

## **Internships of FIT students: Diverse, global and local at the same time**

*At the end of the winter semester 2022/23, five students of the University of Applied Sciences for Intercultural Theology Hermannsburg (FIT) returned to the campus in the southern heath after their long-term internship and publicly reported on their experiences. This year, all students chose to do an internship in Germany, but nonetheless in very different settings and with global relevance:*

**Wilke Ringeling** completed his internship at the "Netzwerk für traumatisierte Flüchtlinge in Niedersachsen e.V.," an association that offers refugees counseling and support. Here he gained insights into psychosocial counseling, crisis intervention and the provision of a wide range of support services for traumatized refugees. As his own project he developed the idea of a "place of mourning", where refugees can retreat to process their personal fate. Through the internship, he has reflected on how necessary, but at the same time emotionally stressful, it is to support refugees in their often existential emergencies.

**Kim Klotz** chose to do an internship in the archives of the Bergen-Belsen Memorial. Her task was to sift through photos and texts on various topics and check whether they were relevant for documentation. By compiling and archiving text and image material, important information is secured and made available for research work in Germany and abroad. Although the intensive examination of the many tragic fates of the people in the concentration camp is stressful, Ms. Klotz drew a positive conclusion: "Archive work is practically relevant and lively, because history is made visible through it."

**Sarah Zawedde** became interested in the international work of a political foundation and joined the Africa department of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES) in Berlin. There, among other things, she conducted background research on sociopolitical, climate policy and economic issues in various African countries. The Ugandan-born student would like to see German institutions' sociopolitical engagement in Africa focus more on locally compatible solutions. Africans should be supported in contributing their creativity and developing their potential by promoting education.

This local approach is already being pursued by the Stay Foundation in Stuttgart, which is active in development cooperation and where **David Tumaini Anunda** completed his internship. Here he got to know projects in four African countries that are implemented by local social entrepreneurs in the fields of agriculture and crafts. The foundation acts on the vision that empowering people to generate their own income is the key to fighting poverty. Personally, Mr. Anunda has worked to develop an anti-corruption training program. For his work at the Foundation, he found it helpful that, as a Kenyan, he could bring the perspective of the African continent.

**Lara Wunder** worked for the "Christliche Initiative Romero e.V.," a Münster-based association that campaigns for human rights, climate justice and social justice worldwide. During her internship, she worked on campaigns on climate change and a demonstration on human rights violations in connection with the 2022 World Cup. She can imagine working for a human rights organization after graduation. It is important to her to seek greater contact with young people in the sense of "global learning" in order to sensitize them to the issues of human rights and the environment.

As varied as the students' commitments were, they all gained formative experiences and important insights during their internship for the time after their studies at FIT.