VIRTUAL UKRAINE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

Opening Event of the Academic Year 2026/27

October 21, 2026

Location: Uzhhorod National University
(Venue has an equipped shelter)
To attend online, register via e-mail: sereda@vuias.org

This event marks the opening of the third academic year of the **Virtual Ukraine Institute for Advanced Study** (www.vuias.org). The launch of a new cohort of fellows will be celebrated at Uzhhorod National University. Founded in 2023 by the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin in cooperation with partner institutions from Ukraine, Europe, and the United States, VUIAS supports Ukrainian scholars both within the country and abroad. Its mission is to counter the massive brain drain caused by Russia's full-scale invasion. The long-term vision of the initiative is the establishment of a new Institute for Advanced Study in Kyiv. We warmly invite you to join this event and support our shared efforts.

Program

10-12 pm Roundtable **"Diversity at Academia"** at Uzhhorod University (Academic Council Hall, Narodna Square, 3).
Speakers: Prof. Balazs Trencsenyi (CEU, Vienna), Prof. Olena Strelnyk (Institute of Sociology NANU, Kyiv/ VUIAS Fellow), Prof. Myroslava Lendyel (UzhNU, Uzhhorod))

From 13.45 onwards: Registration of participants for the **VUIAS Opening Ceremony** (Conference Hall, Narodna Square, 3)

14.00 Words of Welcome
- Deputy Rector of the Uzhhorod University, Prof. Myroslava Lendyel

14.10
- Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Ukraine, Boris Ruge
- Director of Academic Programs of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin and VUIAS Chair, Prof. Daniel Schönpflug
- Representative of the Volkswagen Foundation (TBA)

14.40 Presentation of the VUIAS and the New Cohort of Fellows
Prof. Viktoriya Sereda, VUIAS Academic Director

14.50 Greetings from a Former Fellow
Head of the National Research Foundation of Ukraine, Prof. Oksana Kis

15.15 Keynote Lecture "Transcarpathia in the Making: A Century of Borders, Minorities, and Belonging" Dr. Csilla Fedinec (Centre for Social Sciences, Budapest)

16.00 Reception

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18.00 Theatre performance

"How to make a tank disappear" by the Kherson Theatre Lab, led by Dr.Homanyuk Mykola (Kherson State University, VUIAS alumni)
Documentary play about the emergency in Ukraine in Ukrainian, Romani and English

Address: Transcarpathian Academic Regional Puppet Theatre "BAVKA" (Pasazh Ln, 8, Uzhhorod)

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. The project for the first six years 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 121 fellowships, 73 of which were awarded in Ukraine and 48 abroad. Fellows come from 20 different fields of study and represent 40 academic institutions in Ukraine from all regions.

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List of participants

Guests

Balazs Trencsenyi (History Department, CEU - Vienna; Director of the Institute for Advanced Studies CEU-Budapest; Academic Director, CEU Global Invisible University)
Csilla Fedinec (Centre for Social Sciences, Budapest, Hungary)
Marianne Mott-Meimberg (Peregrinus Foundation)
Oksana Kis (Head of the National Research Foundation of Ukraine, VUIAS alumni)
Mykola Homanyuk (Associate Professor, Kherson State University; Director of the Kherson Theatre Lab, VUIAS alumni)

VUIAS fellows

Anosova Yuliia (NIAS) "Legal Mobilization through Cooperation: Seeking Accountability for the International Crimes Committed in the Context of Russia`s War against Ukraine"
Demchuk Stefaniia (Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv) "Roots and Routs: Producing Culinary Knowledge in Early Modern Ukraine"
Moskalets Vladyslava (Ukrainian Catholic University) "Liminal Landscapes: Rethinking Cultural Hybridity Through Carpathian Jewish Life"
Pakhomenko Sergii (Mariupol State University) "Decolonizing Historical Memory in Ukraine: Security Motives, Dilemmas, and Contradictions"
Shevchenko Olena (Odesa Archaeological Museum, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine) Ukrainian Museum Practice Online
Tyshchenko-Monastyrska Oksana (O.O. Potebnia Institute of Linguistics, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine) "Krymchak manuscript from the National Library of Ukraine"
Yanenko Anna (National Preserve "Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra") "'The St. Michael's Golden-Domed Monastery in Kyiv: Acts of Destruction and Attempts at Rescue in the 1930s Through Photographs from the National Preserve 'Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra' Collection'
Yeremieiev Pavlo (V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University) "Images of Ukrainian Lands in the Church Periodicals of the Russian Empire (Second Half of the 19th – Early 20th Centuries)"
Dvorkin Ihor (National Technical University "Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute) "Narratives of the Imperial and Soviet Past in the Urban Space of Ukrainian Cities Before and After 2014: The Case of Kharkiv"
Kyselov Roman (Kyiv-Mohyla Academy) "Project: The Languages of Early Modern Ukrainian Oratory (Based on 17th–18th-Century Rhetoric Courses at the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy)"
Lebediuk Vitalii (The National University of Ostroh Academy) "Shifting Words in Shifting War: Dynamics of the Ukrainian President's Communication During Russia's Full-Scale Invasion"
Strelnyk Olena (Institute of Sociology, NAS) "Well, there's what we call the 'human factor'": IDP offices as a micro-arena of state-citizen interaction"
Zaporozhchenko Ruslan (V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University) "Preventing authoritarian drift: mechanisms for democratic stability in Ukraine during wartime"
Feia Oleh (Kyiv Academic University) "Evolutionary search of new topological superconductors"
Hunko Iryna (Vinnytsia National Technical University) "Green Energy Communities as Institutional Platforms for Social Resilience in Ukraine Amid the 5D Energy Transition"
Kholiavchuk Dariia (Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University) "Drought Resilience of Ukrainian Carpathian Forests: Dendroclimatological Evidence for Priority Conservation Planning"

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Klavdiienko Volodymyr (Institute for Nuclear Research (NASU)) “Search for Rare Nuclear Processes in Gadolinium Isotopes”
Klym Halyna (Lviv Polytechnic National University) “Nanomaterial-Integrated Autonomous Robotics for Defense and Emergency Support”
Kobets Vitaliy (Kherson State University) “Machine Learning-Based Robo-Advisory System for Personalized Investment Management in Post-War Ukraine”
Lushchak Oleh (Carpathian National University) “Complex multi-omic investigation of lifespan determinants in Drosophila melanogaster”
Marynych Alexander (Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv) “Randomized Models in Convex Stochastic Geometry”
Palchykov Vitalii (Oles Honchar Dnipro National University) “Bicyclooctadiene-tetracyclooctane molecular solar thermal fuels”
Prysiazhniuk Oleh (Institute of Bioenergy crops and sugar beet NAAS) “Rapid Carbon Fert: Short-term Digital Assessment System for Fertilizer Efficiency and Greenhouse Gas Mitigation”

VUIAS Team
Daniel Schönpflug (History Department, Free University Berlin; Director of Academic Programs of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin and VUIAS Chair)
Viktoriya Sereda (Social Sciences Department, Kyiv School of Economics; Academic Director, VUIAS)
Maryna Mamuta (Associate Professor, Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute; Academic Coordinator, VUIAS)
Simon Kötschau (Academic Programs, VUIAS)