



# CIDDD NEWSLETTER

*News from the Consortium of International Double Degrees*



## About this Publication

Welcome to the fall edition of the CIDDD newsletter. Many students are reluctant to study abroad for a myriad of reasons. They often worry about leaving behind their familiar environment, including family and friends. The idea of navigating a foreign country, possibly with a different language and culture, can be intimidating. Additionally, financial constraints can deter students from pursuing international education, as the cost of tuition, living expenses, and travel can be substantial. Students may also worry that courses abroad will not transfer back to their home institution and they will fall behind academically.

Universities can implement strategies to encourage more students to study abroad. Firstly, they should provide clear guidance on academic credit transfer, financial aid options, and adapting to a foreign culture. Consider offering workshops on living abroad and cultural adjustment. It is helpful to list the courses abroad and how they transfer and have a clear written memorandum of understanding with partner universities. Offering a wide range of course options at partner institutions ensures that students can find courses relevant to their majors and interests.

International offices can ease the financial burden with scholarships designed for study abroad. Moreover, universities should actively promote the benefits of studying abroad, such as personal growth, intercultural competence, and enhanced career prospects. Alumni testimonials and success stories can inspire and reassure hesitant students. Your international office should consider creating a video in English or the local language about each international program.

Universities can encourage more students to study abroad by addressing their concerns through comprehensive support services, financial aid, flexible academic options, and effective marketing of the benefits of international education. These efforts can help break down barriers and make studying abroad more accessible and appealing option for a wider range of students.

All the Best,  
Yoav

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## The CID D General Assembly in 2023

The 2023 CID D General Assembly took place in a hybrid format, with attendance possible both in person at the University of Valencia in Spain, and online. Representatives from 21 universities attended the General Assembly, with participants from Europe, the United States, and Mexico.

During the assembly, the financial report and budget were approved, and the double degree scholarship winners were announced. This newsletter features a story on the first place winner. The CID D also welcomed three new members, and held elections for the board. The members of the board are:

**President: Yoav Wachsman**, Coastal Carolina University

**Vice-President: Anne-Mari Karppinen**, Haaga-Helia University of Applied Sciences

**Treasurer: Mary de Gendre**, ESCE International Business School

**Secretary: Jana Blštáková**, University of Economics Bratislava

Other Board Members:

**Ludmila Štěrbová**, Prague University of Economics and Business

**Galina Zilgalve**, RISEBA University of Applied Sciences

During the second day of the General Assembly participants had the opportunity to join two workshops. The first workshop focused on Innovation in Higher Education, and participants shared their thoughts on opportunities offered by the current climate in higher education. The second topic was Gamification in Accounting. The participants had the opportunity to try out a game designed for students with the goal of learning about the financial management of a business.

The program also included a catamaran tour, and tours of both the modern Tarongers campus as well as the historic La Nau Cultural Centre of the University of Valencia.



Tour of the La Nau Cultural Centre





## The CIDDD General Assembly in 2024

The CIDDD is excited to announce that the next General Assembly will take place in The Hague in the Netherlands on June 10-12, 2024.

The Hague is only half an hour by train from Schiphol, one of the largest airports in Europe. The city is home to the International Court of Justice and is the seat of the Dutch government. It is known for its historic palaces, vibrant museums, and proximity to the North Sea. The city provides a great jumping point to Holland's famous destinations, including Amsterdam, Delft, Rotterdam, and Haarlem.

The Hague University of Applied Sciences graciously agreed to host the event. The assembly will follow a similar format to Valencia and Karlstad, which recently hosted the event. It will include optional social activities on June 10, morning and afternoon meetings on June 11, dinner on June 11, and workshops on the morning of June 12. While the CIDDD will stream the official meeting, we heartedly recommend you to attend this meeting in person, so you do not miss the fun. The assembly will cost 150 Euros to attend, and each CIDDD member is welcome to send multiple representatives. We will email you more information about the General Assembly soon.

**THE HAGUE**  
UNIVERSITY OF  
APPLIED SCIENCES



# CIDD DOUBLE DEGREE SCHOLARSHIP FIRST-PRIZE WINNER 2023: Madina Ismailova

This year the CIDD gave out a total of five scholarships to exceptional double degree students and Madina Ismailova received first prize. She completed her double degree at Prague University of Economics and Business, Czech Republic (home university) and Mainz University of Applied Sciences, Germany (host university).

## Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

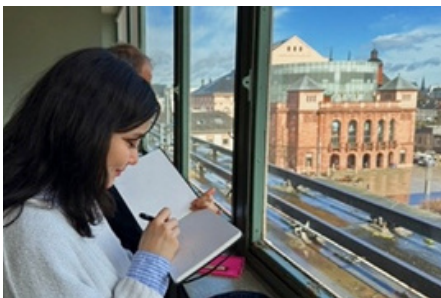
My name is Madina Ismailova, I am 25 years old, and originally from Kazakhstan. I competed in the Future Leaders Exchange program and spent my last year of high school in Michigan, USA. I later pursued a bachelor's degree in Prague, Czech Republic, and Umeå, Sweden, as an Erasmus exchange student. After, I started my master's degree at the Prague University of Economics and Business. Due to the opportunity to be in the double degree program, I completed my second year at Hochschule Mainz - University of Applied Sciences. With all of these experiences, I speak Kazakh, Russian, English, Czech and German. As for my future, I am looking forward to pursuing a career in finance. Besides work and studies, my interests include reading, drawing, and hiking.

