

ANNUAL REPORT



UA RUHR

20

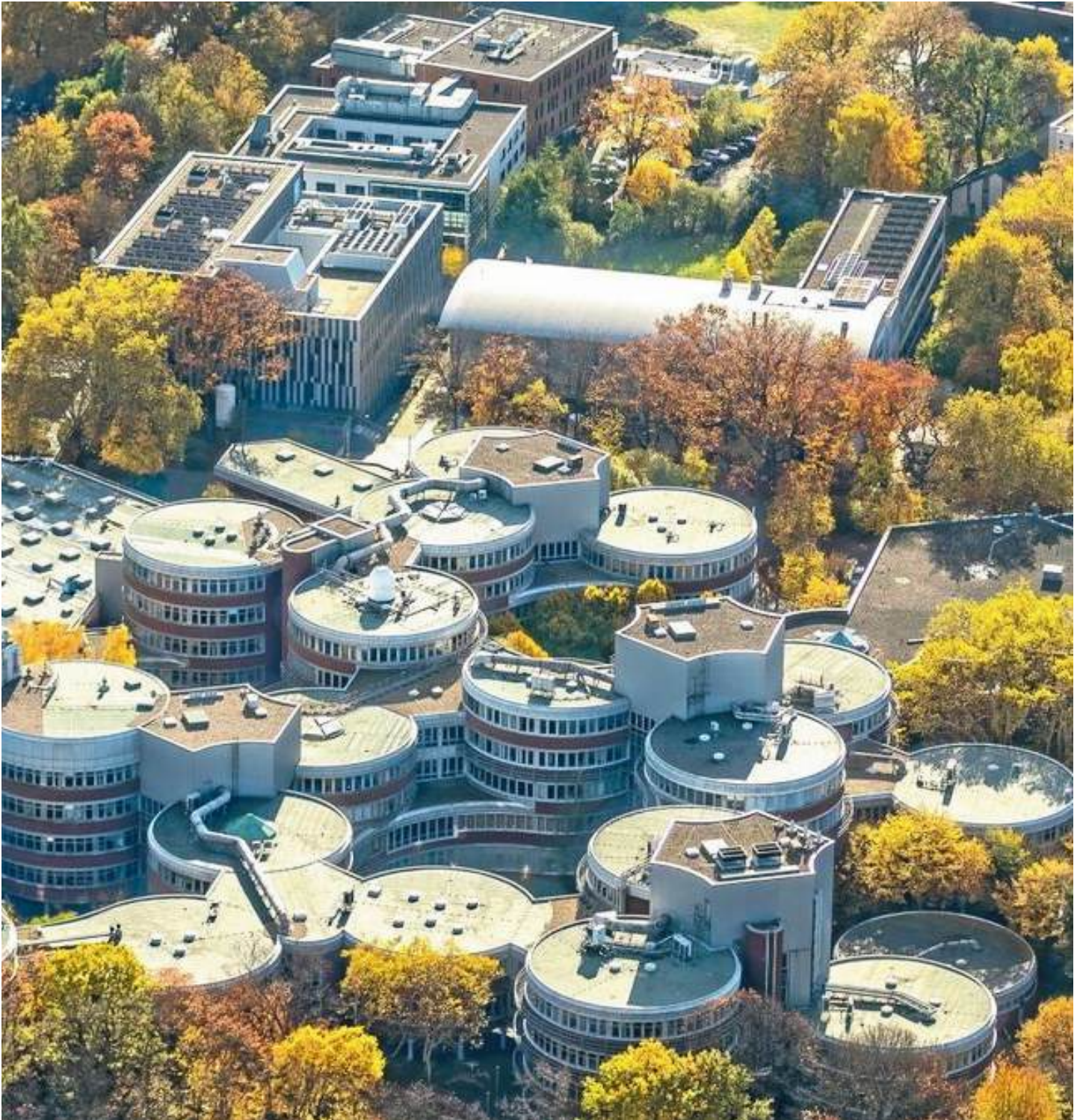
IMPACT DRIVEN RESEARCH

25

UNIVERSITY ALLIANCE RUHR INC.
871 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA, NEW YORK CITY, 10017

Table Of Contents

Intro	02	Year in Review - Program	10
Summary	04	Flagship Fellowships	31
Ruhr Area	06	Internships at UA Ruhr	36
UA Ruhr North America	08	Outlook	38
UA Ruhr Team	09	Our Partners	44



UNIVERSITY OF DUISBURG-ESSEN



Introduction and **WELCOME**

The year 2025 has been one of consolidation, growth, and renewal for University Alliance Ruhr. Building on the momentum of our 20th anniversary, we continue to expand the reach and impact of our transatlantic initiatives.

Our three universities, Ruhr University Bochum, TU Dortmund University, and the University of Duisburg-Essen, remain united in advancing academic collaboration, research innovation, and science diplomacy between Germany and North America.

This year, UA Ruhr deepened strategic partnerships across key thematic areas including research transfer, artificial intelligence, and academic freedom. The Futures Fellowship Program entered its second phase, strengthening ties with partner institutions such as the University of Virginia, University of California Los Angeles, and Rutgers University. We welcomed new exploratory collaborators at Simon Fraser University and University of British Columbia.

Through workshops, policy dialogues, and research exchanges, our network has continued to promote open inquiry and evidence-based collaboration at a time of global uncertainty.

As we reflect on 2025, UA Ruhr reaffirms its mission to foster international understanding through research, education, and innovation.

Together with our partners, we remain committed to supporting the next generation of scholars and leaders shaping a more resilient, sustainable, and interconnected world.



TU DORTMUND UNIVERSITY

UA Ruhr at 21 Years

IMPACT DRIVEN COLLABORATION

Dear UA Ruhr Community,

2025 has been a year of growth, renewal, and deepened transatlantic engagement for us. Our three universities continue to strengthen their shared mission of fostering innovation, collaboration, and scientific exchange between Germany, United States and Canada.

