

University of Vienna's cooperation with Moi University

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Why UNIVIE cooperates with Moi University

- The University of Vienna strives to cooperate with the best universities in the world.
- Collaborations include tailor made mobility programs for students and young academics.
- The existing networks of UNIVIE researchers with their international colleagues serve as the basis for this international collaboration.
- With respect to African partners, there has been little collaboration activity on the part of UNIVIE for a long time.

How it all started

- Personal contact and collaboration between faculty of both universities
- Interest in a more formal arrangement
- Negotiation of an agreement
 - Scope at Moi University: entire university
 - Scope at UNIVIE: Faculty of Philological and Cultural Studies
- Took almost 2 years to settle the agreement (2021)

Why Erasmus+

- Main interest of the cooperation between Moi and UNIVIE has always been the mutual exchange of students and teachers.
- Non-EU Student Exchange Programme at the University of Vienna is restricted to university-wide partnerships
- Erasmus+ International Mobility Programme as a work around
 - Student exchange
 - Teaching staff exchange

Why Erasmus+

- The main benefit is for the international partner, i.e. we try to facilitate more Erasmus+ mobilities to UNIVIE, because we could partly use other funding opportunities for outgoing mobilities.
- UNIVIE submits the application and administrates the funding and pays out the scholarships.
- The scholarship rates are basically okay.
- Application for 6 student and 6 teaching mobilities in 2022
 - 2 student and 3 teaching mobilities have been granted

How we started our Erasmus+ partnership

- Erasmus+ mobilities were already an issue during the negotiation of the General Agreement.
- We then discussed the concrete Erasmus+ partnership with the colleagues in Kenya via e-mail and Zoom and especially discussed the administration of the program.
- Direct contact via video calls facilitates the cooperation. (In this area the pandemic had a good side.)
- Constant exchange via e-mail on the exchange program.

When will it finally start

- Despite all the preparations we have not yet managed to carry out mobilities.
- Part of the problem lies with us at UNIVIE.
 - Inflexibility
 - Sometimes hindering decentralization
- However, there is still a strong demand for the mobility places with our partner.

Learnings

- Preparation and personal contacts are crucial but they are by no means sufficient.
- It is a learning process on both sides, despite all the preliminary discussions.
- At the same time, both partners are under pressure (students and teachers, but also from the project aspect itself)
- However, despite all this, it is a wonderful opportunity to fill cooperation with life.



Thank you for your attention!

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