

Professional Experience Program

Campus OWL Germany

New York Office

Network of 5 Higher Education Institutions

**PEP 2026
OWL STUDENTS
IN NEW YORK**

www.campus-owl.org

WELCOME PEP COHORT 2026 TO NEW YORK CITY!

Campus OWL is excited to welcome this year's PEP participants to New York City! We created the Professional Experience Program to offer students from the OWL universities an opportunity to gain valuable international work experience and enhance their future employability in today's increasingly globalized world.

The program includes an internship in a company or organization in the New York metropolitan area and other states, a one-week preparatory skills seminar and a virtual workshop to unpack the experience after returning to Germany. The 2026 cohort was chosen in a competitive selection process, and the participating students represent a wide range of academic backgrounds, such as Business Administration, Business Psychology, InterAmerican Studies, Law, Audio Engineering, and Computer Science. We are very grateful to all the internship providers who are hosting these excellent students.

PEP is designed to empower OWL students to develop their professional skills in an international context and to obtain hands-on experience in the United States. During the skills seminar we will discuss how to use your professional network and how to develop your professional brand. Our program also offers intercultural orientation, insights into growing your innovation skills and your entrepreneurial mindset, as well as a session on reducing bias to create inclusive communities in the workplace. Participants will also learn about design thinking as an approach to drive change in business and society and about the power of asking questions. Subsequently, each student will start their internship at a company or organization in Manhattan and Brooklyn in NY.

We are happy to launch **#PEP26** and wish you an enriching experience!



*Michael Paulus
Executive Director
Campus OWL New York*

THE OWL REGION

Campus OWL is a network of five higher education institutions in OstWestfalenLippe (OWL), Germany Bielefeld University, Paderborn University, Hochschule Bielefeld – University of Applied Sciences and Arts (HSBI), OWL University of Applied Sciences and Arts (TH OWL), and Detmold University of Music.

The network is vibrant and dynamic due to its diverse nature: the members represent different university types – two universities, two universities of applied sciences and one university of music – and collaborate closely with each other and the many companies in the region. Major areas of collaboration are research, transfer, internationalization, and digitalization. With around 120,000 companies, OstWestfalenLippe in northwestern Germany is a region with an industrial focus, where business and science are closely connected. The collaboration of universities and a wide variety of high-performance companies makes OWL an important research location with over 60,000 students and more than 500 study programs.



The New York Office makes use of these networks, creates opportunities for students and researchers and supports collaborations with partner institutions. North American The office serves as a hub to connect students, researchers, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders from both sides of the Atlantic to enable cooperation and knowledge exchange. We believe that international collaboration is important to encourage engagement, understanding, and exchange in our increasingly interconnected world.



PEP 2026 PARTICIPANTS



HANNA SIGGELKOW

Hanna Siggelkow completed her Bachelor's degree in Business Psychology and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Management of Medium-Sized Enterprises. Alongside her studies, she is gaining practical insights as a working student in economic development, supporting regional business initiatives, conducting market analyses, and contributing to strategic projects for regional growth. She has previously gained international experience as an Au Pair in the USA and is excited to return in a professional context. In her free time, Hanna enjoys sports, music, and spending time with her family and friends. She will be interning at the Campus OWL New York Liaison Office in Manhattan and is looking forward to gaining valuable experience for her personal and professional future.



PHILLIP OBERSCHMID

Phillip Oberschmid is currently completing his bachelor's degree in Business Psychology at Hochschule Bielefeld. He has visited the United States three times and spent a semester abroad in Boise, Idaho. Eager to gain firsthand experience of American working life, he is combining his interests in business, international affairs and politics through an internship at the American Council on Germany in New York City. Alongside his studies, Phillip served as the leader of the Freshman Mentoring Program within the Faculty of Business and gained professional experience working in Artificial Intelligence sales at Mindsquare. In his free time, he enjoys being around people, spending time in nature and traveling.



