



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

# INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY YEARBOOK 2022



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# FOREWORD

## MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



### Karibu UoN

The University of Nairobi has continued to attract students from all over the world who join our great institution to pursue higher education.

The University has about 1,500 international students out of a student population of 47,700. Our international students are drawn from over 40 nationalities across the world.

We are committed, as a University, to serving the needs of all our students without discrimination. The idea of academic endeavour is valuable when it makes a contribution to our world. This is the ideal that inspires us in our research effort and our view of education because it is the bedrock of our programmes.

The University has entered into partnerships and collaborative agreements with numerous international, regional, and local institutions and industries in the areas of research, students/staff exchanges, and industrial attachments.

It is worth noting that these collaborations and exchange programmes give useful exposure to our staff and students as well as contribute to the internationalisation agenda of the university. The experience of studying in another university is one of the most invaluable benefits that a student can acquire during his/her studies.

I welcome you all to the University of Nairobi.



Prof. Stephen G. Kiama  
Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi

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# EDITOR'S MESSAGE

## Message from the Director

This is the first edition of our newsletter dedicated to the international programme at the University of Nairobi. It provides a comprehensive focus on the unique international experience at the University of Nairobi. Internationalisation is strategic in branding the University.

We have staff and students from over 50 nationalities at the University. They are our brand ambassadors in their respective countries. Through academic exchange, joint research, and cultural immersion, we are able to appreciate diversity and promote academic excellence by benchmarking with our peers and partners.

I congratulate the editorial team for their effort in putting this newsletter together. It is a coffee table-book with a generous dose of pictorial content that is easy to scan through as the pictures tell the stories. We value your feedback and will use it for improving future publications.

Enjoy your reading.



Mr John A.O. Orindi  
Director, Corporate Affairs, UoN



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# DEAN OF STUDENTS

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF STUDENTS



The Dean of Students Office caters for the welfare of all students at the University of Nairobi. We are responsible for ensuring a smooth transition for our foreign students by offering career guidance and counselling, as well as overseeing placement and internships among other functions.

International students are important to us in the same way as our Kenyan students. We work to ensure that our international students feel valued and appreciated, and most importantly, they do not feel neglected. Occasions such as the International Students Day help us to achieve this objective. On this very important day, we have the opportunity to single out and appreciate the wide variety of cultures and nationalities present within our student body. Furthermore, the day offers an open forum to educate one another on the different cultures of the world, as well as create a socialisation forum for students and staff.

We at the Dean of Students office also work with welfare organisations such as the Windle Trust among many others to offer financial aid and scholarships to international students who may require it.

The Dean of Students Office is proud that our international students have selected to come to the University of Nairobi as the place to further their studies.

Mr. Johnson Ireri Kinyua  
Dean of Students, UoN

# UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

## Administration



The International Office is a unit in the University of Nairobi responsible for initiating, promoting, facilitating and coordinating international programmes and links, staff and student exchange mobility, collaborative research projects, and worldwide networking.

Among other functions, the office takes care of the welfare of international students and staff of UoN, provides assistance in travel arrangements for visiting scholars and international students, and collects and disseminates relevant information on all international agreements in liaison with the relevant faculties and departments.

Internalisation is very crucial in promoting the university's visibility.

Mr. Eric Chesoni  
Administrative Assistant - International Office

## Student Representative

The University of Nairobi was my dream university because of its academic excellence.

Stepping into the world of politics changed the way I looked at college. This has changed the way I see myself as an international student. I lost the sense of being a foreigner and discovered that the experience of interacting with more students and participating in activities was quite lovely.

Sometimes we fear uncertainty, but the University of Nairobi has given me and thousands of other international students a home.

I am urging international students to actively take part in school politics, sports activities, and other events.

I am proud to be associated with the University of Nairobi and to represent my fellow international students.

