Staff Training Week
13 - 17 April 2026
Programme & Overview

Stellenbosch
UNIVERSITY
IYUNIVESITHI
UNIVERSITEIT

forward together
sonke siya phambili
saam vorentoe

***Theme*:**
Strengthening Internationalisation Practice in a Data-Informed and AI-Supported University

Participants will explore:
- Who we are as internationalisation facilitators
- How intercultural competence shapes our professional practice
- What Big Data and AI are in a Higher Education context
- Why they matter in Higher Education and even for internationalisation (where possible and applicable
- How to use them responsibly, ethically and practically in daily work

Monday, 13 April

(Day 1) Orientation & Institutional Context
- Welcome and orientation
- Overview of Stellenbosch University (SU) and Stellenbosch University International (SUI)
- Participant introductions & icebreaker
- Scavenger hunt and lunch

Tuesday, 14 April

(Day 2) Professional Identity & Intercultural Competence

Session 1: Being an Internationalisation Facilitator

Session 2: Intercultural Competence
1. Revisiting intercultural competence:
   - *Attitutudes, knowledge, skills and self-awareness*
   - *Intercultural competence for professional and administrative staff*
2. Intercultural challenges in digital and AI-mediated spaces:
   - *Bias in data and algorithms*
   - *Cultural assumptions embedded in AI tools*
   - *Language, representation and Global North/South perspectives*

Learning Outcome:
Participants will be able to critically reflect on their role as internationalisation facilitators, explain relevance of intercultural competence for professional staff and identify key intercultural challenges in digital and AI-medicated internationalisation contexts.

Wednesday, 15 April

(Day 3) Big Data, AI and Internationalisation
Session 1: Foundations - Big Data, Data Science and AI in Higher Education
What is Big Data, Data Sciences and AI - and what do they mean for Higher Education and Internationalisation? (where possible)

1. Key concepts explained:
   - Clear, non-technical definitions
   - Everday examples from Higher Education
   - Unpacking fears, risks and hype

2. AI and data in Higher Education ecosystems
- Student recruitment, mobility trends and partnerships, research
- Rankings, dashboards and decision-making
- Opportunities versus risks
- Applying and utilising it ethicially

Session 2: Why AI and Data Matter
Understanding the strategic relevance of AI and data through practical applications in administrative and professional staff roles and everyday tasks in Higher Education

- Practical examples and exercises
- Include some specific Internationalisation examples and exercises if possible

Learning Outcome:
Participants will be able to identify how AI and data can support adminitrative tasks and possibly implement it to improve processes and productivity.

Thursday, 16 April

(Day 4) Job Shadowing
Participants engage in job shadowing to observe internationalisation practices in context

Friday, 17 April

(Day 5) Partipant Presentations
Using AI to Enhance My Work as an Internationalisation Facilitator
Partipants present (8 - 10 minutes) on:
- What they learned during the week
- How AI or data-informed tools could support their daily tasks
- How they plan to adapt insights responsibly within their own institutional context

Learning Outcome:
To consolidate learning, encourage and translate concepts into practical application