



## INTERNATIONALISATION

In accordance with its statutes passed in 2008, FRIAS's guiding principles included increasing "Albert Ludwig University's appeal as a working environment for both external and especially internal leading researchers", as well as raising the intellectual profile of the university's strongest research areas in the international research discourse. In the funding phase from 2008 to 2013, the call for international fellowship applications and the targeted selection of internationally renowned researchers for a stay at FRIAS played a particularly important role in achieving these goals. In the first year of its existence, FRIAS already boasted a large proportion of international fellows. This number continued to rise with the years. Since 2008 FRIAS hosted a total of 323 fellows from 36 countries, 154 of whom came from institutes abroad. All the External Senior Fellows in the science schools, who came to FRIAS for several research stays, were appointed from abroad. At the outset, the international exchange also included inviting Freiburg-based young re-

searchers to the External Senior Fellows' home laboratories. In the humanities schools, it became clear very early on that the schools' academic and thematic focus represented an important selling point for attracting internationally renowned academics to Freiburg. This enabled Freiburg's fellows to nurture and strengthen existing research contacts. The unique thematic connection among the school's larger fellow groups allowed FRIAS to stand out internationally from the ever growing community of Institutes for Advanced Study (IAS). Thanks to the humanities schools' thematic focus, Freiburg's researchers, including many Junior Fellows, were able to forge or significantly strengthen numerous long-term contacts with internationally acclaimed colleagues. In addition, FRIAS pioneered full integration of the science schools' applied/experimental disciplines into the structure of an Institute for Advanced Study, thereby putting the institute on the international map. At the same time, these research areas reinforced the exchange between researchers from Freiburg and abroad, who were dependent on the infrastructure of university institutes during their experimental research.

Attracting international fellows and establishing academic cooperations within the FRIAS schools and within the University of Freiburg's faculties also created positive effects on teaching. In addition to supervising diploma, master and doctorate theses, many international fellows seized the opportunity to offer master courses and seminars to Freiburg's students. The Harvard College Europe Program, founded in 2012 to offer an extensive semester programme to students at the universities of Freiburg and Harvard, traces its roots to an External Senior Fellow from Harvard who stayed at the FRIAS School of History. Furthermore, Freiburg's young researchers initiated international research contacts by participating in the workshops and conferences of the External Senior Fellows in the FRIAS schools.

FRIAS intensified the trilateral cross-linking between the universities of Basel, Strasbourg and Freiburg within the European Confederation of Universities on the Upper Rhine (EUCOR). This is evidenced by the numerous research projects led by FRIAS fellows and academics in Basel and Strasbourg, in addition to fellowships organised in collaboration with the IAS in Strasbourg for the 2013/2014 academic year.

FRIAS's initiative to found a consortium of university-based Institutes for Advanced Study (UBIAS) proved to be a particularly sustainable way of helping to integrate the University of Freiburg into international research networks. The founding conference took place in Freiburg in autumn 2010 under the title "University-Based Institutes for Advanced Study in a Global Perspective: Promises,



Challenges, New Frontiers", and was attended by 32 research colleges from around the world. In addition to an academic programme, which is organised into biannual conferences, this cooperation centres around a structured knowledge transfer and exchange of experiences between the individual research colleges as well as the possibility of establishing common fellowship programmes.

Since its inception FRIAS has aspired towards the standards of the most renowned Institutes for Advanced Study (Princeton, Palo Alto, Wassenaar, Uppsala and the Wissenschaftskolleg Berlin etc.) by creating outstanding working conditions for international fellows and internal researchers at the University of Freiburg – including in particular the creation of a service-oriented administration directed to the career needs of international academics. Within a short period of time, FRIAS attained high standards for supervising international fellows during their stay in Freiburg. In addition to the International Office, the last few years have seen the emergence of a further competence level at the University of Freiburg that promotes international exchange amongst academics, whose

experience will be just as important as the international research networks established by FRIAS.