Ms. Monica Maliath  
International Students' Representative



Ms. Monica Maliath  
International Students' Representative

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# DIRECTOR

## UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT & INSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

### Message from the COO

As a university, we have a role of enhancing the educational and research experiences of our students and faculty as well as building our reputation and global impact.

We are therefore accelerating our internationalisation agenda by establishing an internationalisation office and developing an internationalisation strategy for the university.

We are consistently and continuously signing collaborative agreements with our local and international partners thus making it imperative to consolidate the gains that we have achieved over time for the benefit of the entire university.

Since international collaborations are established on the backbone of grants application and management to support staff and students in international mobility, this role is instituted at the faculty level and domiciled in the offices of the Associate Deans.

Finally, I want to appreciate the Embassy of France for their support in seconding Prof. Marc Zolver to support us in the establishment of a framework for the internationalisation office at the University of Nairobi.



Mr. Brian Ouma  
COO & Director University Advancement  
& Institutional Affairs

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# INDUSTRY-ACADEMIC EXPERT

## UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT & INSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

### Research, Innovation and Technology



Prof. Marc Zolver  
Industry-Academic Expert

Prof. Marc Zolver who identifies at home in France by the title "Technique International" is currently based at the University of Nairobi as an industry-academic expert. Through Prof. Zolver's presence, the University of Nairobi is a beneficiary of agreements between the Government of Kenya and the French Development Agency (AFD) amounting to Kshs 4.6 billion aimed at improving and opening up available academic training in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics areas in Kenya.

Prof. Zolver previously worked as the Vice president of International Affairs at CentraleSupélec, Université Paris-Saclay. He was also the Vice Dean of the International Affairs Office at Centrale Paris where he worked as an instigator and coordinator of two ERASMUS MUNDUS action 2 programmes.

He has 14 years of work experience as a Research Engineer in France (IFPEN), Germany (European Southern Observatory), and Observatoire de la Côte d'Azur as a Grant from the French Academy of Sciences (France).

Prof. Zolver is working with the University of Nairobi in the promotion of links with industry as well as enhancing internationalisation in partnership with top French Science and Engineering universities.

# THE UoN EXCHANGE PROGRAMME



University of Nairobi students at Soka University

The University of Nairobi takes great pride in its strategic partnerships with various institutions around the world to promote student and staff exchanges.

Every year, students and staff from the university's faculties leave for other countries under various exchange programmes. About 20 students take part in short-term and long-term exchange programmes annually. In 2022, sixteen students from the Faculty of Arts and Social Science, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, Faculty of Law, and Faculty of Science and Technology were involved in the programmes.

The exchange programmes allow students to network with their counterparts from other countries. On the other hand, the programmes offer opportunities for academic members of staff to carry out joint research and training with their counterparts.

Some of our exchange partners include Soka University and Hokkaido University in Japan and Nelson Mandela University and University of Pretoria in South Africa.

Most of the European partnerships with the University of Nairobi are under the auspices of the Erasmus Plus programme which is funded by the European Union. They include universities such as Hradecrállove University (Czech Republic), University of Ghent (Belgium), Gothenburg University (Sweden), and Pompeu Fabra University (Spain).

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# WHAT IS INWARD AND OUTWARD MOBILITY?



The University of Nairobi offers opportunities for students and staff to experience life and study in an international country and institution through various exchange programmes.

Outward mobility involves sending students from the University of Nairobi to the partner universities. In one recent activity, four students from the Faculty of Arts were accepted to join Soka University (Japan). A number of students were also accepted under the Erasmus Plus programme of exchange in various European universities.

Inward mobility involves hosting international students and staff from our partner universities for short-term or long-term exchange at UoN.



