs) and societies undergoing or coming to terms with political turbulence, war, and social upheaval.

[Linkedin](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



Name: **Marizanne de Wit, Science and Technology Studies (PhD)**

Sending University: Stellenbosch University

Joint Activity at VIU: Summer School on Equipping Researchers with Skills, Strategies and Confidence for Science Communication, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

Duration of Mobility: March 31-April 4, 2025

Funding: € 1990.00, Short doctoral mobility

Description: It is essential to make researchers more aware of the importance of public science communication and engagement, especially since these activities are increasingly demanded by research funders and policymakers as a pathway towards societal impact of research. But, to be effective public communicators, researchers need training to equip them with the key competencies and the confidence to communicate strategically using a wide range of tools and channels, and evaluating impact along the way. The School draws upon the state-of-the-art of science communication literature as well as on relevant best practice in the field, combining lectures, exercises, simulations, discussions, case studies, and site visits. Marzianne reports learning more about the European Union and its values. She also learned more about new and useful ways to apply digital technology and is eager to use them. She reported her mobility was a wonderful initiative and supports the development of students.

In collaboration with  **COALESCE**  
Co-creating the EU Competence Centre for  
Science Communication

[Linkedin](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



Name: **Marina Joubert, Associate Professor, Centre For Research On Evaluation Science And Technology**

Sending University: Stellenbosch University

Joint Activity at VIU: Summer School on Equipping Researchers with Skills, Strategies and Confidence for Science Communication, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition

Duration of Mobility: March 18-22, 2024

Funding: € 2460.00, Staff Mobility for Teaching

Description: It is essential to make researchers more aware of the importance of public science communication and engagement, especially since these activities are increasingly demanded by research funders and policymakers as a pathway towards societal impact of research. But, to be effective public communicators, researchers need training to equip them with the key competencies and the confidence to communicate strategically using a wide range of tools and channels, and evaluating impact along the way. Prof. Joubert's teaching sessions focused on reflecting on the differences and overlaps between different concepts related to science communication and public engagement (including engaged scholarship, societal impact, research uptake and more). Additionally, science communication and public engagement across different types of research were discussed: is there a difference between basic and applied research? Between natural and social sciences? Prof. Joubert also led 2 workshop sessions on the nuts and bolts of a public engagement plan in addition to moderating an open discussion on media, press & communication offices to support research communication.

In collaboration with  **COALESCE**  
Co-creating the EU Competence Centre for  
Science Communication

[YouTube](#)

Erasmus+ Project Code: 2022-1-IT02-KA171-HED-000071925  
VIU Erasmus+ Mobility Consortium Accreditation: 2022-1-IT02-KA130-HED-000068577



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



Name: **Nontokozo Philile Mchunu, Science and Technology Studies (PhD)**

Sending University: Stellenbosch University

Joint Activity at VIU: Summer School on Equipping Researchers with Skills, Strategies and Confidence for Science Communication, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

Duration of Mobility: March 31-April 4, 2025

Funding: € 2090.00, Short doctoral mobility

Description: It is essential to make researchers more aware of the importance of public science communication and engagement, especially since these activities are increasingly demanded by research funders and policymakers as a pathway towards societal impact of research. But, to be effective public communicators, researchers need training to equip them with the key competencies and the confidence to communicate strategically using a wide range of tools and channels, and evaluating impact along the way. The School draws upon the state-of-the-art of science communication literature as well as on relevant best practice in the field, combining lectures, exercises, simulations, discussions, case studies, and site visits.

In collaboration with  **COALESCE**  
Co-creating the EU Competence Centre for  
Science Communication

[Linkedin](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



Name: **Katherine Rabik, Science and Technology Studies (PhD)**

Sending University: Stellenbosch University

Joint Activity at VIU: Summer School on Equipping Researchers with Skills, Strategies and Confidence for Science Communication, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

Duration of Mobility: March 31-April 4, 2025

Funding: € 2090.00, Short doctoral mobility

Description: It is essential to make researchers more aware of the importance of public science communication and engagement, especially since these activities are increasingly demanded by research funders and policymakers as a pathway towards societal impact of research. But, to be effective public communicators, researchers need training to equip them with the key competencies and the confidence to communicate strategically using a wide range of tools and channels, and evaluating impact along the way. The School draws upon the state-of-the-art of science communication literature as well as on relevant best practice in the field, combining lectures, exercises, simulations, discussions, case studies, and site visits.

