

One Course of Study – Two Continents – Two Degrees!

First graduations from the German-Argentinian double-degree program in Business Administration & Engineering at Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences



Photo: Christian Nicula

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In collaboration with Universidad Nacional del Litoral (UNL), Argentina's highest-ranked research university, Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences offers a double-degree program in Business Administration & Engineering – or “Wirtschaftsingenieurwesen – Ingeniería Industrial”. This has generated a great deal of interest among HR managers at global companies as they look for internationally trained employees – this, at least, was the feedback from the program's first graduates who, in the presence of the Consul General of the Republic of Argentina, Miriam Chaves, and the Deputy Consul General, Esteban Andrés Morelli, were admitted to their degrees by Prof. Angelika Altmann-Dieses, Vice-President for Academic and International Affairs, at the graduation ceremony held on Saturday, November 16, 2019.

The double-degree program started in Santa Fe, Argentina, in the fall semester 2017/18. It enables students studying for a Bachelor's degree in "Business Administration & Engineering" at the Faculty of Management Science and Engineering at Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences and their Argentinean fellow students to obtain two internationally recognized university degrees – a Bachelor of Science (BSc) and the Argentinean "Ingeniería Industrial" – without having to extend the standard period of study. Students participating in this course of study spend three semesters abroad (one internship, two for research) in each other's host countries.

Contact between the two universities stretches back to 2012, when the first student exchanges were agreed on. Then came two Summer Schools in 2014, one in Karlsruhe and the other in Santa Fe, both supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). A further milestone in the transatlantic partnership between the two universities came in spring 2017, when the joint double-degree program, which was greatly popular among the students, was established. A total of 50 German and 30 Argentinean students have already participated in the exchange scheme.

Financial support provided by the German-Argentinean University Center's cuaa-dahz I.DEAR Program has enabled almost 20 scholarships to be awarded so far, allowing students to finance their stay abroad in full (€ 800 per month, plus travel expenses).

"We are very proud to be one of the first universities in Germany to offer this kind of double-degree program in engineering at undergraduate level and to be able to do so alongside one of Argentina's most prestigious academic institutions," said Prof. Altmann-Dieses, Vice-President of Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences and course director for this degree, at the graduation ceremony held for the three German and two Argentinean graduates on November 16, 2019. "Participation in such a double-degree program, with a university 'on the other side of the world', exemplifies students who are willing to step out of their comfort zone in order to both develop and perfect their foreign language and intercultural skills and broaden their personal and academic horizons."

The Consul General of Argentina, Miriam Chaves, also present at the celebrations, was equally delighted. "Our Argentinian and German graduates are excellently qualified for the international labor market and have outstanding career prospects, as they now possess university degrees recognized in both countries and the language skills they have acquired along the way. I am confident that they will play a key role in the future development of the German-Argentinian economic relationship. Moreover, having spent a semester on internship at renowned German companies is a unique selling point on the domestic job market for our Argentinian graduates," she said.

What is more, another chapter is being added to our success story, as a new double-degree program with the Universidad Nacional del Litoral is being added – the beginning of the fall semester 2019/20 will see the debut of the "International Management – Administración" degree, which is also supported by the German-Argentinean University Center cuaa-dahz.