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## STUDENTS

# OUTWARD MOBILITY



Purity Osuka, an undergraduate exchange student from the University of Nairobi was at University of Hradec Kralove (Czech Republic) on a one-semester exchange



Brian Juma (left), undergraduate student from the University of Nairobi, at University of Hradec Kralove (Czech Republic) on a one-semester exchange



Selina Ochukut, a PhD student in Information Systems at the University of Nairobi, was at the Pompeu Fabra University (Spain)



Purity Wanjiku, Undergraduate student from UoN at Hradec Kralove University in The Czech Republic

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## STUDENTS

# INWARD MOBILITY

SWEDEN



FRANCE



Albin (left) and Ellinor, students pursuing a master's degree in law at Gothenburg University in Sweden were on an exchange programme in Kenya



Reisele Verhoeven (left) and Emma Van Herck, exchange programme students from Ghent University (Belgium), pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree



Eloi (left), Aristide (centre) and Marta; exchange programme students from Science Po University (France) pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree



Kassandra (left) and Edvard, exchange programme students from Linköping University (Sweden) pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree

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STAFF

# OUTWARD MOBILITY

SPAIN



POMPEU FABRA UNIVERSITY IN BARCELONA SPAIN



Mr. John A.O. Orindi (left)

In May 2022, UoN's Director of Corporate Affairs, Mr. John A.O. Orindi participated in a one-week international staff training activity at the Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona.

The event attracted staff from 20 universities across the globe. In addition to learning, the participants were able to build networks among their respective institutions.



Mr. John A.O. Orindi (center)

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# INWARD MOBILITY

SPAIN



## STAFF EXCHANGE WITH POMPEU FABRA UNIVERSITY



Ms Fatou-Bin Ngu'm of Pompeu Fabra University (left) and Mr John A.O. Orindi, Director, Corporate Affairs

Ms Fatou-Bin Ngu'm from Pompeu Fabra University (UPF) in Barcelona, Spain visited the University of Nairobi in June 2022. She is the international partnerships and mobility administrator of the International Relations Service at UPF. Pompeu Fabra University is a partner University of the University of Nairobi. Coming soon after a visit to UPF by UoN's Director of Corporate Affairs Mr John Orindi, the reciprocal visit by Ms Ngu'm was part of the ongoing efforts to enhance the collaboration between the two universities



Mr Eric Richard Chesoni, Administrative Assistant dealing with international students in the Directorate of Corporate Affairs (left) and Ms Fatou-Bin Ngu'm during her visit to UoN

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# WHO IS AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

## Introduction to an International Student



Timothy Downing (Right), international student from the United States of America

The University of Nairobi currently has a total of 1, 500 international students (2022) undertaking undergraduate, masters, and PhD programmes.

Any student who undertakes all or part of his/her tertiary education in a country other than one's own and moves to that country for the purpose of studying is categorised as an international student. International students join the University of Nairobi to complete a full-term programme at the undergraduate, masters, or PhD levels.

The University of Nairobi is honoured to be the university of choice for international students coming to further their studies in Kenya.

Asanteni Sana



Jo Tao international student from China

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# INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

NIGERIA



## My Experience in Nairobi

JUSTINA INIKPI

Quitting my job and leaving my home country Nigeria in 2020 to pursue an MBA at the University of Nairobi is certainly one of the highlights of my professional journey.

I was looking for an opportunity to broaden my knowledge, meet new people, and also get to know more about the Kenyan culture. Once I arrived, settling in Nairobi especially in the heat of the Coronavirus pandemic was not as seamless as I had envisioned. The movement restrictions imposed during the lockdowns made it impossible to physically meet my classmates because all the lectures and examinations were held online.

Fast-forward to two years later. I have formed some valuable relationships from our online interactions. Nairobi to me is a melting pot of diverse cultures, people, and experiences. Living in Nairobi has been a positive experience. The people are easygoing and kind. Ugali is the staple food and I actually know someone who eats ugali five times a week.

