



B360 at NUST

B360 Experts in First Semester 2022

Faculty of Health, Applied Sciences and Natural Resources hosted 3 B360 Experts following the suspension of in-person guest lecturing by B360 experts for 2020 and 2021 due to the global Covid-19 pandemic.

B360 Experts Dr Rudolf Schmitt, Prof Corinne Gantenbein and Dr Stephanie Baumgartner undertook guest lecturing assignments to NUST's Faculty of Health, Natural Resources and Applied Sciences in the first semester of 2022. In 2021, Dr Schmitt was the only B360 Expert to visit NUST as a guest lecturer.

Dr Schmitt lectured in the fields of Food Safety and Food Microbiology, Prof Gantenbein taught in the Food and Meat Hygiene course and Dr Baumgartner lectured in Human Nutrition. The three B360 Experts have all visited NUST in the past, and they all found the return to NUST and Namibia very welcome. "For the past twelve years I have regularly volunteered at NUST as a guest lecturer. It has been interesting to observe the developments at NUST over the past decade and to share my knowledge and experience," Dr Schmitt said.

"I particularly appreciate the contact with these young students who are eager to learn. At the beginning, some of them rated the learning objective as quite challenging. But all of them made great progress in the competencies to be achieved," said Dr Baumgartner of her visit to NUST. Prof

Gantenbein, speaking on her assignment to NUST, said, "It was a highlight to be back in Namibia and to meet NUST colleagues and also students back on campus. It is a large win-win to share with the students the experience as a lecturer and as an expert in the field of food microbiology. Seeing that the students were highly motivated and that I could provide them with new knowledge boosted my personal motivation."

The guest lecturing assignments by Swiss-based industry professionals are made possible through an agreement between NUST and B360, that was first signed in 2009. To date well over 200 Swiss professionals have undertaken volunteer guest lecturer assignments to NUST. Three of NUST's four Faculties have hosted B360 Experts.

In the wake of the disruption to international travel and guest lecturing exchanges caused by Covid-19, B360 launched its Virtual Volunteering Programme through which Swiss experts undertake guest lecturing virtually via Zoom or MS Teams. Dr Baumgartner and Prof Gantenbein participated in such remote guest lecturing activities with NUST students during 2021



Prof Corinne Gantenbein during a practical session with NUST students.



Dr Stephanie Baumgartner with the group of students she taught during her recent assignment to NUST.



Dr Rudolf Schmitt with the class of NUST students he lectured during his visit to NUST.



Prof Corinne Gantenbein, Dr Rudolf Schmitt and Dr Stephanie Baumgartner on excursion to Swakopmund during their Volunteer Guest Lecturing Visit to NUST.

Four NUST Students Complete Virtual Internships

The B360 Education Partnerships (B360) Virtual Internship Programme continued in 2022, following a successful pilot project in 2021, as four Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) students undertook internships working remotely for Swiss-based companies.

NUST and B360 developed the Virtual Internship Programme in response to the disruption caused by the global Covid-19 pandemic to international staff and student exchanges. The uncertainty experienced globally in the Covid-19 era meant that students selected for the B360 Internship Programme in March 2020, could only embark for Switzerland in May 2021. NUST students selected for the Virtual Internship Programme undertake internships with Swiss-based organisations, while physically remaining in Namibia.

B360 and NUST's Department of International Relations held selection for the Virtual Internship Programme in November 2021. Four students from the Department of Communications and the Department of Environmental Health Sciences in the Faculties of Commerce, Human Sciences and Education and Health, Applied Sciences and Natural Resources respectively, were selected to undertake their virtual internships in the first semester of 2022.

Queen Pieter and Letisia Petrus, from the Department of Communications and Erah Nehale and Sophia Atshipara from the Department of Environmental Health Sciences were selected for the programme. Their internships began in April 2022 and concluded three months later in June 2022.

The Virtual Internship Programme is indicative of an emerging trend in internationalization of education that involve virtual exchanges or collaborative online working between participants in geographically remote locations. This type of exchange makes use of information and communication technologies which are not new per se, but have been applied to work, teaching and learning more extensively since the arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The virtual internship was a very interesting and rewarding experience," said Pieter, adding that being physically remote from her colleagues and supervisor placed new demands on



(FLTR): Queen Pieter, Erah Nehale, Letisia Petrus and Sophia Atshipara along with B360 President, Sabina Balmer, shortly after the start of the Virtual Internship Programme intake for 2022.



her and required her to develop a sense of self-discipline and commitment almost instantly. "I can say that I have grown a lot through this virtual internship, because now I know that I am able to stay focused and on track with work without a supervisor looking over my shoulder," Petrus said.

"We are incredibly proud of our students, for the commitment, hard work and dedication that they have shown throughout their virtual internships," said NUST International Relations Officer and local B360 Coordinator, Nico Smit. He added that this programme is important for NUST as it allows the institution to expose its students to a new trend in the world of work, namely remote work.

NUST & B360 Host Career Starter Week Workshops

The International Relations (IR) Section at the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) and Swiss-based B360 Education Partnerships (B360) hosted career readiness workshops for unemployed university graduates in September and October 2022.

The Career Starter Week (CSW) Workshop is a relatively new, joint initiative between NUST and B360. First implemented in 2016, the CSW is a five-day workshop that equips young Namibians with the knowledge and skills to enhance their employability and ensure readiness for the world of work.

