

SUI Staff Training Programme – Stellenbosch University, SOUTH AFRICA
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

Day 1 - Orientation & Institutional Context

10:00 – 10:30	Welcome & Orientation Lidia du Plessis, Programme Manager: Staff Internationalisation, SUI
10:30 – 11:15	Overview of Stellenbosch University (SU) and Stellenbosch University International (SUI),
11:15 – 12:15	Participant introductions & icebreaker
12:15 – 13:30	Lunch
14:00	Scavenger Hunt – Get to know the Campus and Town

Day 2 - Professional Identity & Intercultural Competence

10:00 – 11:00	Being an Internationalisation Facilitator
11:00 – 11:15	Refreshments

11:14 – 13:15 Intercultural Competence

Revisiting intercultural competence

- Attitudes, knowledge, skills, and self-awareness
- Intercultural competence for professional and administrative staff

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

13:15 – 14:15 Lunch

14:15 – 16:00 UNESCO Story Circles

Learning Outcome:

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

Day 3 - Big Data, AI and Internationalisation

Facilitated Prof Kanshukan Rajaratnam,
Director: School for Data Science and Computational Thinking

09:00 – 10:30 Session 1: Foundations – Big Data, Data Science and AI in Higher Education

What is Big Data, Data Science and AI – and what do they mean for Higher Education and Internationalisation? (where possible)

1. Key concepts explained
 - Clear, non-technical definitions
 - Everyday 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 ethically and responsibly

10:30 – 11:00 Refreshments

11:00 – 13:00 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.

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 – 15:30 Closing discussions

Learning outcome:

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

Day 4 - Job Shadowing in various environments of SU

Participants engage in job shadowing to observe internationalisation practices in context

Day 5 - Participant Presentations

Room 1028, Ou Hoofgebou/Old Main Building, Law Faculty

Using AI to Enhance My Work as an Internationalisation Facilitator

Participants 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

09:00 – 12:30 Participants presentation

12:00 – 14:00 Closing Ceremony & lunch: Celebration and Certificates

Learning outcome:

To consolidate learning, encourage peer exchange, and translate concepts into practical application.