This year, we strengthened our academic footprint through the Ruhr Fellowship and Transatlantic Ruhr Fellowship programs, connecting outstanding students from our and our partner institutions with immersive experiences in either side of the Atlantic. We extend our sincere gratitude to the Max Kade Foundation for their ongoing support of the Ruhr Fellowship Program, which continues to enrich these transatlantic exchanges. The Futures Fellowship Program also entered a new phase, advancing projects in collaboration with the Univ. of Virginia, UCLA, and Rutgers Univ. that address critical global topics such as knowledge transfer, civic literacy, political education, moral psychology, philosophy of mind, and phenomenology.

Our 2025 programming reflected UA Ruhr's growing role in promoting science diplomacy and international dialogue. From Women at the Forefront of Science Diplomacy in Washington, DC, to SCALEability: Educational Research and Ed-Tech in New York, and the Transatlantic Working Group for At-Risk Scholars in Germany, our activities demonstrated the value of transdisciplinary collaboration in addressing complex global challenges. UA Ruhr was also represented at major international gatherings such as the NAFSA Conference in San Diego, the GAIN Conference in Boston, and DWIH NY's Future Forum in Cambridge, further strengthening the Ruhr universities' visibility within the North American higher education landscape.

Throughout the year, UA Ruhr continued to bring together scholars, students, policymakers, and industry leaders to exchange ideas and build sustainable partnerships. Whether through innovation-focused collaborations with GUIDE in New York, WorldFactory International in Vancouver or thought-provoking events such as AI and the Perception of Reality at the German Consulate New York, our New York office remained committed to connecting people and ideas across borders.

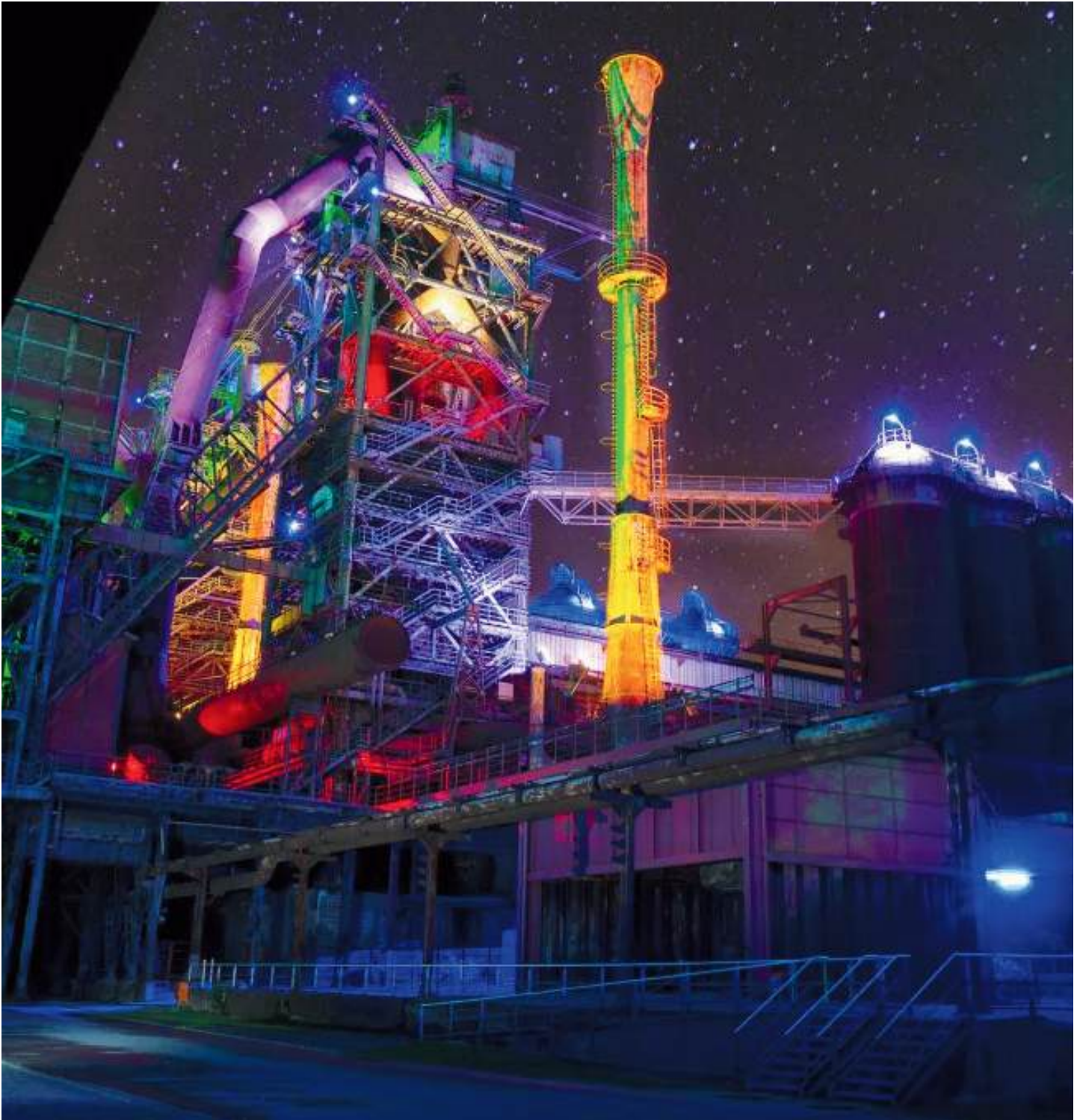
As I reflect on 2025, I am proud of how UA Ruhr North America has continued to embody the spirit of collaboration and curiosity that defines our mission. Each program, fellowship, and dialogue reaffirms the importance of transatlantic engagement in advancing knowledge, equity, and shared responsibility for the future.