JOAQUÍN POLO

Joaquín Polo is currently completing his Master's degree in InterAmerican Studies at Bielefeld University. He has extensive experience in communication and audiovisual production across public institutions and private sector projects, including leadership roles in Argentina's Ministry of Social Development, as well as work as a consultant and creative director. His work combines strategic communication with audiovisual storytelling, spanning political coverage, institutional campaigns, and documentary formats. Joaquín has developed an international profile through projects presented at the European Parliament and lectures at Yale University, and will further expand his experience during his stay in New York. In his free time, he enjoys working out, reading, and spending time in nature.

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EKIN ASLAN

Ekin Aslan is currently pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration at Bielefeld University of Applied Sciences. For the last 3 years, he has been working alongside his studies in event organization, IT support, and in his current field, Business Development. He is interested in Production and Logistics and plans to focus his studies in those fields. He speaks German, English, Turkish and Kurdish fluently and he likes learning new languages, especially while traveling. In his free time, he likes hiking, playing card games and powerlifting. He will be working as an intern at Campus OWL New York office.



MIKA SEMPERT

Mika Sempert completed his Bachelor's degree in Computer Science at Bielefeld University and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Business Information Systems at Paderborn University, while simultaneously studying Law in Bielefeld. He has gained valuable practical experience through internships at European Union institutions and the German Bundestag, and has further developed his international perspective during extended stays in Shanghai and Seoul. His academic and professional focus lies in innovation management and the international regulation of artificial intelligence. Mika is currently gaining practical experience in the United States at Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP in New York.



BELA HÄRLE

Bela Härle studies audio engineering at the Hochschule für Musik Detmold, specializing in jazz and popular music. He has completed several internships at recording studios and has spent over a year abroad in English-speaking countries. He is interested in recording, production and amplification of sound and likes to read about the history and theory of music. When he's not working at his internship at The Bunker Studios in Brooklyn, he can often be found at a jazz club or live concert.

PEP Schedule: April 27-May 1

	MONDAY 27/04	TUESDAY 28/04	WEDNESDAY 29/04	THURSDAY 30/04	FRIDAY 01/05
8 AM		BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST		BREAKFAST
9 AM	BREAKFAST	9-11AM DESIGN THINKING	9-10AM 11 14	BREAKFAST	9AM-12PM THE POWER OF ASKING QUESTIONS
10 AM	10:30AM-12:30PM WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION	JOANNE HALPERN (NYU)	KATHRIN DI PAOLA	10:30-11:30PM COLUMBIA MED. CTR. ANNETTE WU (COLUMBIA)	CHRISTAN FAHRENBACH
11 AM	NATALIE TROELLER (CG) AMRA DUMISIC (DAAD) JAN LUEDERT (DWIH)	11:30AM-1PM AMERICAN COUNCIL ON GERMANY	11AM - 2PM ST. FRANCIS COLLEGE		
12 PM		MICHELE STEINBUCH STEVEN E. SOKOL (CEO)		12-1:30PM LUNCH & LEARN ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP	
1 PM	LUNCH	LUNCH	STEPHEN MCGARRY + TBA	KATJA SCHROEDER (COLUMBIA)	FAREWELL LUNCH
2 PM	FERRY RIDE DOWNTOWN		LUNCH		WHITNEY MUSEUM VISIT (OPTIONAL)
3 PM	3-4:30PM GACC NY: INTERCULTURAL ORIENTATION AND SELF-BRANDING			3-5PM UNITED NATIONS TOUR	
4 PM	SANDY JONES (GACC NY)	3.30-5PM INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION		CHRISTIAN WUNDERLICH (UN)	
5 PM			5-6PM GOETHE INSTITUT: J. SCHUMACHER		
6 PM	5-7PM 9/11 MEMORIAL MUSEUM VISIT	JONAH KOKADYNIK (VP) JAMES KING (SRF)	6-8PM SPRING FLING	6-8PM HIGH LINE & LITTLE ISLAND VISIT FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT THE STANDARD BIERGARTEN	
	WELCOME DINNER		GOETHE INSTITUTE TILL KNORN (CG)		

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IN COOPERATION WITH:



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