

# INTERNATIONAL VOICES

## INTERNATIONALISATION AT HOME



### FOREWORD

**BY LOÏC DEMEESTER,  
HEAD OF THE EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE  
UNIVERSITY TOULOUSE CAPITOLE**

Internationalisation at Home is a recent trend in the world of international relations in higher education. Although new, Internationalisation at Home is becoming increasingly important in European and international university cooperation. It encompasses a range of partnership opportunities, from the organisation of Summer Schools to the co-hosting of online teaching by teachers from partner universities, also known as Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL). The aim of the various Internationalisation at Home initiatives is to give all those involved in university education - students, teachers and staff - an international experience without the need for long-term mobility.

These activities benefit students who do not wish to, or who are unable to, go abroad for long periods of physical mobility (more than two months). Students are able to enrich their training with international experience and to work on cross-disciplinary skills that are increasingly in demand in the professional world, such as language skills, adaptability, working and carrying out projects in an intercultural context. Furthermore, the involvement of teaching and research staff is vital to the success of Internationalisation at Home. All of these measures offer teaching and research staff opportunities to develop innovative teaching methods, as well as a European and international network.

In addition, the Internationalisation at Home policy is beneficial for the University as a whole. On the one hand, this policy empowers us to develop our expertise in European and international relations, making our university more attractive to new international partners. On the other hand, it allows us to offer as many people as possible an international experience and to truly internationalise the courses offered by the University. However, it is important to point out that internationalisation at Home does not and will never replace the experience offered by a physical mobility in Europe or abroad.

In order to develop Internationalisation at Home schemes, the University Toulouse Capitole has recruited an Internationalisation at Home Officer who is the main point of contact for lecturers and researchers wishing to develop these projects. Our university was also quick to seize the new opportunities offered by the Erasmus+ programme by developing Blended Intensive Programmes with its European partners. Finally, our European Alliance Engage. EU is a catalyst for internationalisation at home initiatives, including the development of summer schools, the Online Exchange Initiative and, in the near future, signature courses using the COIL method and much more.

In the years to come, the University Toulouse Capitole aims to continue these Internationalisation at Home efforts in order to further internationalise its courses and offer innovative international study programmes.

# UT CAPITOLE'S INTERNATIONALISATION INITIATIVES

DISCOVER OUR NEW INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS AND HOW YOU COULD GET INVOLVED

FOCUS



Rachel Boss-Benoist is the Internationalisation at Home Officer within the International Office, where she and her colleagues are working on a range of diverse projects in further the internationalization of UT Capitole's curricula as well as aspects linked to student life.

Learn more about the International Office's current and future internationalisation projects below.

## **Summer School "Introduction to Empirical Legal Research Methods"**

- Organized by the Law and Political Science Faculty, the Center for International Research for Society, and the International Office from June 5th to June 16th, 2023.
- Two-week, bilingual English and French course
- Taught by two scholars and leaders in the field, Arthur Dyeve (KU Leuven) and Peter Mascini (Erasmus University of Rotterdam)

*This course furthered the potential of UT Capitole's Law doctoral students' and faculty's research on an international level. The International Office hopes to expand this model particularly for international partners who cannot enter into classic mobility agreements.*

## **Capitole Buddy Programme**

- Aims to provide international students with the support of a local UT Capitole student in understanding the intricacies of the French university system and invaluable advice on how to make the most of life in Toulouse.
- Buddies (international students) and buddy volunteers (local students) are expected to hold monthly meetings, and attend numerous events including intercultural workshops.

*This program will reinforce the already robust support offered by the International Office for international students, helping the university to maintain its Campus France Bienvenue en France 3-star ranking.*

## **Erasmus Blended Intensive Programmes (BIP)**

- Provides a hybrid, short-term global learning experience which includes both a virtual component and a physical mobility experience from 1 week to 1 month in duration between a minimum of 3 international partners and 3 ETCS.
- This short program model for both incoming and outgoing mobility will be a key factor for the internationalization of curricula, particularly for students who cannot commit to a semester-long mobility experience

*From July 10th to July 13th, 2023, UT Capitole hosted the on-site component of a BIP course in Labour Law for students and professors from the Universities of Udine (Italy), Rijeka (Croatia), Belgrade (Serbia), and UT Capitole. Additionally, UT Capitole will send students to BIP courses at the University of Federico II in Naples, and at the University of Mannheim and the WU Vienna University of Economics and Business within the framework of Engage.EU.*

## **Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL)**

- An innovative approach that provides an avenue for global learning by way of virtual course modules co-designed by two or more professors, at least one from UT Capitole, and at least one professor from a university abroad.
- Modules can last from 5 to 15 weeks in duration, and can be interdisciplinary, widening the pedagogical scope of an existing course.

*Several university professors have already implemented the approach in their courses (including within Engage.EU's Signature Course framework). The International Office plans to build a support system for professors interested in COIL for the coming 2023-2024 academic year.*

# FEATURED SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMME: "INTRODUCTION TO EMPIRICAL LEGAL RESEARCH METHODS"

STUDENTS AND TEACHERS PARTICIPATING IN THE SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMME IN JUNE 2023



For more information about the Summer School, click [here](#)

2022-2023 YEAR



# INTERVIEWS

## LET'S TALK WITH THREE STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED IN INTERNATIONALISATION AT HOME PROJECTS

TALKING  
TIME



**Frederic GUIOMARD**

*Social Law Professor*

### Hello Frederic, can you introduce yourself?

I am a professor of Labor Law at the University of Toulouse Capitole. I specialize in Employment Law, Social Security Law, and Discrimination Law.