As we look ahead to 2026, I do so with true appreciation for our engaged and committed UA Ruhr Board, our exceptional interns, and our steadfast partners and colleagues; and with confidence in the vital role our universities continue to play in shaping a more interconnected and innovative global academic community.

In gratitude,


Priya S. Nayar
Executive Director





DUISBURG LANDSCAPE PARK

Our Universities and **THE RUHR AREA**

The Ruhr area, or "Ruhrgebiet," is one of Germany's most dynamic and culturally rich regions, with a legacy deeply intertwined with the country's industrial past. Once the beating heart of Germany's coal and steel industries, the Ruhr has transformed itself from an industrial powerhouse into a hub of innovation, culture, and education. Today, it boasts a unique blend of modernity and heritage, with repurposed industrial sites like the Zeche Zollverein coal mine complex in Essen and the Gasometer in Oberhausen now serving as cultural landmarks and UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The region is known for its vibrant arts scene, annual festivals, and a multicultural population that adds depth to its cultural landscape. The Ruhrgebiet stands as a testament to resilience and adaptability, symbolizing how areas rooted in heavy industry can evolve to become centers for creativity, sustainability, and knowledge.

This blend of past and present gives the Ruhr a unique character, one that is progressive, inclusive, and vibrant, fostering a spirit of innovation and collaboration that permeates the region's approach to arts, sciences, and social life. This cultural richness is also reinforced by the region's diverse population, shaped by waves of immigration that began during its industrial boom. Communities from across Europe and beyond settled here, making the Ruhr a mosaic of cultures, languages, and traditions. This diversity enriches the region's cultural offerings and fuels a dynamic exchange of ideas, perspectives, and artistic expressions.

Museums like the Ruhr Museum and the Museum Folkwang showcase this history and diversity, offering insights into the Ruhrgebiet's evolution and its people. As a culturally inclusive space, the Ruhr exemplifies how economic transformation and cultural adaptation can go hand in hand, setting an example for other post-industrial regions around the world.

At the heart of the Ruhr's academic and research ecosystem are three universities: Ruhr University Bochum, TU Dortmund University, and the University of Duisburg-Essen. Together, they form the University Alliance Ruhr (UA Ruhr), a collaborative powerhouse that drives research, innovation, and academic excellence in the region. Each institution brings unique strengths to the alliance: Ruhr University Bochum is renowned for its interdisciplinary research and strong focus on humanities and social sciences, TU Dortmund University excels in engineering, natural sciences, and technology, and the University of Duisburg-Essen is a leader in medical research, social sciences, and education. These universities are not only key players in educating future generations but also serve as essential contributors to the local economy and cultural landscape. Their combined efforts foster a vibrant intellectual community, support the local economy, and enhance the Ruhrgebiet's reputation as a leader in global research and development.



RUHR UNIVERSITY BOCHUM

Three Universities

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

Ruhr University Bochum: Bridging Disciplines and Inspiring Innovation

Founded in 1962, Ruhr University Bochum (RUB) was the first new public university established in Germany after World War II, symbolizing both growth and a fresh start for the Ruhr region. Known for its interdisciplinary research approach, RUB brings together diverse academic fields to tackle complex global challenges. The university excels in areas like materials science, neuroscience, and engineering, while its humanities and social sciences departments contribute critical insights into the cultural and social shifts in post-industrial societies. RUB's research initiatives often transcend academic boundaries, encouraging collaboration across fields to develop holistic solutions.

TU Dortmund University: Shaping the Future of Technology and Society

TU Dortmund University (TUD110o) is renowned for its strong focus on technology, engineering, and natural sciences. Established in 1968, TU Dortmund has developed cutting-edge expertise in fields such as data science, automation, and logistics, making it a critical partner for Germany's technological sectors. Its collaborative projects with local industries are instrumental in driving innovation within the Ruhr region's economy, particularly as it transitions away from traditional industries. Additionally, the university's commitment to social sciences ensures a balanced perspective, exploring how technological advancements impact society, ethics, and policy, thereby shaping a future that is both innovative and responsible.

University of Duisburg-Essen: Championing Diversity, Sustainability, and Health

The University of Duisburg-Essen (UDE), one of the largest universities in Germany, is distinguished by its commitment to social inclusion, diversity, and sustainability. Founded in its current form in 2003 through a merger, UDE is known for its research in medical sciences, social policy, and environmental studies, focusing on challenges that are highly relevant to the Ruhr area's industrial legacy. The university has developed a reputation for excellence in health sciences and engineering, contributing to medical research that addresses public health needs in the region and beyond. UDE's Center for Logistics and Traffic, as well as its Institutes for East Asian Studies, position the university as a leader in international collaboration, reflecting the Ruhr's multicultural heritage. Through a strong emphasis on social responsibility and global citizenship, UDE educates students to not only excel in their fields but also to contribute to sustainable and inclusive communities.

UNIVERSITY ALLIANCE RUHR INC.



*Dr. Barbara
Schneider*

*Prof. Dr.-Ing. Gerhard
Schembecker*

Susanne von Türk

*Prof. Dr. Tessa
Flatten*

*Dr. Joann
Halpern*

Priya S. Nayar

*Prof. Dr. Karen A.
Shire*

*Prof. Dr. Kornelia
Freitag*

Year in Review Projects, Activities, and Programs

*Learn about our
programming
throughout the year*



Garden(s) of Refuge in Dortmund



Steuben Parade 2025



Garden(s) of Refuge, Academy in Exile, TU Dortmund, University of Michigan

Q1 January - March

In Conversation with Gesche Würfel and Vanessa Agnew

January 7, 2025

Deutsches Haus at NYU, New York, NY

On January 7, 2025, artist and TUDo alumna Gesche Würfel (NYU), along with TU Dortmund University Prof. Dr. Vanessa Agnew, led a discussion and walkthrough of Würfel's exhibition, "The Absence and Presence of the Berlin Wall." They shared insights on art, history, memory, and space, drawing a diverse audience of alumni and partners of UA Ruhr and offering a thoughtful reflection on the impact of art and memory.

