

**REMEMBERING
PROF. DR. THEOS M. B. SIJRIER**

First Dean of the Faculty of Arts

3RD MEMORIAL ANNIVERSARY
OF HIS DEATH

**A tribute to his legacy,
impact, and memory**



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ATAFOM UNIVERSITY

EDUCATION FOR INTEGRATION



ATAFOM University International - Atlantic African Oriental Multicultural - is an international university founded by the Initiator, Visionary, Founder and President of ATAFOM University International, Şakir Yavuz, with the aim of creating a borderless and cosmopolitan university to improve the educational offer for the world as a whole. As a global university, ATAFOM University International promotes the ideals of cross border education and with its information offices and branches on the five continents of the world, ATAFOM University will provide education for young people interested in studying from different countries of origin, regardless of geography, culture, skin color, gender, social status or religion, so that these young people have equal opportunity to education.

Due to the international orientation of ATAFOM University International, a comprehensive online learning approach is utilized. The university offers online educational materials and interactive opportunities through a fully virtual platform, ConiaSoft Online Campus, enabling students to access high-quality education from anywhere in the world. This ensures flexibility and convenience without compromising academic excellence.

Lectures are delivered live online in English by our qualified lecturers, professors and visiting professors.

At ATAFOM University International, we want to offer an educational system based on mentoring that not only aims at learning through expanding knowledge or developing skills, but is also aimed at forming a positive, cosmopolitan attitude to life. The whole educational concept of ATAFOM University International is based on the highest international standards in order to exceed all expectations and educational goals of our students when they choose ATAFOM University International as their educational institute.

“The success of every action begins in the head.”

Şakir Yavuz

President & Founder,
ATAFOM University International.



Students from

25

Countries



Staff from

24

Countries



Faculties

Faculty of Arts

Faculty of Economics

Faculty of Information
Technology

★ Faculty of Initial Public
Offering **NEW**

ATAFOM Language
Academy - ALA

A black and white portrait of an elderly man with a white beard and mustache, wearing a light-colored button-down shirt. He is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The background is a solid dark blue.

Special

EDITION-
IN MEMORIAM

PROF. DR. THEOS
M. B. SIJRIER

"The King of Action Painting"

A Life of Color, Freedom, and Philosophy On the Third Anniversary of Prof. Dr. Theos M. B. Sijrier (1947–2022)

He was an artist. An academic. A friend.
A man of principle.
A creator of freedom, a teacher of humanity.
A man who didn't just paint color – he lived it.

A Legacy of Color, Gesture, and Spirit

On July 17, 2022, Prof. Dr. Theos M. B. Sijrier – known worldwide as "The King of Action Painting" – passed away on the Indonesian island of Bali. Three years later, we remember not only his groundbreaking contributions to contemporary art, but also his tireless efforts as an educator, mentor, and universally minded human being.



Born in 1947 in Rotterdam, his journey led him through international galleries, art academies, and universities. Yet he found his intellectual home at ATAFOM University International, where he served as founding dean of the Faculty of Arts and as Vice-Rector, uniting academic structures with artistic vision.

The Artist: Action as a Human Expression

Theos Sijrier was no traditional painter – he was a performer on canvas. His works were not paintings but events. Each piece emerged from a physical, almost ritualistic gesture – a dialogue between intuition, resistance, and ecstasy.

What mattered was not the finished piece, but the creative process: energy, movement, liberation. In his works, color exploded, lines plunged into depth, thoughts flowed like droplets across canvas and paper.

"Color is not a material. Color is an attitude." – Theos Sijrier

In an art world often dominated by conceptualism and theory, Sijrier brought back the existential: the authentic, the unfiltered, the tangible.

The Educator: Education as a Creative Act

As a professor, Theos didn't believe in lecturing, but in guiding. His teaching was marked by radical openness, artistic autonomy, and deep respect for each student's individuality.

At ATAFOM University International, he shaped the Faculty of Arts into a space for thought and freedom – a place where interdisciplinary work thrived, critical thinking was encouraged, and artistic responsibility was lived.

His mantra for aspiring artists served as both ethical foundation and creative philosophy:

"Don't start painting until you know what you're ready to let go of."

This sentence – simple in form, complex in meaning – is still quoted and passed on in faculty seminars today.

The Friend: Conversations That Remain

The loss of Theos has been deeply felt – especially by Şakir Yavuz, President and Founder of ATAFOM University International, whose decades-long friendship with Prof. Dr. Theos M. B. Sijrier was a bond of trust, depth, and inspiration.

"Theos had the gift of saying more in silence than others in a thousand words," Yavuz recalls.

"Our conversations weren't about opinions – they were about truths. And often about what is greater than ourselves."

Their friendship was filled with late-night discussions, philosophical sketches, mutual challenges – and a shared belief in the power of art and education to change the world.

