

SU International Staff Training Week

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

13 - 17 April 2026
Stellenbosch, South Africa

Programme

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

Orientation & Institutional Context

VENUE	Room 1028, Old Main Building (Ou Hoofgebou), Law Faculty <u>View Pin</u>
10:00 - 10:30	Welcome & Orientation Lidia du Plessis — Programme Manager: Staff Internationalisation, SUI
10:30 - 11:15	Overview of Stellenbosch University (SU) and SU International (SUI) Moses Pieterse — Senior Programme Manager: Unit for Partnerships, SUI
11:15 - 12:15	Participant Introductions & Ice Breaker
12:15 - 13:30	Lunch
14:00	Scavenger Hunt — Get to Know Campus and Town

Tuesday, 14 April
Professional Identity & Intercultural Competence

VENUE	Crossley Room, SUI Office, Krotoa Building <u>View Pin</u>
10:00 - 11:00	Being an Internationalisation Practitioner and Facilitator Robert Kotzé — Senior Director, SUI
11:00 - 11:15	Refreshments
11:15 - 13:15	Intercultural Competence Angelo Jephtha — Coordinator: Student Life and Success <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisiting Intercultural Competence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Attitudes, knowledge, skills, and self-awareness ◦ Intercultural competence for professional and administrative staff • Intercultural Challenges in Digital and AI-Mediated Spaces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Bias in data and algorithms ◦ Cultural assumptions embedded in AI tools ◦ Language, representations, and Global North/South Perspectives
13:15 - 14:15	Lunch
14:15 - 16:00	UNESCO Story Circles Werner de Wit — Senior Programme Manager: Unit for Student Mobility & Principal Coordinator: UNESCO Chair for Intercultural Competences
Learning Outcome <i>Participants will be able to critically reflect on their role as internationalisation practitioners and facilitators, explain the relevance of intercultural competence for professional staff, and identify key intercultural challenges in digital and AI-mediated internationalisation contexts.</i>	

Wednesday, 15 April
Big Data, AI, and Internationalisation
Facilitated by Prof Kanshukan Rajaratnam — Director for School of Data Science and Computational Thinking

VENUE	Room 1028, Old Main Building (Ou Hoofgebou), Law Faculty <u>View Pin</u>
9:00 - 10:30	Session 1: Foundations — Big Data, Data Science, and AI in Higher Education <i>What is Big Data, Data Science and AI — and what do they mean for Higher Education and Internationalisation (where possible)?</i>

<p>9:00 - 10:30</p>	<p>1. Key Concepts Explained</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear, non-technical definitions • Everyday examples from Higher Education • Unpacking fears, risks, and hype <p>2. AI and data in Higher Education ecosystems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student recruitment, mobility trends, and partnerships, research • Rankings, dashboards, and decision-making • Opportunities versus risks • Applying and utilising it ethically and responsibly
<p>10:30 - 11:00</p>	<p>Refreshments</p>
<p>11:00 - 13:00</p>	<p>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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical examples and exercises • Include some specific Internationalisation examples and exercises if possible.
<p>13:00 - 14:00</p>	<p>Lunch</p>
<p>14:00 - 15:00</p>	<p>Closing Discussions</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Learning Outcome <i>Participants will be able to identify how AI and data can support administrative tasks and possibly implement it to improve processes and productivity.</i></p>	

Thursday, 16 April

Job Shadowing at Various Environments of SU

Participants engage in job shadowing to observe internationalisation practices in context

Friday, 17 April

Participant Presentations

VENUE	Room 1028, Old Main Building (Ou Hoofgebou), Law Faculty <u>View Pin</u>
9:00 - 12:30	<p>Using AI to Enhance My Work as an International Facilitator</p> <p>Participants present (8 - 10 minutes) on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
12:30 - 14:00	<p>Closing Ceremony & Lunch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebration and Certificates
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Learning Outcome</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>To consolidate learning, encourage peer exchange, and translate concepts into practical application</i></p>	