I love the patriotism that I have seen around me. There is a silent "I am proud to be Kenyan" attitude that cuts across people of different tribes and socio-economic classes. I have encountered Boda Boda (motor cycle) riders and top executives alike adorning their wrists with a beaded bracelet of the Kenyan flag as part of their daily dress ensemble. One thing I was not prepared for, however, was the cold weather. It is rare to find air conditioning sets in Kenyan homes because the weather is cool most of the time. Sometimes during the heavy traffic jams I am reminded of the city of Lagos where this is not an unusual occurrence.

As I wind up my study programme and enthusiastically look to the future, I am grateful to have experienced life in Nairobi.

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Justina (left) at the Giraffe Centre in Nairobi



Justina at the Karura Forest in Nairobi



Justina in Mombasa

# INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



Timothy Armstrong (left), a PhD student from the United States of America studying Climate Change and Adaption at the University of Nairobi



Celia Nagawa from Uganda is pursuing an undergraduate course in Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery



Jo Tao (far right), a Chinese student currently pursuing his PhD in Project Planning and Management at the University of Nairobi



Hojjat Shafiee from Iran is a Master of Science student in Architecture at the University of Nairobi

# PARTNERSHIPS

## Strategic partnerships & alliances



University of Nairobi top management, led by Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Stephen Kiama (front row, centre with brown jacket) with representatives from the Nelson Mandela University, South Africa.



Mr John A.O. Orindi, University of Nairobi's Director of Corporate Affairs (left), with the Ukrainian Ambassador to Kenya, H.E. Amb. Andriy Pravednyk



Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Stephen Kiama with Ms. Nobungwele Mbem (left), International Officer at Nelson Mandela University, South Africa, during a courtesy call at UoN



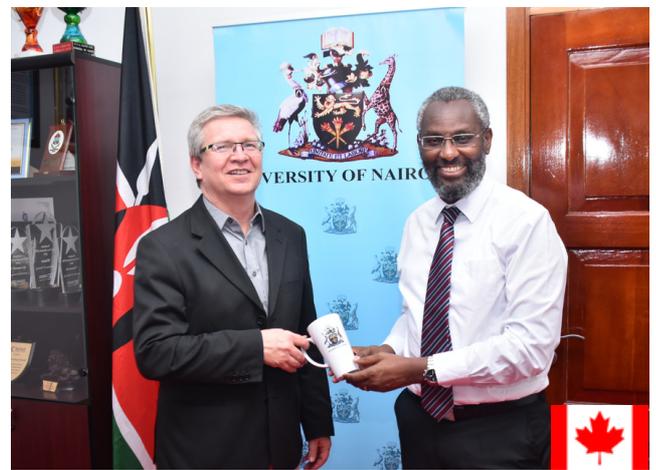
Ambassador of China to Kenya, H.E. Amb. Zhou Pingjian (left) and the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Stephen G. Kiama

# PARTNERSHIPS

## University of Nairobi partnerships



Second-year students from the Faculty of Business and Management Sciences were awarded the Chinese Ambassador's Scholarship for the academic year 2021/2022 by the Chinese government



Dr. Michael Benarroch, President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Manitoba in Canada (left), with UoN Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Stephen Kiama during the former's visit to the University of Nairobi



Prof. Muniwoki, Director of Research at UoN (4th from right in white shirt) with Hane University of Applied Sciences during a visit to UoN, to discuss potential research collaboration opportunities



Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Stephen Kiama (right), with the Hungarian ambassador to Kenya, H.E Zolt Mészáros (left). The two discussed partnership opportunities between UoN and various Hungarian universities

# PARTNERSHIPS

## MoU with University of Helsinki



UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

Vice-Chancellor, UoN, Prof. Stephen Kiama (left) and Prof. Sari Lindblom, Rector, University of Helsinki



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Stephen Kiama (second right) with staff from University of Helsinki (centre). Also present were: From left to right, Prof. J. Odhiambo, Dean (Faculty of Social Sciences), Prof. J. Ogeng'o, DVC Academic Affairs. Prof. M. Hutchinson, Associate Vice-Chancellor (RIE) is on the right

