Learn more about Schiller International University Heidelberg in the August edition of our newsletter.

Schiller International University is accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) located in Washington D.C. and is authorized by the Florida State commission of Independent Education to award Associate, Bachelor, and Master degrees.

Schiller is accredited in Germany by Evalag since 2016 (evalag: Evaluationsagentur Baden-Württemberg, authorized as Accreditation Agency by the German Accreditation Council and registered in the European Quality Assurance Register). For more information on Schiller International University, please visit www.schiller.edu

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Spotlight this month

SIU Heidelberg kicks off first crowdfunding battle for students

Out of the box, into the future: In cooperation with SPONSORT, regional crowdfunding platform, SIU Heidelberg has been looking for ideas that make student life in Heidelberg better. The Idea Box, which was previously a mailbox for good ideas from our students, went digital in previous months. SIU Heidelberg started the first crowdfunding contest ever at a university and is providing support, cash and guidance in the implementation of idea. Let the battle begin!

But what are the rules of the game? We’ve listed the most important information below, including the planning, reviewing, team composition and the prize for the winning team. Have a look and support your favorite project now!
What’s Idea Box?

- Idea Box. A competition organised by SPONSORT and SIU Heidelberg whereby students get a team together, use their skills and run a crowdfunding campaign for a project in Heidelberg.

- SPONSORT. The do-good crowdfunding platform for projects that really make a difference in our area. We are passionate about empowering people to create positive change in their community.

- Team. A group of SIU Heidelberg students that battles for one of the projects by solving a business case and running a crowdfunding campaign.

- Business case. Together with experts from local enterprises like SAP and Startup Partners Heidelberg, the business case formed the starting point of the battle. Each project has one challenge (aka business case) that required the students’ expertise.

- Crowdfunding campaign. Besides working on their business case, each team now started running a crowdfunding campaign for their project. These campaigns kicked off at the end of the co-creation on Monday August 14th and will run for a period of 60 days until the finale.

Check out all mentors and the final projects from your classmates at https://sponsort.de/idea-box
Ask the director

Tanja Ward, Schiller International University Heidelberg's new campus director, invites dialogue. She encourages the university's staff and students to ask her any questions they like her to answer. These can involve the work of the administrative divisions or her approach to different challenges facing Schiller International University. Please send your questions to corinna.pape@sponsort.de. by August 28th and read Tanja Ward's answers in the September edition of this newsletter. Without further ado, enjoy this month's Q&A!

What special challenges do you think SIU will face, both now and in the future?

In the beginning of 2017, I read an article declaring colleges and universities should prepare for five key trends and challenges: Sliding enrollments, concerns about cost and access, questions about value, a focus on careers and job placement, conflicts and campus climate.

At Schiller, we see similar challenges, yet we are implementing new ideas to tackle them. While demographic trends vary by region, in general the student population is becoming more diverse. Schiller, an American university with several European campus locations, welcomes international students to diversify campus life even more.

Regarding costs, access and value, Schiller is renewing its efforts to communicate openly, to gain a fresh perspective and to demonstrate value - not only in employment and earnings benefits to graduates but also in engaging with the local community. Creating a welcoming climate on campus is another challenge and key element to success, in addition to career assistance, better information about job placement, opportunities for internships and increases in scholarship support. These are all topics on our agenda at Schiller.

The coming months will not be business as usual. New partnerships and opportunities, more innovation, and perhaps our Schiller alumni network can help illuminate new prospects and advance mutual goals.

If a sibling or other family member wants to apply at SIU, what benefits do they get? Are there any?

Paying for one college education can be a financial stretch, requiring significant savings, scholarship searches, and possibly even student loans. For families with more than one child enrolled in college, finding funding can be an even bigger burden.

With the increased cost of higher education and the financial strain on families, it's important that we try to help our families out in decreasing the cost of education. Thus, as a benefit for siblings or family members, Schiller International University is offering an application or tuition fee discount, if enrolled simultaneously.

What parents may not know is that a variety of colleges offer sibling discounts that cut costs for simultaneously enrolled children. The eligibility for the discounts vary by institution and are often not transparent.
Meet our students

At SIU, you receive a great academic based education, have a chance to obtain a double degree in Europe and the U.S., and you’ll meet many students from around the world. In this feature, we’re excited to introduce Victoria from England!

»Victoria, tell us more about yourself.« My name is Victoria Young, I’m 27 years old and I’m from England. I started Schiller International University in 2015 and I’m due to finish my last course in November this year.

»Where did you grow up?« I grew up and went to school in a small village in the north of England. After I got married, I moved to Mannheim in Germany and I have lived here for the past two and a half years.

»Why did you come to Schiller?« I came to Schiller as I wanted to learn in an international environment and I wanted to do my bachelor’s degree in an English-speaking university. To attend a university that has the dual degree program with Roehampton in the UK was a bonus.

»What was your biggest learning so far?« The biggest thing I have learned so far at Schiller is how to manage my time. Having a monthly system in place means that, as students, we have 2 exams each month, if taking one course. If doubling up on courses, it means 4 exams monthly, as well as assignments. Therefore, managing time is very important in order to succeed.

»What projects are you currently working on?« I’m currently working on my dissertation. I have chosen a topic within marketing as that is the course I have enjoyed most while studying at Schiller.
Achieve your goals every month

Thanks to Schiller’s unique monthly-intake system, you can start your education at any time of the year. You don't have to wait for traditional semester starting dates. Every month there's a new start at Schiller.

The next dates are:

- September 4th
- October 2nd
- October 30th

Books to read now

Pick of the month

For those seeking the courage to take risks

This week’s recommendation is for “How to Change the World” by David Bornstein. This book really made an impact on many entrepreneurs and embraces innovative ideas. Reading How to Change the World helps to have the courage to take risks and go for things that seem difficult and sometime impossible.

Don’t miss this summer!

The legendary Castle Illuminations every year capture take place on September 2nd. Bengali flares slowly bathe the Heidelberg Castle in a mysterious red light, as if the ruins were on fire once again in their long history. As the last times in 1689 and 1693, when the troops of the Sun King Louis XIV burnt down the castle, leaving behind the world-famous ruins.

Be there when the brilliant fireworks over the Neckar starts around 10 pm. The banks of the Neckar and the Philosophers’ Walk around 10 o'clock are the best locations to admire this year's Castle Illuminations.

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Highlights from last month

Brussels trip

In July, 29 students and 2 instructors left Heidelberg to drive to Brussels. Everyone was welcomed at the Commission to listen to three presentations covering key issues of the European Union. The start was a presentation dealing with the Commission as the political executive of the European Union. The second presentation dealt with the "improvement of industry’s competitiveness and fostering growth, innovation and job creation" and the final one with "EU development cooperation". Lively discussions between presenters and us ensured that all stayed involved and everyone felt that the visit was a success.

Namaste! Yoga series to be continued...

Worried about that exam? Missing home? See how yoga can help you. SIU is continuing its yoga series and challenges all students to calm the mind and improve concentration. Here's our favorite exercise from last session: Bring your rear up to a wall and rest both legs directly up. If you have tight legs, move away from the wall just enough so the lower back is on the ground and the legs are not being overly stretched. Rest your hands by your side with palms facing up. Stay here as long as you’d like, as this gentle inversion calms the mind and the body. See you in our next session on August 22nd!