The workshop participants undergo an intensive week of "hands-on", practical training, with a focus on developing their knowledge of project management, presentation skills, understanding of financial planning, and business idea development. Employment applications and interview preparation are also covered, and all participants have the opportunity to attend a mock job interview.

The CSW Workshops are facilitated by B360 Experts who visit NUST on a volunteer basis. These international industry professionals are supported by Namibian professionals who deliver content on certain modules in the CSW programme. This gives the CSW an international flavour, yet it remains contextually relevant with its blend of local and international presenters sharing their knowledge and experience.

The NUST IR Section and B360 hosted four CSW workshops in September and October this year. The CSW Workshops were planned and hosted with the support of FNB Namibia, who sponsored the initiatives. During September, the workshops were facilitated by B360 Experts, Matteo Veriani and Karusha Moonsamy, who are based in Switzerland and South Africa respectively. The CSW workshops that took place in October were facilitated by Lichtenstein-based

B360 Experts, Thomas Weber and Cathrin Kratzla. A host of Namibian professionals from organisations such as FNB Namibia, Chase and Associates CC, Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB), Meatco, Cymot, the Capricorn Group, Nedbank, Sanlam Investment Management (SIM) and NUST delivered content at the four workshops.

The CSW participants shared similar feedback when asked about their experience of the workshop, saying that the initiative had been "life changing," "super impactful," and "on another level". The international experts facilitating the CSW found their time in Namibia and work at NUST to be very rewarding. "It was really fantastic to watch the development of the students. It was very clear to see that



B360 Experts Karusha Moonsamy (left) and Matteo Veriani (second from left) share a light moment with two workshop participants during the Career Starter Week held in September on the NUST Campus.



the people who started the course were not the same people who finished it," Veriani said.

NUST and B360 have enjoyed a long and fruitful partnership since 2009. Which has seen a significant number of students undertake internships in Switzerland, and Swiss-

based industry professionals visit NUST as volunteer guest lecturers. As the partnership between NUST and B360 has grown from strength to strength, the CSW Workshops have been developed and added to the joint activities. A more recent development in the partnership has been the introduction of the B360 Virtual Internship Programme.

NUST Students Head to Europe for Internships

Ten Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) students participated in the B360 Education Partnerships Sending North Programme in 2022 as they undertook industry internships at companies in Switzerland and Lichtenstein.

NUST students have since 2011 had the opportunity to undertake internships in Switzerland through an agreement between NUST and B360 Education Partnerships (B360). The latter is a Swiss-based Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) that contributes to skills and knowledge transfer and capacity development in Southern Africa. The partnership was established in 2009, and to date more than 100 NUST students have undertaken internships in Switzerland and Lichtenstein through the B360 Sending North Programme.

Desmond Somseb, Aina Nepaya, Chimango Chihana, Titus Jafet and Tarohole Niipare were selected for the B360 Internship Programme in September 2021, and travelled to Switzerland for their three-month internships in February 2022. Siegfried Skeper, Lydia Kaupitwa, Matthew-Leen Hanghome, Paulus Nanguti and Shahied !Khabeb were selected for the B360 Sending North Programme in March 2022, and travelled to the central European countries for their internships in August 2022.

Nepaya, Chihana, Jafet, Niipare and Nanguti are all students in NUST's Faculty of Commerce, Human Sciences and Education, while Somseb and !Khabeb study in the Faculty of Computing and Informatics. Hanghome and Kaupitwa are students in the Faculty of Health, Natural Resources and Applied Sciences.

Somseb spent his internship with Swiss financial services provider, bob Finance AG, and Niipare was placed with Swiss bank Julius Bär. Nepaya, Chihana and Jafet undertook their internships at the Swiss banking giant, Credit Suisse. Kaupitwa became the first NUST student to undertake an internship at Motorex-Bucher Group AG, a chemicals company specializing in the development and production of lubricants, metalworking fluids and technical cleaning

and care products. !Khabeb and Nanguti also became the first NUST students to be placed with LGT Bank, Lichtenstein, for their internships. Hanghome was placed with the Zurich University of Applied Sciences, and Skeper undertook his internship at Zweifel Pomy-Chips.

The NUST students were placed with host families in Switzerland and Lichtenstein for all round integration into Swiss life. During their time abroad they travelled extensively throughout Switzerland and visited famous cities such as Lucerne and Geneva, and some even travelled further afield to Paris, France. A notable excursion was



NUST students Paulus Nanguti, Siegfried Skeper, Matthew-Leen Hanghome, Lydia Kaupitwa and Shahied !Khabeb during their internship in Switzerland and Lichtenstein.



NUST Students Tarohole Niipare, Chimango Chihana, Aina Nepaya, Titus Jafet and Desmond Somseb on excursion during their three-month internships in Switzerland.

Commenting on his internship, Jafet said, "It was a great experience working at Credit Suisse, they gave me an understanding of the industry, and I will always appreciate that." Somseb added that the tasks allocated to him during his time at bob Finance AG aided in the development of soft and hard skills. "Along with that, I gained valuable insight into the IT industry and its operations," he added. Echoing Jafet's sentiments was Hanghome, who said that the internship abroad was one of the greatest experiences of her life. "It was truly everything that I envisioned it to be. I will always treasure the experiences, memories and moments, and the people I have become acquainted with," she said.