New Year Reception San Francisco

January 23, 2025

SAP Labs, San Francisco, CA

The German Consulate General San Francisco, together with DWIH San Francisco, DAAD, and the German University Liaison Offices, hosted our annual New Year's Alumni & Partners Reception at SAP Labs San Francisco. The evening brought together alumni, partners, and members of the German-American academic and professional communities to celebrate collaboration, exchange ideas, and strengthen transatlantic connections.



TUDo alumna Gesche Würfel's exhibition "The Absence and Presence of the Berlin Wall" at NYU Deutsches Haus

Women at the Forefront of Science Diplomacy

February 13, 2025

Washington, DC

Held in honor of the UN International Day of Women and Girls in Science, the UA Ruhr roundtable was part of a weeklong series supporting women working in science organized by the Women in Science Diplomacy Association (WiSDA).



UA Ruhr co-leading the roundtable discussion at the German Embassy in Washington, DC

DAAD Partners and Friends Reception

February 21, 2025

Washington, D.C.

UA Ruhr, in collaboration with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), participated in a special reception in Washington, DC, bringing together partners, friends, and members of the academic community to celebrate transatlantic exchange and collaboration and marking 100 years of DAAD.



Tessa Flatten and Carsten Rüpke at the Melting Pott: Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

ASCE Ninth Annual Seminar

February 25-27, 2025

College Station, TX

University Alliance Ruhr participated in the ASCE Ninth Annual Seminar, a leading forum on research security and international collaboration in higher education. Prof. Karen Shire, Vice Rector of the University of Duisburg-Essen, joined a session on research security and freedom of science, contributing perspectives from German universities on protecting academic research while supporting open, international cooperation



Karen Shire, ASCE

Melting Pott: Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

February 28, 2025

New York, NY

New York University's Prof. Dr. Martin Ihrig and TU Dortmund University's Prof. Dr. Tessa Flatten, along with their teams, came together in New York for a discussion on the entrepreneurial ecosystems in Germany and the United States. Deputy Consul General Carsten Rüpke from the German Consulate in New York delivered the opening remarks and joined the panel discussion.

New Year's Reception New York

February 26, 2025

Consulate General of Germany, New York, NY

UA Ruhr, together with the German House University Liaison Offices and the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in New York, welcomed alumni, partners, and friends for an exclusive New Year's pre-reception, followed by a festive musical concert.

DLAB Fosters Transatlantic Innovation and Entrepreneurship

March 3-4, 2025

New York, NY

The DLAB program journeyed from NYC to Lehigh University, engaging in discussions on entrepreneurship at UA Ruhr and exploring AI innovation with Bridgetown Research. After experiencing New York's vibrant culture and entertainment, five DLAB students joined Prof. Michael Lehman and his students for Technical Entrepreneurship Week.

Love Machines: The Science of AI Companionship

March 12, 2025

Austin, TX

At SXSW in Austin, UA Ruhr showcased its innovative research as 2024 Futures Fellow Dr. Jessica Szczuka (UDE) took part in an international panel on AI companionship, examining how memory-driven AI systems are redefining intimacy and challenging ethical boundaries.

APAIE Conference

March 24-28, 2025

Delhi, India

UA Ruhr participated in DAAD's Indo-German Science Forum and in the international conference APAIE 2025, which brought together educators from across the world under the theme of Cultivating Global Citizens for the Future. Both platforms provided valuable opportunities to exchange ideas and explore the evolving landscape of international higher education, while strengthening UA Ruhr's partnerships and visibility within India's growing academic and innovation ecosystem.



TUdo's DLAB students and faculty at Times Square



South by South West Austin



DAAD DWIH India

Q2 April - June



DAAD's annual "Sound Understanding Concert" at Carnegie Hall

Sound Understanding Concert

April 3, 2025

Carnegie Hall, New York, NY

The DAAD hosted its annual Sound Understanding concert at the prestigious Carnegie Hall in New York City. The concert showcased the young and talented DAAD music fellows from Germany. These fellows, who had spent the past year studying at leading music schools across the United States and Canada, were chosen through a national competition among the top students from Germany's renowned music colleges.

German University Fair 2025

April 6, 2025

German School Brooklyn, New York, NY

On April 6, 2025, at the German School in Brooklyn, NY, attendees had the opportunity to meet representatives from a wide range of German universities and learn everything they needed to know about studying in Germany. They also explored how studying at one of Germany's top-ranked universities can serve as a gateway to launching a career in Europe.



UA Ruhr interns Vanessa Hajduga and Tim Pföhler at the German University Fair in Brooklyn

Lafayette College Partner Visit

April 8, 2025

Lafayette College, Eason, PA

UA Ruhr visited Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania, to strengthen our partnership. Two TRF2025 fellows will begin internships there in the summer. The visit highlighted Lafayette’s sustainability efforts, including a student-run thrift shop and a renewable-energy golf cart, both of which were shaped by contributions from former TRF Fellows, as well as LaFarm’s organic produce and circular economy initiatives.



Tim Pföhler, Josh Parr, Vanessa Hajduga, Priya Nayar at Lafayette College's LaFarm

Germany Grad Fair 2025

April 11, 2025

German Consulate, New York, NY

The event allowed attendees to connect with representatives from German universities, funding agencies, and cultural institutions. Students and young professionals gained valuable insights to help them make informed decisions about the academic programs and universities best suited to their goals. Participants also learned about the application process and degree requirements. UA Ruhr truly enjoyed meeting so many enthusiastic and curious participants at the fair.