On March 24, 2021, the University of Nairobi and Finland's University of Helsinki signed a memorandum of understanding for a strategic partnership aimed at tackling pressing global issues including the future of our planet, climate change, loss of biodiversity, and the current and future pandemics

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# PARTNERSHIPS



Erasmus Plus Exhibition at UoN on 13 October 2022

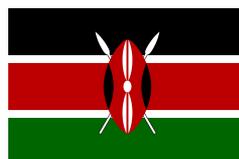


Ms. Katrin Hagemann, Deputy Ambassador of the EU to Kenya.



Prof. Fabio Santoni – Italian Embassy Representative

## Erasmus+



### What is Erasmus Plus

Erasmus is the European Union (EU) programme for education, training, youth and sport. Whilst thousands of Europeans have benefitted from the programme, its external dimension, Erasmus+ offers various opportunities for Kenyan students.

### Erasmus Plus and UoN Partnership

The partnership of the institutions is in the context of the Erasmus Charter for higher education in all aspects of mobility, in particular the recognition of the credits or equivalent awarded to students by the partner institution.

This interchange is based on a valid agreement of cooperation which obliges the programme participant to study or participate in administrative work, meetings, and teaching.

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# INTERNATIONAL VISITS

When Bill Gates, billionaire and philanthropist, visited UoN



Philanthropist Bill Gates (centre) at CEAMA with Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Stephen Kiama (left) and Dr Louise Ombajo (right)



Mr. Bill Gates and Dr. Louise Ombajo



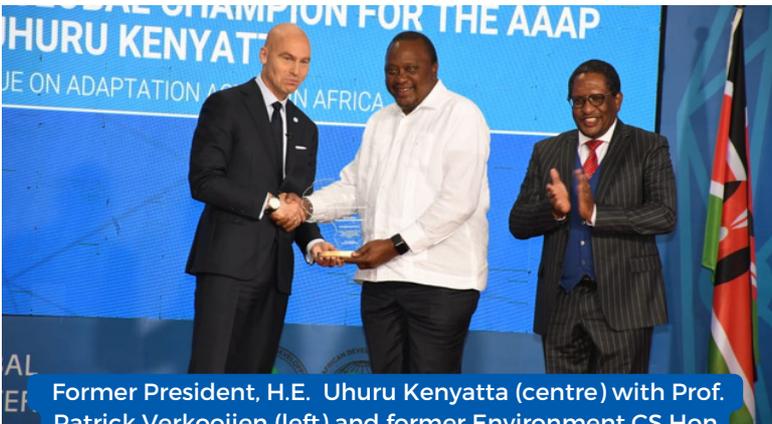
Mr Bill Gates during an engagement with students at the University of Nairobi

On Thursday, 17 November 2022, philanthropist Bill Gates visited the University of Nairobi where he spent time at the Centre for Epidemiological Modelling Analysis (CEMA), which is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Pictured (above) Dr. Louise Ombajo (CEMA) explains the centre's activities. Later, Mr Gates engaged in a discussion on Climate Change and Food Security in Africa during a townhall with students from Kenya at the UoN's Chandaria Auditorium in the University of Nairobi Towers (left). The session also attracted more than 10,000 virtual participants from across Africa.

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# PARTNERSHIPS

## Partnership agreement with Global Center on Adaptation



Former President, H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta (centre) with Prof. Patrick Verkooijen (left) and former Environment CS Hon. Keriako Tobiko.



On 7 July 2022, His Excellency Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta, former president of the Republic of Kenya, was awarded the Global Champion Award by the CEO of Global Center on Adaption, Prof. Patrick Verjooiken, for his exceptional work in creating ways in which the country can counteract the effects of climate.

