FOCUS AREAS

NEGLIGENCE DISEASES
The research topic 'Neglected Diseases' (ND) represents one out of three focus areas of www.usp. In order to establish a long-lasting interdisciplinary cooperation between WWU and USP in the main areas of expertise related to ND, activities, such as summer schools and workshops are intended to exchange ideas, knowledge, materials and human resources. They will help to found a Competence Centre on ND and to prepare a joint proposal for further coordinated actions to be submitted at the end of the present www.usp project.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS
Within the thematic area 'Information Systems' it is the aim of www.usp to adjust the respective curricula at WWU and USP and to develop joint research projects within the framework of DFG/FAPESP programs. Referring to the overall goal of working together on different levels, summer schools and workshops are organized. They not only enhance the cooperation among the partners already working together but intend also to win new partners and to attract students as well as PhD candidates. Consequently, an efficient visibility is relevant for the success and the sustainability of this thematic area.

LAWS
Regarding the faculty of law the specific topic of cooperating will be the field of taxation and company law. Building on an academic agreement for Co-supervision of PhD thesis concluded in 2011, workshops will be organized with specific regard to map the curricula. A Summer School on Business Law and Economic Constitution promotes the cooperation on the level of students and PhD candidates as well as between researchers in order to initiate common research projects.
Brazil is one of the focus areas of the internationalization strategy of the University of Münster. The numerous long-standing successful collaborations and joint activities with Brazilian institutions now gain a new dimension through the project wwu.usp. Thus, the Universities of Münster (WWU) and São Paulo (USP) direct their effort to establish an innovative and sustainable Strategic Partnership by intensifying and expanding the already existent alliance. It is supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) with funds from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research for a period of four years (2015-2018).

USP is the major institution of higher education and research in Brazil. It has an outstanding international profile and figures among the world’s best universities in many rankings in terms of teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook. The USP International Office (Aucani) is the organ responsible for facilitating and supporting these partnerships within the general scope of the university.

In the Nature Index 2015 Global WWU reaches a distinguished 4th position among German universities. The index is published by the world’s leading journal Nature and takes into account scientific publications in 68 important magazines. Internationalization at Münster makes an essential contribution to the University’s image and its competitiveness in the core areas of academic teaching and research. For the university’s management it is a key element on the way to becoming a university of excellence.

The project is managed by the Brazil Centre of the WWU.

**OBJECTIVES**

- Strengthening the profile and appeal of both universities
- Cooperating in significant profile areas and globally on important research questions
- Initiating new joint research projects
- Establishing thematic research clusters and networks
- Increasing the number of participating departments
- Negotiating contents of study programs in order to facilitate students’ exchange
- Advancing WWU Bachelor study programs according to the DAAD Bachelor Plus study programs
- Offering the following opportunities for students / junior researcher / scientists
  - structured mobility
  - summer/winter schools
- Developing
  - study programs
  - joint teaching offers
  - cooperative PHD-programs (IRTG)
- Organising interdisciplinary colloquia regarding relevant research
- Coordinating formal regulations in order to facilitate exchange on all levels
- Ensuring the quality and the continuity of the collaboration

**ACTIVITIES / MOBILITY MEASURES**

The program offers German students and PhD students study and research stays at USP. Each year a call for applications is published via websites of the Brazil Centre (www.uni-muenster.de/Brasilienzentrum/). The calls are open to students of all faculties of WWU. The selected applicants will receive the funds for travel and accommodation for six months in order to accomplish their bachelor, master or PhD thesis.

Senior researchers and professors from USP are invited to apply for research stays of one month at WWU in order to develop joint projects and to discuss further cooperation. Moreover, guest lectures with shorter stays can be arranged.

Workshops on Information Systems, Neglected Diseases and on Laws are carried out with both participants from USP, Brazil and participants from WWU, Germany. The European Research Center for Information Systems (ERCIS) will run a Graduate School Colloquium on ‘Information Systems’.

The summer / winter schools organized within the project will be open for German and Brazilian students. Their focus will be either on Neglected Diseases, on Business Law and Economic Constitution or on Information Systems. The programs and relevant deadlines for submitting applications are / will be published on the website of the Brazil Centre (www.uni-muenster.de/Brasilienzentrum).

In order to ensure the quality of the project internal evaluation workshops of the scientists responsible are taking place regularly.