UA Ruhr at the Germany Grad Fair 2025



Pedro Marron (UDE) and Simon Liepold (Microsoft)

Visit from Prof. Marrón, UDE Vice President

May 1, 2025

Consulate General of Germany, New York, NY

Vice President for Transfer, Innovation & Digitalization Pedro José Marrón from University of Duisburg-Essen (UDE), visited the New York and Boston region. He engaged with key stakeholders at events like the American Council on Germany Annual Meeting, a policy forum on the new U.S. administration, and meetings with Start2 Group and partners at the German Consulate. The visit aimed to strengthen innovation and research transfer system through transatlantic exchange and collaboration for UDE and UA Ruhr.

Idea 2025

May 15, 2025

Ruhr University Bochum, Germany

WorldFactory International hosted IDEA 2025 at Ruhr University Bochum, bringing start-ups, researchers, and investors together. Through UA Ruhr and DWIH New York, the Pitch Contest winner was invited to the STEP USA University Program in New York City.



IDEA 2025 Pitch Contest in Bochum

NAFSA Conference

May 27-30, 2025

San Diego, CA

UA Ruhr participated in the NAFSA Conference held in San Diego. The conference remains the platform to strengthen UA Ruhr's long-standing partnerships. On May 28, UA Ruhr hosted our annual reception to engage with our valuable partners.



NAFSA Conference 2025 in San Diego

SCALEability: Educational Research and Ed-Tech

June 09, 2025
 New York, NY

UA Ruhr hosted a stakeholder meeting on scaleability in academic innovation in the area of ED-Tech. The event welcomed Prof. Dr. Tish Jennings (University of Virginia) and Prof. Dr. Bettina Lucia Amrhein (University of Duisburg-Essen), who shared insights from their research as well as the opportunities and challenges of scaling entrepreneurial ventures born out of academic innovation.



CHCI 2025 with Academy in Exile and Univ. of Cincinnati



UA Ruhr, University of Duisburg-Essen, University of Virginia, 1014 - Space for Ideas, DWIH New York, NYU SPS

Transatlantic Working Group for At-Risk Scholars CHCI 2025

June 25, 2025
 Berlin, Germany

On June 25, 2025, UA Ruhr and Academy in Exile hosted the third iteration of the Transatlantic Working Group for At-Risk Scholars during the CHCI conference at Free University of Berlin. The program consisted of panels that focused on security and sustainability aimed to further transatlantic collaboration to support scholars facing threats to academic freedom.



Dynamic panel and roundtable workshop on SCALEability

CHCI Network

June 23-27, 2025
 Max Planck Society, Berlin, Germany

UA Ruhr, together with Academy in Exile, was represented at the CHCI Network Meeting at the Harnack Haus of the Max Planck Society on the topic of Resentment and the Work of the Humanities.

Q3 July - September

“Climate Bridge - What now?” Bottrop, Germany

July 25, 2025

Berne Park, Bottrop, Germany

University Alliance Ruhr hosted the event “Climate Bridge –What Now?” at BernePark in the Ruhr Region, Germany, on July 25, 2025. In cooperation with Rutgers University and the EmscherGenossenschaft, the discussion brought together transatlantic perspectives on climate policy and focused on how Germany and the U.S. can turn shared understanding into coordinated action across science, policy, and civil society.

National Workshop on the Formation of Industry-University Partnership

August 4-6, 2025

National Academies Building, Washington, D.C.

UA Ruhr was pleased to join the National Workshop on the Formation of Industry-University Partnerships for Doctoral Training, held August 4–6, 2025, at the National Academies Building on Constitution Avenue in Washington, DC. Led by Lehigh University, the event brought together key stakeholders from academia, industry, funding agencies, and international institutions involved in doctoral education.

The workshop aimed to identify challenges and develop solution-oriented strategies for building successful industry-university partnerships in doctoral training. Through collaborative discussions, participants worked to strengthen frameworks that foster innovation and advance workforce development across sectors.



Priya S. Nayar (UA Ruhr),
Gerhard Schembecker
(TUDo), and Michael Lehman
(Lehigh University) at the
National Academies in
Washington DC

German Universities Alumni Evening

August 28, 2025

Trillium Brewery, Boston MA

Together with our partners from University of Cologne, University Heidelberg, Campus OWL, University of Freiburg, UAS7 – German Universities of Applied Sciences, and Technical University Munich, UA Ruhr invited you to a reception where alumni had the opportunity to network with fellow alumni as well as representatives of German Universities.

GAIN 2025 Conference

August 29-31, 2025

Boston, MA

UA Ruhr participated in the annual GAIN Conference 2025. As the premier German science and research career fair in North America, the three-day event provided an important platform for transatlantic exchange through workshops, panel discussions, and one-on-one meetings.

Researchers abroad and international scholars interested in opportunities in Germany were able to explore career paths, funding programs, and the latest developments in science policy. For the first time, the conference was also open to non-German-speaking postdocs, with a full program of workshops offered in English.



GAIN 2025



UA Ruhr at GAIN 2025



Innovation Ecosystem Side Event at GAIN 2025 with President Martin Paul, RUB



Leading with Excellence Workshop Panel at GAIN 2025 Annual Conference in Boston



President Barbara Albert, Barbara Schwerdtfeger, UDE



Make Germany a Part of it! Mental Health And Your Research Career at the Goethe-Institut

Make Germany a Part of it! Mental Health And Your Research Career

September 2, 2025

Goethe-Institut, New York, NY

UA Ruhr, the Berlin University Alliance, and the German Center for Research and Innovation New York (DWIH NY) held the Make Germany a Part of It! info session at the Goethe-Institut New York. The evening brought together early-career researchers for a panel discussion with experts in health and care, who shared both professional insights and personal reflections on sustaining mental well-being in demanding research environments.