On the same day, President Kenyatta witnessed the signing of an MoU between the University of Nairobi and the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) to scale up adaptation efforts in Africa through a project titled, 'Enhancing and scaling up climate adaptation for resilient infrastructure in Kenya and the East African region'. The agreement worth Kshs 140 million, will see the University deliver a master class on climate change and conduct a competition for innovative climate change solutions among the youth. The top three innovative solutions will be awarded Kshs 5 million each.

Global Center on Adaptation's CEO, Prof. Patrick Verkooijen



Prof. Patrick Verkooijen, CEO, Global Center on Adaptation

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# INTERNATIONAL VISIT

Prof. Patrick Verkooijen, CEO of the Global Center on Adaptation, visits the Wangari Maathai Institute (WMI)



Left, Prof. Kiama, VC UoN; H.E. The First Lady, Mrs Rachel Ruto (2nd left) and Prof. Verkooijen at the WMI Institute.

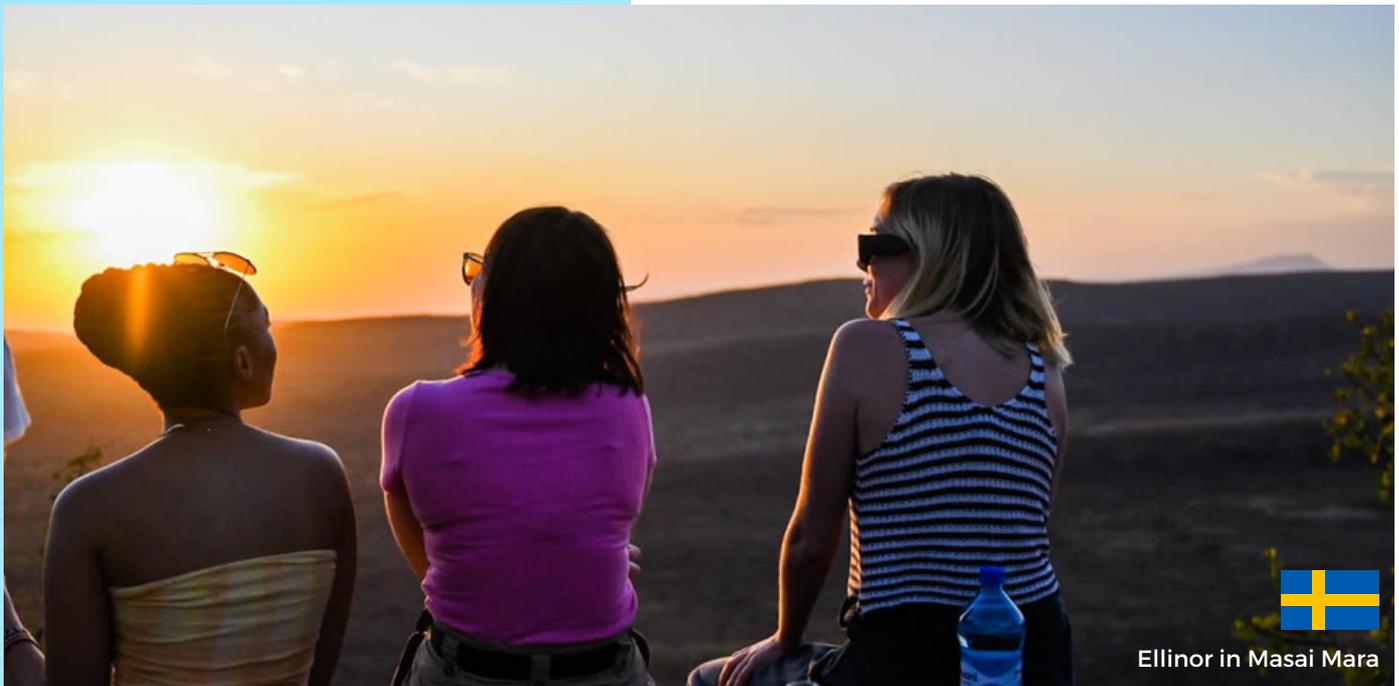


Prof. Verkooijen (left) and The First Lady, H.E. Mrs Rachael Ruto plant a tree at WMI as the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Stephen Kiamam (right) looks on.



