

Press release

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ICBS double degree programme with Buenos Aires renewed

Students enrolled in the B.A. International Cultural and Business Studies will be glad to learn that they will continue to be able to spend one year of their studies at Universidad del Salvador in Buenos Aires and earn a second degree there. In a recent visit to Buenos Aires, Vice President Ursula Reutner and Juan Alejandro Tobías, the Rector of Universidad del Salvador, agreed to renew the agreement.

The new double degree programme is particularly beneficial to Passau's students, as the *Licenciatura* degree, which they will be awarded with in addition to their bachelor's degree, is in fact a higher academic qualification. 'The combination of bachelor's degree and *Licenciatura* gives our students a unique opportunity that is not available at any other German university,' said Vice President Ursula Reutner, who holds the Chair of Romance Languages and Cultures and oversees the programme. 'And the programme also attracts a lot of Argentinian students: we currently have ten Argentines studying the B.A. International Cultural and Business Studies programme in Passau. Most of them have completed the Abitur examination—the German higher education entrance qualification—at the Goethe School in Buenos Aires or another German international school. Many have European ancestors, and hence often a European passport, which allows them to travel and reside freely in the Schengen area. Quite a few stay in Germany after completing their studies.'

The double degree agreement signed by Juan Alejandro Tobías and Ursula Reutner is the third of its kind between the universities of Passau and Buenos Aires. It follows a double degree programme established in 1999—back then for the *Diplom* degree course that preceded the M.A. and B.A. ICBS programmes. The renewal of the double degree programme included a systematic adaptation to the changed conditions of the labour market. 'Our ties go back 17 years and it is our excellent personal contacts that drive this international partnership,' said Vice President Reutner.

Universidad del Salvador was founded 60 years ago by the Jesuit Order. Jorge Bergoglio, more widely known as Pope Francis, taught at the university during his time as Archbishop of Buenos Aires and the university keeps in close contact with His Holiness today.

Editors: please address your enquiries to the Media Relations Section, phone: +49 851 509 1439.