Future Forum 2025

September 8, 2025

Broad Institute, Cambridge, MA

University Alliance Ruhr took part in Future Forum 2025 at the Broad Institute in Cambridge, MA, on September 8, 2025. Organized by the German Center for Research and Innovation New York (DWIH NY), the event focused on Global Health, bringing together experts from academia, industry, and policy to explore how science diplomacy and technology can drive better health outcomes worldwide.

“Climate Bridge - What now?” New Brunswick

September 17, 2025

Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

University Alliance Ruhr participated in the presentation of Climate Bridge at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ, on September 17, 2025. Hosted in cooperation with Rutgers University and Emschergenossenschaft, the event launched the new Rutgers University Press publication and brought together experts from Germany and the United States to discuss pathways for renewed transatlantic climate cooperation. Building on the original 2021 Climate Bridge conference, the conversation examined how evolving political landscapes in both countries shape climate policy, public engagement, and future collaboration toward sustainable, coordinated action.



Climate Bridge at Rutgers University

Q4 October-December

German Heritage Night

October 4, 2025

Sports Illustrated Stadium, Harrison, NJ

The New York Red Bulls hosted a German Heritage Night to celebrate the vibrant German community. Following the match, attendees enjoyed an exclusive Q&A session and photo opportunity with defender Alexander Hack, formerly with Mainz 05, offering fans a unique chance to connect with the player and celebrate the shared spirit of soccer and German culture.



Insider Talk with UA Ruhr marking German Unity Day

Insider Talk: Absence & Presence of the Berlin Wall

October 10, 2024

German Consulate General, New York, NY
 University Alliance Ruhr hosted the Insider Talk “The Absence and Presence of the Berlin Wall” at the German Consulate General in New York for the Day of German Unity. TU Dortmund alumna Gesche Würfel, with Sarah Alberti, Kay Bachmann, and Alta Lynn Price, reflected on the Wall’s ongoing impact on memory, identity, and urban space.

Info Session on Studying in Germany

October 10, 2025

German International School New York, White Plains, NY

University Alliance Ruhr joined interns from the German Universities Liaison Offices in New York for a visit to the German International School New York (GISNY) in White Plains. The visit provided an opportunity to share insights on studying and living in Germany, highlight the diverse academic pathways available to international students, and engage with students interested in pursuing their education abroad.

UA Ruhr Innovation Bridge: WorldFactory

October 14, 2025

Vancouver, BC, Canada

UA Ruhr, together with DWIH San Francisco, hosted the UA Ruhr Innovation Bridge at The Vancouver Club, welcoming a delegation from the WorldFactory Start-up Center (Ruhr University Bochum), including start-ups, professors, and research transfer experts. The event highlighted research transfer, funding opportunities, and university-industry collaboration, featuring opening remarks by Consul Marc Eichhorn (German Consulate General in Vancouver) and spotlight presentations from experts.



Innovation Bridge in Vancouver

Career Booster German(y)

October 17, 2025

Goethe-Institut, New York, NY

University Alliance Ruhr participated in the Career Booster German(y) fair hosted by the Goethe-Institut New York, a full-day event designed to help high school and college students explore how learning German and gaining intercultural experience can open doors to study, work, and internship opportunities in Germany.



German School New York Info Session



UA Ruhr Intern Lasse Spellerberg at Goethe-Institut

UA Ruhr Science Symposium – Artificial Intelligence and the Philosophy of Perception

October 17, 2025

German House, New York, NY

The UA Ruhr Science Symposium – Artificial Intelligence and the Philosophy of Perception was held at the German Consulate General in New York. Featuring Prof. Dr. Susanna Schellenberg (Rutgers University) and Prof. Dr. Albert Newen (Ruhr University Bochum), and moderated by Prof. Dr. Martin Ihrig (New York University), the symposium explored how subjective perception shapes human understanding and examined whether artificial intelligence can possess a similar perspective.



Priya S. Nayar (UA Ruhr), Martin Ihrig (NYU), Susanna Schellenberg (Rutgers Univ.), and Albert Newen (RUB)

Germany Grad Fair

October 24, 2025

Virtual Event

University Alliance Ruhr took part in the Virtual Grad Fair 2025, which connected North American students and professionals with German universities, funding agencies, and cultural institutions. The event offered insights into graduate study opportunities in Germany, including degree options, scholarships, and practical advice on applications and student life.

Gambrinus Forum 2025

October 27, 2025

Westfälischer Industrieklub, Dortmund, Germany

University Alliance Ruhr participated in the Gambrinus Forum at TU Dortmund University. The Gambrinus Forum is the annual highlight of the Dortmund Gambrinus Fellowships, established in 1993 by the Association of Dortmund Brewers to promote international academic exchange at TU Dortmund University. Organized in collaboration with the Technical University of Dortmund, the event brought together distinguished speakers and guests from academia, politics, and industry to explore pressing global issues through the lens of international exchange and scientific dialogue. As part of UA Ruhr’s ongoing commitment to fostering transatlantic and interdisciplinary collaboration, the Gambrinus Forum highlighted the role of research networks in addressing societal challenges and strengthening partnerships across borders.



Martin Paul (RUB), Manfred Bayer (TUDo), Tessa Flatten (TUDo), and Martin Ihrig (NYU)



UA Ruhr Science Symposium - Artificial Intelligence and the Philosophy of Perception

Virtual Info Session about the Transatlantic Ruhr Fellowship 2026

November 5, 2025

Virtual Event

On November 5, UA Ruhr hosted an Info Session on the Transatlantic Ruhr Fellowship Program, inviting students from Ruhr University Bochum, TU Dortmund University, and the University of Duisburg-Essen to learn about the application process and partner organizations. The virtual session offered participants the chance to engage with the UA Ruhr team, ask questions, and explore how the fellowship can support their academic and professional goals.