The First Lady H.E. Mrs Rachael Ruto with Global Center on Adaptation | CEO and Distinguished Chair of the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies (WMI), Prof. Patrick Verkooijen (centre), and Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Stephen Kiamam (right) during a tree planting activity at the WMI

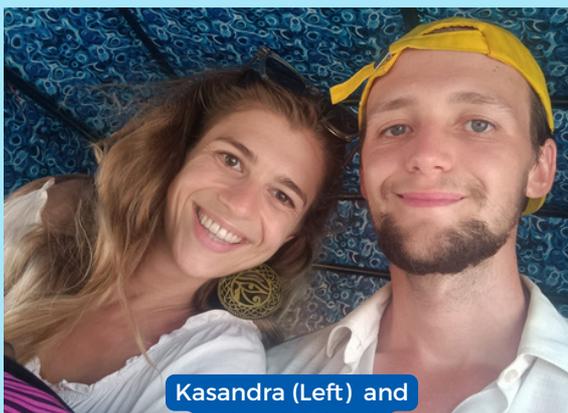
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Ellinor in Masai Mara



Albin at Pete's Café in Kilimani, Nairobi



Kasandra (Left) and Edvard. (Right)



Monica Malith, Former International Students Rep (UNSA) in Mombasa

# EXPERIENCING THE KENYAN CULTURE

Masters students Albin and Ellinor travelled across Kenya, from City Park (Nairobi) to Masai Mara and even Ngong Hills. They joined the University of Nairobi for the final semester of their studies in Environmental Law at Gothenburg University in Sweden.



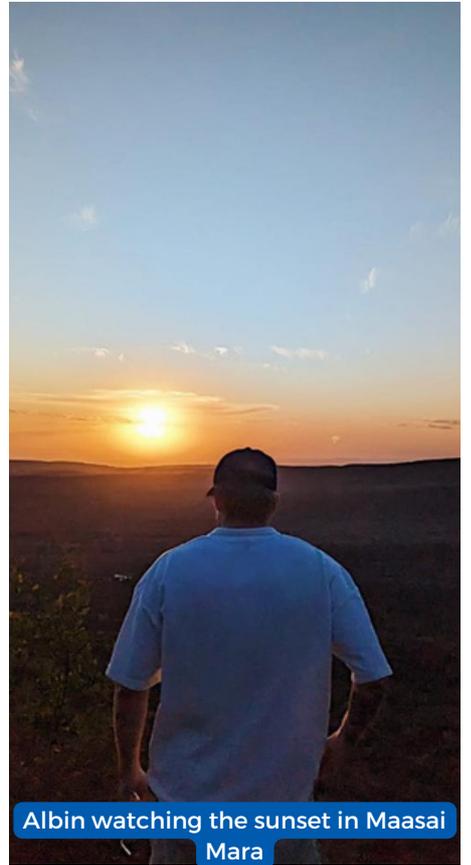
“ Kenya has very welcoming people, a rich culture, and 1000 things to do and see. I totally get it that people never want to leave this place. Maybe I'll stay.

~Albin

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Ellinor Bachelor of Arts exchange for 2 semester sept 21 to may 22 in Maasai Mara



Albin watching the sunset in Maasai Mara

# CULTURE FOOD & FUN



Roosevelt Masters in Human Rights enjoys a meal at a Nairobi restaurant



Albin (left) with a friend in Watamu



Ellinor at Giraffe Center

International students (Roosevelt) and short-term exchange programme students (Albin and Ellinor) sampled the food, culture, and fun spots within Nairobi and across Kenya. They visited various famous spots such as Maasai Mara, Watamu, Giraffe Center, and City Park.