Like many scholars in the field of labor law, my research has mainly focused on French Law. However, the current challenges we face are global in nature, prompting me to conduct research and emphasize International and European Law, as well as Comparative Law, in my lectures.

I plan to give increasing importance to the international aspect of my work. As a professor, it is also rewarding to engage with students who have already studied abroad or are involved in Erasmus projects. Their diverse backgrounds provide them with unique perspectives on the subjects we explore.

### Could you tell us more about the Blended Intensive Programme (BIP) you are leading this year?

The origin of our program dates back to the lockdown in 2020. Due to the fact that students were confined at home, Anna Zilli, an Italian professor of Labor Law in Udine, and I decided to organize a workshop for our Master's students.

We wanted them to collaborate on a comparative analysis of French and Italian labor law in the context of the changing labor landscape during the Covid crisis.

The BIP Erasmus program aligns perfectly with this project. It allows us to offer Masters students the chance to work with professors, PhD candidates, and fellow students on specialized topics related to their areas of expertise. The BIP consists of two parts: an online component where we introduce the national legal systems, and an on-site summer university where students collaborate in workshops and lead comparative law projects, which the University of Toulouse Capitole is honored to host this summer.

This year, we are expanding our partnerships to include the universities of Rijeka (Croatia) and even Belgrade (Serbia). The topic of the program will focus on remedies and sanctions, delving into highly debated questions such as the remedies available to workers in the event of workplace accidents or instances of discrimination. While these questions may seem technical and complex, approaching them through comparative tools enables a better understanding of the evolution of national systems and the various aspects in need of reform.

### Why did you choose the BIP format?

The BIP format poses a unique challenge due to the integration of online and onsite meetings. The online component allows us to present the national legal systems relevant to the subject being studied and encourages students to think about how to compare different legal systems. While we remain focused on the concrete issues at hand, we want students to develop a methodological framework before engaging in the complex and nuanced task of comparing laws.

During the summer university, workshops are conducted where students, supported by PhD candidates and professors, collaborate on specific comparative projects. They are then required to present their findings at the end. I am particularly interested to see how students from South-East Europe, with their diverse legal traditions, will work together.

Of course, we also value the social aspect of the program. Erasmus programs have always provided a wonderful opportunity to make European friends and explore other cultures and perspectives on the world.

For me, the BIP format is essential as it allows Master's students to have an international experience. One limitation is that many students feel uncomfortable with the idea of studying and speaking in English. However even if their language level may not always be perfect, when immersed in the international atmosphere of these experiences, they find the necessary resources to engage in meaningful exchanges with others.

### Could you introduce yourself and tell us about your role at UT Capitole?

I teach English as a Second Language to IT students and I'm also Head of International Office at the University Institute of Technology located in Rodez. The learning objectives of our Technological Bachelors are not quite the same as the Academic Bachelors offered at UT Capitole. Therefore, we need to develop our own network of international partnerships, in order to find programmes in line with our specific skill-based approach and employability assets such as internships and hands-on practice.

### What has your experience with COIL teaching been like thus far? What COIL collaborations have you been a part of?

We've been involved in over 10 COILs since 2019, with two American institutions: Laguardia Community College, (City University of New York) and Northeast Wisconsin Technical College; with a wide variety of topics (misinformation, othering and belonging, CSR, threats on democracy, cybersecurity, Arduino technology, ethnic and local cooking...).

### Why do you think COIL exchanges are beneficial for students and professors?

COIL is a way of bringing international experience to students who, for some reason or another, will never get the opportunity to actually go and study abroad. Indeed, online collaboration and live communication from school does not require any other resources than goodwill and open-mindedness. COIL is therefore non-discriminatory as internationalisation becomes available to every single student in a given course. Besides, COILs also raise cultural awareness, curiosity and understanding of differences, both for students and professors. From a more pragmatic point-of-view, I noticed that COILs systematically increase the students' self-confidence in communicating and enable them to assess and check their level of proficiency in ESL more objectively. It's a real-life tryout. It can also be a good way of making friends! Several students have kept in touch with their COIL partners. As for professors, they can give their professional network a global outreach... or make new friends! I was personally invited by all my COIL partners when I went to New York.



**Angélique ALBERGE**

*Associate Professor of English  
and Head of the  
International Office  
at IUT Rodez*

### Hello Anastasia, can you introduce yourself?

Hello, my name is Anastasia Mishchenko, and I am originally from Russia, but grew up far away in Siberia. I decided to join the Toulouse School of Management (TSM) to do a Master's in International Management since I am passionate about business, management, languages and working in an international context. In order to build on my educational program and international experience, I decided to participate in the Solvay Summer School in Brussels, Belgium.

### Why did you choose to attend a Summer School programme, in particular in Solvay?

The first criterion in my decision was the timing, since I was a M2 student and had 3 weeks of holiday during my obligatory internship. I wanted to spend my time doing something interesting and useful for my career. Solvay Summer School (SSS) looked very attractive and like an adventure. The ten days I spent in the heart of Europe were dedicated to many classes within fields I had not studied before (like Public Policy, for example), but also to visits of the city. Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management is part of the Université Libre de Bruxelles, which is well known in Belgium and Europe. Everything fit, the dates, the program, the city, and most importantly, the international environment with students from all over the world!

### What did you gain from participating in this programme?

First of all, the network: I met many ambitious people from around the world. Secondly, the courses and the case studies from companies were useful for my professional knowledge and development. And finally, I had an amazing time in Brussels and fell in love with the city. I also would like to highlight the amazing "welcome" and "closing" ceremonies, and all the extra-curricular events!



**Anastasia Mishchenko**

*TSM student attending Solvay Summer School*