## What motivated you to apply for the CIDD Double Degree Scholarship?

The double degree has tremendously changed me, both personally and professionally. The scholarship is a chance to share my experience and represent my home and host universities. It is a great way to motivate other students who might be interested in pursuing a double degree. In addition, it is an immense financial support for a student and can be seen as a recognition of one's hard work, dedication, and potential.

## Could you tell us about your double degree experience?

During my studies, I enjoyed the experience of being in an international environment and meeting so many students and teachers from different backgrounds with different perspectives and ideas. The double degree helped me learn about German culture and improve my German. Nevertheless, getting used to a different academic approach and semester planning was challenging. It was important to stay motivated and dedicated toward the goals.



## How would you describe your double degree experience in three words?

Fun, Challenging, Memorable

## What are you looking forward to next?

I will focus on my career. I am ready to show how much I learned and further develop my skills. It is a new chapter in my life, and I am excited to see what the future brings.



## Would you recommend a double degree program for others?

I recommend it. It gives an opportunity to experience a new culture first-hand. Studying with many people in different universities exposes one to different perspectives and ideas. Receiving two degrees opens up numerous opportunities for long-term success in the future career. Of course, there are obstacles to be faced. For example, it takes time to switch to a different academic approach, manage yourself, and adapt the communication style. It is an environment where a person can grow and learn. Completing a double degree program is a challenge but an exciting one.

[Click here to watch Madina's double degree video](#)

# Fostering Leadership Development through International Exchange



Companies and organizations are increasingly searching for employees who demonstrate both sound technical abilities and leadership skills. International education and exchange programs can help students develop leadership skills. These programs provide unique opportunities for individuals to gain a broader perspective, develop intercultural competence, and cultivate essential leadership qualities. This article explores how international exchange programs and study abroad experiences contribute to leadership development and outlines strategies universities can adopt to promote leadership in their global initiatives.

One of the primary benefits of international exchange programs is the exposure to diverse cultures. Immersing in different cultures forces individuals to adapt, and communicate with people from varied backgrounds. These experiences enhance cultural intelligence and adaptability, critical components of effective leadership. Leaders need to navigate diverse workforces and global markets, making the ability to understand and appreciate different cultural norms.

International exchanges also provide students with a global perspective that goes beyond what can be learned from textbooks. Engaging with international peers, experiencing different educational systems, and witnessing firsthand the socio-economic dynamics of other countries can broaden one's view. Leaders with a global perspective are better equipped to address complex global challenges and make informed decisions. Most organizations, even small ones, are global. They often have international employees, customers, or suppliers.

Effective leadership hinges on the ability to communicate across cultures and languages. International exchange programs force students out of their comfort zones, encouraging them to develop strong cross-cultural communication skills. These skills, including active listening, empathy, and non-verbal communication, are vital for building meaningful relationships with colleagues and stakeholders from diverse backgrounds.

Living in a foreign country often comes with challenges and unexpected obstacles like finding a place to live when you do not know the language or how the market works. Navigating these experiences fosters resilience and problem-solving abilities. Leaders must be able to handle adversity, adapt to changing circumstances, and find innovative solutions to complex issues. International education equips students with the mental fortitude and creative thinking necessary for leadership roles.





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Study abroad experiences encourage independence and self-reliance as students must manage their daily lives in an unfamiliar environment. From budgeting and time management to making critical decisions, students learn to take responsibility. Students must adapt to different class schedules, store hours and cultural norms, like going to dinner late in the evening if you are in Spain.

Finally, studying abroad offers the opportunity to build a global network of contacts and relationships. Students interact with peers, professors, and professionals from various backgrounds, laying the foundation for future collaborations. Leaders can later use these connections to seek potential clients, suppliers, or partners, which makes them valuable to organizations.

Members of the Consortium of International Double Degrees all have an array of global initiatives and exchanges. There are steps universities can take to use their global initiatives to help their students develop leadership skills. International offices can incorporate leadership development programs into their international education and exchange initiatives. These programs can include workshops, seminars, and mentorship opportunities focused on leadership skills, intercultural competence, and global awareness.

We can also encourage students to reflect on their international experiences through journals, group discussions, or guided reflection sessions. Reflective practices help students connect their experiences to leadership development, identifying specific skills and qualities they have developed.

Language proficiency is essential for effective cross-cultural communication. Universities can provide language courses that focus on practical communication skills to help students build confidence in their ability to interact with people from different linguistic backgrounds. Language courses can include modules on daily situations like finding a classroom that students can encounter while abroad.

We should strive to foster a sense of global citizenship among students by encouraging them to engage in community service or volunteer work during their international experiences. Global citizens are more likely to take on leadership roles with a commitment to positive social impact.

Finally, we should evaluate and adapt our programs. Regularly assess the effectiveness of international education and exchange programs in promoting leadership development. Use feedback from students, alumni, and employers to make necessary improvements.

International education and exchange programs offer a rich platform for leadership development by fostering cross-cultural communication, resilience, and problem-solving abilities. Study abroad experiences further enhance independence, networking, and intercultural leadership skills. To maximize the impact of these initiatives, universities should integrate leadership training, encourage reflection, provide language and communication support, promote global citizenship, offer support structures, and continually evaluate and adapt their programs.

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