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JAPAN



# EXCHANGE PROGRAMME 2022

## Soka University 2022



University of Nairobi Faculty of Arts students went for a five-month exchange programme to Soka University in Japan. They arrived in Japan on 16 September 2022.



James Okuma (second left) with classmates at a restaurant. James attended a one-year exchange programme at Hokkaido in Japan



From left to right, Michelle Opondo, Joash Kipkemoi, Lorna Katile and Samuel Nyabuto

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# WATCH OUT, EXCHANGE PROGRAMME 2023 ✈️



Univerzita  
Hradec Králové

The University of Hradec Králové is a public university in Hradec Králové, of the Czech Republic.

Founded on 21 June 2000

## SciencesPo

The Paris Institute of Political Studies is a public research , in Paris, France, founded in 10 July 1872.

Founded on 10 July 1872



Linköping University is a public research university based in Linköping, Sweden. Originally established in 1969, it was granted full university status in 1975 and is one of Sweden's largest academic institutions.

fully granted access in 1975



Hokkaido University, or Hokudai, is a Japanese national university in Sapporo, Hokkaido. It was the fifth Imperial University in Japan, established as one of the nation's finest institutions of higher education and research.

Founded on 14 August 1876

The University of Kent is a semi-collegiate public research university based in Kent, United Kingdom. The university was granted its royal charter on 4 January 1965



Granted its Royal Charter on 4 January 1965.

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# INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS DAY 2022

Celebrating Diversity



"To date International students account for 1500 of the entire university student population with representation from over 40 nationalities across the globe.

The experience of studying at another university is one of the most invaluable benefits that a student can acquire during his/her university studies.

The student does not only benefit from experiencing a different cultural environment but also a different mode of lecture delivery and intellectual discourse than the one he/she may be used to in the home university.

Interaction with other international students helps in widening the academic and cultural horizons of the students participating in such programmes.

I am hopeful that this cultural event educates each one of us to love and appreciate our diverse cultures. Let culture make us stronger; and as the theme suggests, 'Appreciating the diversity of our cultures'.

I call upon each one of us to go back to the basics of our culture. All our cultures are strong in morality, ethics, strong friendships, and strong family values."

Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi Prof. Stephen Kiama during this year's International Students Day.



Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Stephen Kiama

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# INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS DAY 2022

## Pomp, Colour, and Dance marked the 2022 International Students' Day



Students from Burundi play the traditional Burundian drums for peace



Students from South Sudan perform a traditional dance



Students from Modern Arts, Kikuyu Campus perform dances from various Kenyan tribes



A section of international students present during the UoN's International Students' Day 2022

# SPORTS DAY 2022



During the annual University of Nairobi Sports Day 2022, both local and international students participated in activities such as basketball, soccer, and cheer dancing among others.

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THE  
BEST  
EXCHANGE  
EXPERIENCE  
EVER

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

WHAT MAKES  
UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI  
SO GREAT

The University of Nairobi is a comprehensive University that offers market driven undergraduate, masters and doctoral academic programmes as well as a strong and vibrant research culture with a reputation for excellence.

The University of Nairobi started in 1970 and is the oldest such institution in Kenya. It is also the most prestigious university in East and Central Africa, ranking among the top ten (10) in Africa and the best 1000 universities in the World.

It is located in Nairobi, the Capital City of Kenya, with campuses spread across serene locations within the city. The University also has two other campuses located in the coastal city of Mombasa and the lakeside city of Kisumu on the western side of the country.

The University has cemented a reputation over the years as a centre of epic academic discourse for opening its doors to some of the world's most renowned leaders to offer public lectures on various topical issues. The world leaders who have spoken at the University include Former US President Barack Obama; President of France Emmanuel Macron; Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel; President of the Ford Foundation Darren Walker, Entrepreneur Jack Ma, Indian Prime Minister Norendra Modi, UNCTAD Secretary General Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, and several national leaders.

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