



# Beispiele guter Praxis

## Mehrsprachigkeit in Studiengängen

### Wellbeing of the Child: Promotion - Protection - Rights

**Hochschule**      Universität Erfurt

**Kontakt**      Prof. Dr. Myriam Wijlens [myriam.wijlens@uni-erfurt.de](mailto:myriam.wijlens@uni-erfurt.de)  
Yeshica Umaña [yeshica.umana\\_calderon@uni-erfurt.de](mailto:yeshica.umana_calderon@uni-erfurt.de)

**Webseite**      <https://www.uni-erfurt.de/en/katholisch-theologische-fakultaet/professuren-lektorate/praktisch/canon-law/stufu-the-wellbeing-of-the-child>

#### Themenschwerpunkte

- Hochschulweite Strategie und Planung: Zielgruppen, Studiengangsportfolio
- Studiengangsentwicklung und Akkreditierung
- Administrative Begleitung von fremd- und mehrsprachigen Studienprogrammen
- Didaktische Gestaltung fremd- und mehrsprachiger Lehre
- Studienbegleitende Angebote für Studierende in fremd- und mehrsprachigen Studiengängen
- Personalentwicklung (wissenschaftliches und wissenschaftsunterstützendes Personal)
- Sonstige Verbesserungen der Rahmenbedingungen von fremd- und mehrsprachigen Studiengängen

**Akteur:innen**      Universität Erfurt, Committee on the Rights of the Child, Supreme Court of Western Australia, University of Tel Aviv.

**Laufzeit**      Seit dem Wintersemester 2021 bis zur Gegenwart

**Finanzierung**      Keine Finanzierung

## Ziele & Zielgruppen

This interdisciplinary English-taught course targets a broad audience: bachelor students from the whole University of Erfurt who come from different countries including Germany. Their field of studies is equally diverse: international relations, political science, pedagogy, and others. They are able to share the experience gained in their home countries and in different universities. The students have the opportunity to meet and interact with participants from different disciplines and nationalities, allowing them to have an international experience while remaining at "home" at the University of Erfurt. The diverse academic and personal backgrounds from the students, together with the broad range of invited lecturers ensure an environment of a rich exchange.

## Das Konzept

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic most students from the university were unable to travel abroad and experience an international dimension in their bachelor studies. The course was then conceived to offer students the possibility to gain this international experience at home, and at the same time continuing to develop their English skills. The course was initially offered online and now in a hybrid mode. It remains widely accessible for students and lecturers, regardless of their location. With twelve to fourteen renowned guests lecturers from all over the world, the course delves deep into the topic of the wellbeing of children, presenting a global and interdisciplinary perspective, and raising awareness about the importance of the subject.

The main areas of focus are: Digital World, Human Rights, Humanitarian Law, Mental Health, Philosophy, Sexual Abuse Protection, Social Work, Law, Theology. The series of lectures is organized by Mrs. Yeshica Umaña, a civil lawyer from Mexico with studies of Canon Law in Spain, who was appointed to teach this course as a Studium Fundamentale.

The guest lectures are leading experts and provide the students the possibility to engage in enriching dialogues and stay in contact to discuss academic exchanges and possibilities. Among the guest lecturers are: Prof. Dr. Benyam Mezmur, Chairperson of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, Prof. Dr. Fabián Salvioli, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Promotion of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Guarantees of Non-Recurrence, Justice Neville Owen, Judge at the Supreme Court of Western Australia, among others.

Since the winter semester 21/22 the course has gathered almost 350 German and international students from different academic backgrounds.

### Was ist das Innovative oder Besondere?

1. **Language flexibility:** Students benefit from the multilingual possibilities offered during the course. The lectures are taught in English, which ensures a higher number of both international students, but also of international lecturers. To prevent language to be a barrier for the participation and evaluation, the final exam can be taken in the students' language of choice: German or English. The teacher of the course also offers the possibility to answer in different languages aside from German and English, such as Italian and Spanish to make the students feel more confident regardless of their native language.
2. **Geographic flexibility:** The hybrid format is particularly attractive to students, who are able to attend classes either in person or online. Several students have expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to participate even if they are abroad in an ERASMUS exchange, but still have to fulfill the requirement of a StuFu at the University of Erfurt. This represents a unique opportunity to attend the lectures of internationally renowned experts who would otherwise not be able to offer a lecture in presence. The course has had online speakers from the USA, Australia, Poland, Italy, Argentina, Canada among others, while in presence from the USA and Germany. Each lecture takes place in a lecture hall at the University with all the necessary equipment to show the online meetings. A device is plugged to the projector in the lecture hall for all students attending in presence to see the guest lecturers. Students participating online are provided with the same meeting link given to the guest lecturers to join the course. The guest lecturer is able to see both the teacher of the course and the students in presence thanks to the cameras used in the lecture hall. Students online and in presence are able to interact with the guest lecturer, make comments and questions, during or after the lecture.
3. **Network of experts:** From the beginning the students' interest in the subject has been overwhelming. The format of the course also draws attention of the lecturers and other universities. They appreciate that the course is an opportunity to work along with Prof. Dr. Wijlens, enabling to join a prominent network of experts dedicated to the rights and wellbeing of children. Furthermore, the course has gained recognition from other universities interested in implementing a course with a similar modality, through which they are capable to reach the whole university, and not only students at a particular program or faculty. Currently, conversations have been held to explore a cooperation with the Pontifical University of Comillas, in Madrid, Spain, and in the Catholic University in Portugal. After these semesters, Prof. Dr. Wijlens and her team have begun the process of publishing the lectures in a book to allow students, and those beyond, to further engage on the subjects, beyond the materials received during the course.