[Linkedin](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



**Name: Rika Preiser, Associate Professor and UNESCO co-chair on Complexity and Transformative African Futures, Centre for Sustainability Transitions**

**Sending University: Stellenbosch University**

**Joint Activity at VIU: International PhD Academy on Rethinking Rural Futures in an Age of Climate Change: Migration, Adaptation, and Sustainability Transitions**

**Duration of Mobility: May 12-17, 2025**

**Funding: € 2780.00, Staff Mobility for Teaching**

**Description: Systems Thinking, World Views, and Sustainability Transitions:** The focus of the teaching reflected on the history of scientific worldviews and their influence on validating different knowledge systems. An understanding of systems thinking and how they inform a worldview that values complexity was discussed. A focus on applying systems thinking to real-world cases and trends in sustainability transitions, providing new normative and practical perspectives for acting in a socially and ecologically interconnected world was delivered. Embracing relational perspectives and practices aimed to equip participants with critical insights and practical skills for addressing complex challenges in their research and beyond.

[YouTube](#) / [LinkedIn](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



Name: **Keziah Mayer, Sustainable Development Planning and Management (PhD)**

Sending University: Stellenbosch University

Joint Activity at VIU: International PhD Academy on Rethinking Rural Futures in an Age of Climate Change: Migration, Adaptation, and Sustainability Transitions

Duration of Mobility: May 12-17, 2025

Funding: € 2160.00, Short Doctoral Mobility

Description: Rural communities are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, having long relied on farming, fishing, and the natural environment for their livelihoods. Strategies to enhance climate resilience and to support rural flourishing will need to be multi-pronged, including institutional support and investments in in-situ adaptation, 'migration as adaptation', and more sustainable agricultural practices and food systems. Transitioning to sustainable agri-food systems is critical to averting food insecurity and climate-driven social and ecological disasters, yet this transition requires more than technical solutions. It calls for a new vision of rural transformation and rural thriving. This PhD Academy invited participants to learn from leading thinkers working in the fields of rural development, migration studies, climate adaptation, and sustainable food systems. Participants had the opportunity to workshop their research with peers and faculty, participate in field visits to small farms outside Venice, and benefit from faculty-led workshops strengthening transversal skills. Workshops focused on participatory scenarios planning, measuring well-being outcomes, and visual methods (photo voice).

[LinkedIn](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



Name: **Wan Chi McLachlan, Translation (PhD)**

Sending University: Stellenbosch University

Joint Activity at VIU: Graduate Seminar on Translation: Why Is It a Political Question? Perspectives In Philosophy and Translation Theory

Duration of Mobility: February 26 – March 1, 2024

Funding: € 1990.00, Short Doctoral Mobility

Description: Translation serves as a bridge between languages and cultures. But it is also a vehicle to export or import texts conveying ideological messages, a powerful weapon for political projects, and works as a filter for identity building. Furthermore, translation is a crucial operator for both consolidating or questioning traditions. That is why inquiring about multiculturalism, world literature, or global processes without facing translation processes means avoiding an essential dimension of the subject. By thematizing what is political in translation, this activity, on the one hand, dealt with the most essential character of translation itself, while, on the other hand, framed translation as a phenomenon where different political dynamics come to the fore. In this sense, translation is the exceptional terrain where processes of assimilation, differentiation, foreignization, de- and re-territorialization show their political character.

[Graduate Seminars](#)



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.

## Events

Celebrating Erasmus+ Days, October 14-19, 2024

Photo contributions collected from students on Erasmus+ mobilities taking courses in the joint activity at VIU: Globalization Program, 1<sup>st</sup> semester 2024-2025.



[Linkedin](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)



Funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.

European Day of Languages, September 19, 2024

#OnlineLanguageSupport is celebrating European Day of Languages on 26 September with the 2nd OLS Open Day. Learn one of 29 languages with OLS and create opportunities for your life and career.



[Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)