

Supporting International Populations

Université PSL, a member of the **EELisa European Alliance**, is organizing its first Staff Week on welcoming and supporting international populations (students, researchers, and colleagues).

What?

Are you involved in international student and researcher support services? In the context of the internationalization of higher education, it has become crucial to provide services to these populations to ensure their academic success and administrative integration.

With the backing of European and national policies, our higher education institutions have implemented tools to assist with language and cultural hurdles, administrative and financial challenges, and everything else that constitutes daily life in another country.

This week is dedicated to taking a step back to evaluate these measures. It's all about best practices and sharing feedback on all aspects of international education and exchange. We'll be discussing among many topics, health and well-being, onboarding, administrative procedures, housing, inclusiveness, sense of belonging, digital and non-digital tools, raising awareness among our colleagues...

Have you developed an interesting project in your institution? Are you an "expert" on one of these issues? Are you thinking about how we can do things better? This week is for you, and we look forward to meeting and hearing from you!

Why?

Université PSL is dedicated to welcoming and supporting international students and researchers in each of its schools and with its university-wide shared service: **the PSL Welcome Desk**. Like many of your offices, the service has changed over the years to meet evolving needs and expectations. This Staff Week is the opportunity to discuss these developments from a shared European perspective.

Where? When?

Université PSL, will welcome you in the heart of Paris. This Staff Week will take place from **Monday, April 15 to Friday, April 19 included**, and each day you'll have the opportunity to discover the history and architecture of one of our schools.

For Whom?

This staff week is open to all those who support international populations, including staff from **international offices, student life, human resources, welcome desk services, research departments, depending on how your services are structured**. We'll ask you to be prepared to coordinate or take an active part in the workshops or present a project from your institution.

How ?

Registration is free of charge. This week is **open to up to 40 participants**. Depending on the number of applicants, a selection will be made to ensure a diversity of experience and roles. You'll also be joined by members of Université PSL.

The entire program is in English.

Accommodation and most meals are not covered. Complementary cultural programming will take place during the week and is free of charge.

Provisional program

The week's program includes plenary sessions and workshops. Workshops - each participant will attend four - are at the heart of the program, providing an opportunity for in-depth discussion among attendees on a specific issue. You will find the list below. Conferences will be complementary, intended to enlighten the discussions, with varied subjects such as the French higher education system, the *Bienvenue en France* commitment, European alliances, digital tools or the Euraxess network.

Workshops (this list is subject to change)

1st Panel:

- How we welcome and support international students? Sharing experiences and challenges
- Administrative procedures, daily life, academic success: How to build a student path to empowerment?
- How can accreditation systems, rankings and labels (e.g. Bienvenue en France) be used as an internal tool for internationalization?

2nd Panel :

- Involving local students with exchange students: building links for and from outgoing mobility.
- How can we promote mobility and welcoming international student and researcher populations with disabilities? How to ensure an inclusive environment?
- Green mobility, how to commit to more responsible practices and be accountable for them.

3rd Panel:

- Which solutions to promote and facilitate the mobility of researchers and their families?
- How to support the career development of doctoral and postdoctoral researchers?
- Doctoral students: Between student and researcher: how to support this specific population?

4th Panel :

- Language barriers, cultural differences: how to increase staff awareness of international audiences?
- How to inform and support people to find accommodation, and with which tools?
- How can we best welcome and integrate refugees?

Outcomes

This week is for professionals in the field of international education and is meant as an opportunity for reflection on our practices.

In fact, we all share similar problems, similar challenges, and similar questions. However, sometimes we work in silos on a specific population or within a specific department. The aim here is to open new perspectives while remaining operational.

Ideally, each participant will take part in a workshop in which he or she is a specialist, and in others outside his/her field of action or expertise, to learn and reflect on his/her own missions.

Ideal outcomes include the discovery of a new tool, a project that can be adapted to your institution, ideas for improving the feeling of belonging at your institution and reducing the gap between "locals" and "internationals", and quite simply, putting your role back into perspective.

We want to share our experiences with you and learn from you - at the heart of mobility!