Civic Literacy and Political Learning in Secondary Schools: Insights from Research in Germany

November 6, 2025

UCLA School of Public Affairs, Los Angeles, CA

UA Ruhr Future Fellow Dr. Pascal Alscher from TU Dortmund University shared new insights into how schools and families shape students' understanding of politics and citizenship. His research, which contributed to Germany's largest education study, inspired important discussions on how young people develop into active, informed citizens.

UCLA School Social Work

CIVIC LITERACY AND POLITICAL LEARNING IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS: INSIGHTS FROM RESEARCH IN GERMANY

Pascal Alscher is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Center for Research on Education and School Development (ES) at TU Dortmund University. He has developed a fully operationalized framework model of civic literacy as a core competency of school-based civic education, which now serves as the template for measuring civic literacy in Germany's largest education study, the NEPS. His research also explores political socialization processes, focusing on the roles of schools and families in shaping students' political knowledge and civic dispositions. His current research stay at UCLA is funded by the Futures Fellow Program of the University Alliance Ruhr.

Dr. Pascal Alscher

RSVP HERE BY OCT. 30

November 6th
12:15 - 1:45
Public Affairs 2243
Lunch provided



Future Fellow 2025 Pascal Alscher at UCLA

German American Conference, Harvard University

November 14-16, 2025

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

The German American Conference 2025, a student-run event organized by students at the Harvard Kennedy School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, serves as the largest transatlantic student-led conference in the United States. University Alliance Ruhr participated in the event, which brought together leaders from academia, business, politics, and civil society to engage in cross-generational dialogue and explore collaborative approaches to the future of transatlantic relations.



Lasse Spellerberg (UA Ruhr) and Christian Strowa (DAAD) at Harvard Kennedy School



“Breaking the Bias: Equitable Education by 2030” at the German-American Conference 2025



Keynote speech with BCG at the German-American Conference



Ambassador Wendy R. Sherman

Virtual Info Session about the Transatlantic Ruhr Fellowship 2026

November 5, 2025

Virtual Event

On November 5, UA Ruhr hosted an Info Session on the Transatlantic Ruhr Fellowship Program, inviting students from Ruhr University Bochum, TU Dortmund University, and the University of Duisburg-Essen to learn about the application process and partner organizations. The virtual session offered participants the chance to engage with the UA Ruhr team, ask questions, and explore how the fellowship can support their academic and professional goals.

Once Upon a Bite: Food, Folklore, and Cultural Memory

December 2, 2025

German Consulate General New York, NY

University Alliance Ruhr and 1014 – Space for Ideas hosted an evening with Dr. Iris-Aya Laemmerhirt (TUDo), Prof. Dr. Krishnendu Ray (NYU) and Chef Eduard Frauneder. Through storytelling, conversation, and culinary reflection, the program explored how food carries memory across time and borders. The evening included storytelling of Hänsel and Gretel with reflections on hunger, migration, and cultural memory, a tasting menu inspired by the tales, and an interactive exchange inviting participants to contribute personal recipes and stories to a Digital Storybook Cookbook.



Iris-Aya Laemmerhirt (TuDo) at Once Upon a Bite



Once Upon a Bite



National Academies meeting in Washington DC



University Alliance Ruhr partner 1014 - Space for Ideas in construction

Annual Alumni and Partners Holiday Gathering

December 3, 2025

German Consulate General New York, NY

UA Ruhr, together with the German Consulate General in New York and the German Universities Liaison Offices, hosted the annual alumni and partner holiday gathering, known for nostalgic singing and comforting Glühwein!



UA Ruhr friends, alumni, and colleagues at the Annual Holiday Gathering

Scaleability II

December 18-19, 2025

New York University, New York, NY

2025 Future Fellow Dr. Benjamin Badstieber (UDE) brought together international experts and explored how artificial intelligence could support mental health and emotional safety in schools. Scaleability was a series of gatherings leading up to a conference in 2026-2027 in ed-tech and innovation with the University of Virginia.



Climate Bridge at Rutgers University



UA Ruhr Science Symposium



Unis and Us: German Alumni

FLAGSHIP PROGRAMS FELLOWSHIPS

*UA Ruhr hosted three
Flagship Fellowship
Programs. Learn
about our
fellowships.*

FUTURE'S FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM COHORT



Dr. Pascal Alscher

Future's Fellowship at UCLA to study how educational systems conceptualize and foster civic competence in adolescents
TU Dortmund University



Dr. Benjamin Badstieber

At UVA, he researches inclusive education and emotions in classrooms
University of Duisburg-Essen



Dr. René Baston

Conducts a fellowship at Rutgers University to explore a non-probabilistic, "Normic" framework for understanding suicide risk
TU Dortmund University (formerly Ruhr University Bochum)

RUHR FELLOWSHIP COHORT



Corrina Borchers

Intern at Emschergenossenschaft and Lippeverband
B.Sc. in Environmental Engineering & M.Eng. in
Chemical Engineering
University of Cincinnati



Maheen Fatima

Intern at Masterflex Group
Junior in Marketing, Real Estate,
and International Business
University of Cincinnati



Akanksha Gavade

Intern at Junior Professorship of
Entrepreneurship at TU Dortmund University
Honors dual degree in Industrial and Systems
Engineering and Finance
Lehigh University



Emma Lu

Intern at Chair of Sustainability and
Innovation in Digital Ecosystems at
University of Duisburg-Essen
Graduate of Business Administration
UC Berkeley



Yuliana Lugo Melendez

Intern at Emschergenossenschaft
and Lippeverband
Junior in Earth and Environmental
Sciences
Lehigh University



Anh Quan Nguyen

Intern at the Institute of Forming Technology
and Lightweight Components at TU
Dortmund University
Major in Mechanical Engineering
Lehigh University



