

The ambition of VUIAS is to become a center that fosters not only cross-disciplinary dialog, but creates a space for rethinking main challenges and resilience models of future of Ukrainian academia. In May 2025, VUIAS, in collaboration with the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany to Ukraine, hosted a panel discussion in Lviv titled “Between Emergency and Recovery: Rebuilding Through Academic Partnerships”. This academic year we invite you to a panel discussion organized in collaboration with the displaced Kherson State University.

Panel Discussion “Holding Ground: Challenges and New Models of Resilience of Displaced Universities”

October 27, 2025

Location: Kherson State University, aud 256, Shevchenko st, 14., Ivano-Frankivsk
(Venue has an equipped shelter)

To attend online please register via e-mail: sereda@vuias.org

12.00 pm Words of Welcome

Rector of Kherson State University, Professor Dr. Oleksandr Spivakovskiy

Rector of the Wissenschaftskolleg and VUIAS Chair, Professor Dr. Barbara Stollberg-Rilinger

Scientific Attaché of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr. Mikhail Leshchenko

12.30 pm Round Table

Professor Daria Malchykova (Vice-Rector at Kherson State University, VUIAS Fellow)

“External Occupation and Internal Liberty: Resilience and Resistance of Universities in Times of War”

Associate Professor Mykola Homanyuk (Kherson State University, VUIAS Fellow)

“Autoethnography of a Scholar: From Occupation to Displacement”

Professor Oksana Mikheieva (Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, VUIAS Fellow)

“Challenges of Relocated Universities (2014–2022)”

Associate Professor Kateryna Bondar (Kryvyi Rih State Pedagogical University, VUIAS Alumni)

“Universities in Exile: Wartime Displacement as a Test of Academic Freedom and Civic Identity”



Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin

INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY



VolkswagenStiftung

Virtual Ukraine Institute for Advanced Study

The Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, in close cooperation with partner institutes from Ukraine, Europe, and the United States, has launched an initiative to support Ukrainian scholars in their effort to found a Ukraine Institute for Advanced Study (UIAS) in Kyiv. Full-scale institutional activities in Ukraine will only be possible once the war is over, but a preliminary virtual institution, VUIAS (www.vuias.org), started operations in September 2023. For the first six years, the project will be supported with funding by the Volkswagen Foundation.

The goals of the newly founded institution are manifold: VUIAS will mobilize support for scholarships under conditions of war and contribute to rebuilding Ukrainian academia once the war is over. By connecting Ukrainian scholars in and outside Ukraine, VUIAS will more strongly integrate Ukrainian scholars into the international academic landscape and broaden and deepen knowledge on Ukraine within global academia. It will also help combat the brain drain caused by war and displacement. The founding phase of the institute will be overseen by offices in Kyiv and Berlin. As long as the Russian attack on Ukraine continues, academic events are to take place in virtual and hybrid form.

Since 2023, VUIAS has awarded 86 fellowships, 47 of which were awarded in Ukraine and 39 abroad. Fellows come from 20 different fields of study and represent 40 academic institutions from all regions in Ukraine.

VUIAS provides two kinds of fellowships to scholars from all disciplines: VUIAS Fellowships abroad are funded and hosted by the world's leading Institutes for Advanced Study in Europe and the United States. In 2025/2026, 10 fellows will be hosted by the partner IAS institutions in Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary, Netherlands, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, or the USA. VUIAS Fellowships in Ukraine are granted by the Wissenschaftskolleg and its partners (like the Open Society University or the Center for Advanced Study Sofia) to scholars working at universities and research institutions in Ukraine. In 2025/2026, 23 fellows will be supported in Ukraine.

The Ukrainian social scientist Viktoriya Sereda leads and coordinates the project's academic activities. The ultimate goal is to establish a real Ukraine Institute for Advanced Study in Kyiv as soon as Russia's war of aggression comes to an end.



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