

**Case 2: Experiences from Africa – The Plug-in Campus of University of Turku in Namibia, est. 2019**  
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Plug-in campus is a lite version of a remote campus, and serves easy-to-integrate, demand-based functions of a university in research, education, and societal impact. UTU@Windhoek has 200 m<sup>2</sup> of renovated space for its co-learning and co-working spaces, with a set of Finnish companies (Eduix, Aion, SYK), within the main campus of University of Namibia. The campus provides a joint digital and physical platform for Finnish educational, research and business activities in Southern Africa.

The campus offers an MSc (Tech.) degree in software engineering, a highly demanded professional competence, necessary for the exploitation of digital technology in Namibia and beyond. The two-year program that contextualizes the regular MSc program of University of Turku to the demands and challenges in Namibia will give the graduates a European degree, but an opportunity to learn the skills by doing in Africa. The program is open for applicants from anywhere in the world.

Besides the MSc studies, the campus offers short and intense coding courses and facilitates a local hub for carrying out PhD studies at University of Turku. The hub integrates to and offers a mentoring base to the UTU Research Academy (RA) to link up between senior professors, PhD students and post docs, from UTU, UNAM, and third universities. Part of RA activities are high profile but pragmatic seminars targeted at academia, industry, and government (e.g. short courses on “PhD training”, “Role of University in Innovations”, “Water and Energy”, “Practical Digitalization”), in collaboration with Finnish companies (Eduix, Solar Water Solutions, Valmet, Meriaura Group).

The plug-in campus is called Future Tech Lab because it sources inspiration from Africa for novel digital solutions in a range of application areas, including water and energy, e.g. Carbon Garden that makes smart use of digital technology for irrigation and carbon emission trade. Remote presence tech combines digital presence to that of physical for the next generation business and training.

While the Turku campus in Windhoek is happy to collaborate with universities and industries interested in and curious of meeting African challenges with learning and research, University of Namibia expects the plug-in campus to accelerate and catalyze its operations, says Dr Romanus Shivor, the international relations director of the University of Namibia.

Complementary to the conventional project oriented approach as a European modus operandi in Africa, the plug-in campus focuses on long-term but plugged-in and functional presence, built upon 150 years of Finnish-Namibian shared walk, for facilitating future collaboration in research, development and innovation.

	<b>Plug-in campus</b>	<b>Branch campus</b>
<b>Location</b>	<i>Within the premises of a host university</i>	<b>Independent location</b>
<b>Relation to local universities</b>	<i>Accelerator and catalyzer of the host university; networking collaboration with other local universities</i>	<b>Competitor</b>
<b>Modus operandi</b>	<i>Resilience for adapting to the local expectations from which it sources inspiration</i>	<b>Import of functional models that work in the base environment</b>
<b>Infrastructure</b>	<i>Makes use of the infrastructure of the host university</i>	<b>Builds its own infrastructure</b>
<b>Linkages</b>	<i>Integrates to the local ecosystems using the links of the host university</i>	<b>Brings in the networks of the host university</b>
<b>Size</b>	<i>That of a small department or laboratory</i>	<b>That of a small university</b>
<b>Faculty and staff</b>	<i>Mostly recruited locally or working online from the base campus</i>	<b>Brought in from the main campus with experience from the base [4]</b>
<b>Key technologies</b>	<i>State-of-the-art online technologies, including remote presence, requires the fastest available connectivity</i>	<b>Conventional technology for onsite teaching</b>
<b>Qualification authorization</b>	<i>Administrated by the base university according to its legislature</i>	<b>Accredited in the host country</b>
<b>Establishment Approval Process</b>	<i>Agreement between base and host institution</i>	<b>Needs to be approved by host country</b>