Khyati Shinghal

Intern at Chair of Sustainability and
Innovation in Digital Ecosystems at the
University of Duisburg-Essen
Senior in Business Economics and
Information Systems
University of Cincinnati



Siddharth Urankar

Intern at IE³ at TU Dortmund University
Major in Computer Science
University of Cincinnati

TRANSATLANTIC RUHR FELLOWSHIP COHORT



Samet Besyaprak
Intern at Goethe-Institut/GAPP
Bachelor of Educational Science
University of Duisburg-Essen



Moritz Brinkfort
Intern at GAIN
Master of Psychology & Master's degree in
Mechanical Engineering
Ruhr University Bochum



Hadis Förster
Intern at Society of Illustrators
Bachelor's Degree in German
and English Studies
Ruhr University Bochum



Chander Lal
Intern at GACC New York
Master of Sales Management
Ruhr University Bochum



Ria Arakel Marokky
Intern at NYC CEC
Master of Business Administration
University of Duisburg-Essen



Carolin Neuroth
Intern at German Research Foundation
Bachelor of Economics
University of Duisburg-Essen



Karolina Odorska
Intern at NYC CEC
Master of Industrial Engineering
and Business Administration
TU Dortmund University



Mohammad Nasir Steldermann
Intern at Lafayette College
Master of Education
University of Duisburg-Essen



Maria Vogt
Intern at German Research
Foundation
Master of Psychology
Ruhr University Bochum



Hanna Würker
Intern at Lafayette College
Bachelor of Business Administration
TU Dortmund University



TRF 2025 at Lafayette College's LaFarm



TRF 2025 at the Museum of Illustration Society of Illustrators



TRF 2025 Cohort at Lehigh University

UA Ruhr North America stands with the support of our interns. Meet the people who make our activities a success!

UA Ruhr New York Internships



Vanessa Hajduga was an intern at the UA Ruhr New York Office from June 2024 to April 2025. We are proud to see her continue her academic journey at our long-time partner institution, Lehigh University, where she is pursuing an M.Eng. in Technical Entrepreneurship.
Intern, Ruhr University Bochum



Tim Pföhler was an intern at the UA Ruhr New York Office from April 2025 to October 2025. During his time he supported the Transatlantic Ruhr Fellowship program and various initiatives promoting academic exchange. He is back in Germany completing his master's degree in Socio-Economics.
Intern, University of Duisburg-Essen



Lasse Spellerberg has been an intern at the UA Ruhr New York Office since October 2025 and will continue until April 2026. He is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Management and Economics. He is particularly interested in transatlantic relations and economic cooperation between Europe and North America.
Intern, Ruhr University Bochum



2025 New York Interns Vanessa Hajduga, Tim Pfoehler, and Lasse Spellerberg and Priya S. Nayar



The German Consulate New York home of UA Ruhr North America



Transatlantic Innovation Forum: Healthcare & Life Sciences in Georgia with Ruhr University Bochum alumna Aygün Sahin

Gain insights into our strategic direction, prospects, and upcoming initiatives as we look towards an exciting future.

Envisioning Tomorrow, Embracing Opportunities



Outlook

At the core of UA Ruhr New York's mission is the facilitation of meaningful research partnerships and academic exchanges between our three Ruhr universities and North American institutions. Through initiatives like joint research projects, faculty and student mobility programs, the office fosters opportunities for collaboration in fields as diverse as engineering, environmental science, humanities, and social sciences.

The Ruhr region's expertise in addressing complex societal challenges, ranging from climate change to urban development, aligns well with the priorities of North American research institutions, making these partnerships mutually beneficial. By bridging the gap between scholars and researchers from both continents, our office promotes knowledge-sharing that can lead to innovative solutions for global issues.

UA Ruhr North America in 2026 will work towards advancing science diplomacy by organizing and supporting dialogues on critical global challenges. We will continue to host panel discussions, workshops, and networking programs that bring together academics, industry leaders, and policymakers from both North America and Germany.

By facilitating conversations on topics like water and climate, sustainable development, digital transformation, and innovation, UA Ruhr contributes to a transatlantic discourse that strengthens the role of academia in addressing international issues. These activities also underscore the Ruhr region's historical resilience and modern role as a model for economic and environmental transformation, inspiring North American partners to consider innovative approaches to their own regional challenges.

Looking ahead, UA Ruhr New York is dedicated to deepening its impact in North America through an expanded range of initiatives that align with evolving global priorities. As challenges such as climate change, technological advancements, and social equity become increasingly complex, the office will continue to facilitate innovative partnerships that harness the strengths of both Ruhr universities and North American institutions. By acting as a catalyst for collaboration, UA Ruhr upholds a vision of a world where academic and research communities across borders work together to shape a more sustainable, equitable, and prosperous future.

To learn more about our work and potential opportunities for collaboration, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us in New York.



University Alliance Ruhr Exhibition at Duquesne University



DAAD Partners and Friends Reception in Washington, DC



Jessica Szczuka, Future Fellow in 2024, at SXSW in Austin, Texas



TRF 2025 at the Steuben Parade



University of Cincinnati's Garden(s) of Refuge (work-in-progress)



Joann Halpers at *Career Goals without Losing Your Mind* workshop



Klaus Wegener, President Auslands-gesellschaft visiting the German House in New York



Priya Nayar (UA Ruhr), Albert Newen (RUB), Lasse Spellerberg (UA Ruhr) at the Science Symposium



Garden(s) of Refuge, Academy in Exile, TU Dortmund, University of Michigan



Once Upon a Bite





UNIVERSITY ALLIANCE RUHR

 northamerica.uaruhr.de

 212-758-3384

 office@uaruhr.de

 [@unialliance](https://www.instagram.com/unialliance)

 [University Alliance Ruhr](https://www.linkedin.com/company/university-alliance-ruhr)

 871 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017

