Call for:
1. Staff Exchange Programme 2015
2. SU Resident Representative at KU Leuven

Academic staff, researchers, post-doctoral fellows and administrative staff are invited to apply to participate in the KULeuven-SU Staff Exchange programme for 2015. The call includes the opportunity for a successful exchange participant to be appointed as the resident representative for SU while participating in the academic programme at his/her host department or research group.

The staff exchange programme creates possibilities to undertake joint research in all academic fields and specifically to develop and implement activities aligned with the areas of common interest listed below. Calls for the staff exchange programme will normally be published in March and September annually, but for 2015 and to initiate the new partnership the current call is launched and will be open until 27 November 2014.

For the information about the resident representative see below.

Background:
SU and KU Leuven share a firm commitment to human rights and democracy, which implies that the promotion of human dignity is considered of special importance. Priority will be given to activities directed towards disadvantaged and under-privileged people and groups to promote their health, peace and security. This reflects the parties’ awareness of the richness of diversity and the importance of sustainable development.

The preferential partnership creates a framework for the following activities:
  a) cooperating in the field of education;
  b) creating joint PhD programmes, joint research projects and joint research activities;
  c) administrative cooperation; and
  d) facilitating the mobility of staff and students in order to realise the above forms of cooperation.

In order to be true to their commitment as specified above and to implement joint activities, SU and KU Leuven will pay special attention to the following areas of common interest:
  • developing exemplary leadership qualities;
  • orientating university education towards transferring not only top quality skills and knowledge, but also towards adequately preparing young people to take up their multi-faceted role in society;
  • developing blended learning methods;
  • developing complementary and joint educational programmes, not only to optimise resource allocation at both universities, but especially to take advantage of the exclusive strengths of their specific partner;
  • developing innovative assessment and evaluation procedures, amongst other things, specifically regarding distance learning;
developing of, and providing training in, discipline-specific methodologies where relevant (e.g. for legal research);
mutually strengthening their respective doctoral schools;
promoting university research in areas of immediate relevance to the most vulnerable segments in society;
conducting research on the relationship between economic development and social protection;
valorising scientific knowledge, especially under difficult environmental or social circumstances;
promoting research regarding security in a holistic sense (food security, physical security, etc.);
supporting the struggle against, among other things, contagious diseases (including HIV/AIDS) and cancer;
optimising university governance and implementing best administrative practices;
profiling the Preferential Partnership to the external world, i.e. jointly developing research projects to be submitted for external funding;
developing the relationship between the university as institution and its immediate environment, e.g. local authorities;
strengthening cultural ties between South Africa and Flanders arising from, among other things, the people’s shared linguistic background; and
promoting both universities as gateways to their respective continent.

Conditions of the staff exchange programme
Staff exchanges are available to any fully salaried staff member, including post-doctoral fellows, and should serve the areas of common interest. The number of exchanges will be determined by the availability of funds.

Funding
1. The home university will continue to pay the salaries of participating staff members.
2. The sending partner institution will cover transport costs and costs related to medical and travel insurance according to its own policy and regulations.
3. The participant or his/her home department/research group is responsible for the stipend, passport, visa and related costs according to the home institution’s policy and regulations.
4. The host institution will pay accommodation costs, also where applicable for the participant’s partner and children under the age of 6 years, and is responsible for any costs related to third party liability insurance.

Accommodation and duration of exchanges
1. For senior academic/research staff: 2 weeks - 3 months.
2. For junior academic/research staff, including postdoctoral fellows: 1-3 months.
3. For non-academic staff (support and technical staff): 2 weeks – 1 month.

SU Resident Representative at KU Leuven
The Resident Representative (RR) is a new initiative that forms part of the Preferential Partnership between SU and KU Leuven. KU Leuven and SU have agreed to exchange every six months (January to June; and July to December), for at least a period of four months, an academic staff member (at least at postdoctoral level) to represent the partner university. This person will be referred to as the Resident Representative (RR).

The RR will be required to participate in research and educational activities of the host university and will thus primarily be an academic who has been selected to participate in the staff exchange. The role of resident representative is additional to the agreed staff exchange activities and will include the following:
• Assistance with the Think Tank – the project where 15 postgraduate students from each partner participate in a web-based extracurricular interdisciplinary discussion group. (In 2015 the theme will be Making the City of the Future with the group from Stellenbosch visiting Leuven in November 2015 for the closing event)
• Attending institutional events at the KU Leuven;
• Liaising with the KU Leuven International Office with regard to:
  o Acting as additional information point for KU Leuven students and staff interested in exchange to Stellenbosch;
  o Acting as supplementary support for Stellenbosch students and staff in Leuven; and
• Participating in selection committees as per Preferential Partnership Agreement.

The funding conditions are the same as for the staff exchange programme (see above). As the stay of the RR will be longer than three months:
• accommodation will be provided by the host institution for the full duration of the appointment as RR
• SU will assist the Stellenbosch RR with additional funding and leave of absence arrangements.
• KU Leuven will provide assistance in obtaining a labour card

Application and selection procedures:
• Applicants must complete and submit the application form for the staff exchange. The application Form is available on the PGIO website: http://www0.sun.ac.za/international/staff-opportunities/mobility-opportunities-in-europe/bilateral-exchanges/academic-staff-exchanges.html

• Documents to be included:
  o Motivation for the mobility indicating the alignment to the areas of common interest
  o Letters of recommendation from both the Dean of the Faculty as well as the departmental chair
  o Invitation letter from the host at the KULeuven
• Selection will be done by the SU selection committee convened by the Vice-Rector Research & Innovation in consultation with the KULeuven selection committee.
• The host selection committee will make the final decision.

Enquiries:

General Staff Exchange:

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Resident Representative:

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| CLOSING DATE:   | 27 NOVEMBER 2014 |