

Projekt „Fremde werden Freunde“  
c/o Fachhochschule Erfurt, Postfach 450155, 99051 Erfurt

## Intercultural and professional skills for your company

To all Thuringian companies

## Projekt „Fremde werden Freunde“

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Dear Sir or Madam,

We would like to inform you about an opportunity to adapt your company to the increasingly globalized business world in a targeted manner. As you know, foreign languages and intercultural skills are becoming more and more important for firms wishing to grow. Over 500 international students studying in a number of degree programs at the University of Erfurt and the University of Applied Sciences of Erfurt have these skills and competences. We invite you and your company to take part in the exchange of culture and competences.

The project “Strangers become Friends” was initiated in December 2002 with the goal of integrating international students in partnerships with families as well as with local business. In past semesters, 135 foreign students from 45 countries have participated in the project. Families or individuals from Erfurt agree to take on a partnership with a student and to help him or her to become acquainted with the German language, culture, and people using his or her personal contacts. The German partners profit from the interesting cultural exchange with the students in return.

In order **to extend the project “Strangers become Friends” to Thuringian companies**, we would like to create a number of opportunities for bilateral cooperation between international students and local businesses. These can include visits to the company, presentations of the company, short-term internships, part-time jobs, project work, and more. The students can help businesses with translations and be invited to talks or lectures. The foreign language skills and intercultural competence the students have can be used to generate or increase business contacts in their countries of origin and to thus enter new markets.

We would like to request your assistance in creating such opportunities for our students. Please fill out the enclosed form with information about how the students can support your business and return it to the address above. Thanks in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

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Petra Eweleit  
“Strangers become Friends” project coordinator