

IN SHORT

- **Collaborative Online International Learning** COIL, means virtual and temporary collaboration classes between two international institutions.
- They promote **internationalization** at home for students who are not yet ready to spend a semester abroad.
- A lively **virtual exchange** between students and lectures benefits them professionally and personally.

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Our students want more involvement in international projects and from international lecturers. COILs could be the right answer, so we are starting them.

STEPHEN WITTKOPF,
HEAD INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

STORY



Despite or perhaps due to the Corona pandemic, the desire for experience abroad is very high among students. Employers also increasingly expect this from graduates. Traditionally, international experience abroad is synonymous with a physical semester abroad, but the required traveling is a major hurdle for some students. At the same time, great progress has been made in the area of virtual collaboration, especially since the pandemic, and these digital skills are to be maintained and developed further.

HSLU's bachelor and master degree programs are mainly attended by students from the region. A rising number of modules are taught in English for local and foreign exchange students. As part of our continuous improvement of the degree programs, HSLU conducts student surveys every two years including questions about internationalization. Results show that the students want more involvement in international projects and from international lectures on top of their curricula at home or as an exploration and preparation for a semester abroad.

Some of HSLU's international partner institutions already have experience with online programs such as Virtual or Global Classrooms or **COIL**. HSLU is going to join the COIL network and has recently started the **COIL@HSLU** project, developing the necessary structures and processes primarily in its Schools of Engineering and Architecture, Computer Science and Business.

In November 2022, there will be an international hybrid **COIL Networking event** where lecturers from HSLU and selected partner institutions come together to share their ideas for COILs, jointly brainstorm potential collaborations which will ideally culminate in the delivery of joint COILs next year.

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