A Final Act: The Istanbul Work

In May 2022 – just weeks before his passing – Prof. Dr. Theos M. B. Sijrier traveled to Istanbul to see his friend one last time. It was a farewell visit filled with light, memory, and quiet greatness.

In an intimate and moving moment, Sijrier created one final masterpiece live – not as a commission, but as a gesture of gratitude. This piece, painted in front of invited friends and companions, now stands as a central symbol in the university's cultural memory.

It represents everything Theos was: uncompromising, sensitive, brave.

Art as a gift.

Friendship as foundation.

Education as movement.

Continuing Impact: Education Through Inspiration

The legacy of Prof. Dr. Theos M. B. Sijrier lives on – not only in his works, which are held in international collections and exhibitions, but also in his students, in the spaces of his faculty, and in his words, which continue to resonate.

In the years following his passing, his teachings were integrated into the pedagogical concept of the Faculty of Arts – not as doctrine, but as a mindset. His method is not taught, but transmitted: through experience, dialogue, and doing.

The Visionary: Art as a Universal Language

Theos Sijrier believed that art is more than expression – it is translation. A translation of the invisible into the visible, the intangible into the experiential. For him, art was humanity's universal language – a medium that connects cultures, transcends borders, and creates new spaces of understanding.

With this vision, he initiated numerous intercultural projects and dialogue formats at ATAFOM University International, bringing together artists from around the world. His seminars embodied global thinking and local action – turning art into a bridge between origin and future, between self and world.

"A brushstroke in Nigeria can touch a soul in Finland – if it is true." – Theos M. B. Sijrier

A Stage for Thought: Prof. Dr. Theos M. B. Sijrier as Speaker and Thinker

Beyond his work as an artist and educator, Theos Sijrier was a sought-after speaker at international symposia, biennials, and academic conferences. His lectures were not presentations but performative acts of thought – passionate, profound, challenging.

He spoke of the "ethics of color," of "bodily knowledge" in art, of "education as resistance to the banal." Where others proposed theses, Sijrier posed questions – and left room for silence, resonance, insight.

His intellectual impulses live on – in transcripts, audio recordings, publications. But most of all in those who listened – and afterwards saw, thought, and felt differently.

The Spaces That Remain: The Sijrier Studio

In October 2023, the Sijrier Studio for Contemporary Expression was inaugurated at ATAFOM University International – a studio, laboratory, and space for thought, initiated by his former students. It is a vibrant site of artistic research, a home for performances, exhibitions, and experimentation.

Here, the spirit of Sijrier lives on – not as a monument, but as an invitation: to movement, to disruption, to creative risk.

**"A studio is not a place where you work.
It's a place where you stop running away." – Theos M. B. Sijrier**

A Life in Dialogue: Letters, Fragments, Notes

The legacy of Theos Sijrier includes not only hundreds of works, but also numerous sketchbooks, diary entries, unpublished letters, and poetic reflections. In them, we see a man constantly questioning himself – whose language was as powerful as his color.

A selection of these texts is currently being curated for a planned retrospective and archival exhibition, scheduled to open in spring 2026 in collaboration with international partner institutions. The aim is not only to present Prof. Dr. Theos M. B. Sijrier's work, but to make his thinking accessible – across borders and generations.

A Quiet Echo – And an Endless Beginning

Looking back on the life of Prof. Dr. Theos M. B. Sijrier leaves a lasting impression that is difficult to put into words: It was not a completed work. It was an opening. An invitation to become.

He never signed his final canvas.

Perhaps because he knew:

The work continues – in other hands, with new colors, on yet untouched surfaces.

On behalf of ATAFOM University International,

on behalf of our Founder and President Şakir Yavuz,
and on behalf of all who were touched, moved, and inspired by him:

Thank you, Theos.

Farewell, friend.

King. Master. Professor. Vice-Rector. Dean.

ATAFOM University International
External Relations & Content Department
Special Edition – July 2025





**ATAFOM
University
International**

EDITORIAL REPORT & PERSPECTIVE

ATAFOM University International – Where the Future of Education Has Already Begun

In an era marked by profound transformation—driven by digitalization, global mobility, and a fundamental shift in societal demands—education is no longer a static asset, but a dynamic human right. Amidst this change, ATAFOM University International has positioned itself not just as a participant, but as a pioneer of a new academic era: globally connected, inclusively designed, digitally led—and consistently future-oriented.

A Digital University with a Global Heartbeat

ATAFOM has never been a mere reaction to pandemic-related education crises. Rather, it is the result of a didactic-philosophical realignment, one that could only emerge through visionary thinking. Founder Şakir Yavuz articulated early on the guiding principle of a university education that sees the digital space not as a replacement, but as an expansion of academic reality.

When it was founded in 2020, ATAFOM became the first university in the world to offer a fully real-time online study model—long before major educational institutions had even begun testing digital presence formats. Lectures and seminars are conducted synchronously, with daily live interaction, direct feedback, and an intercultural learning community that facilitates academic discourse beyond national educational systems. Unlike traditional distance learning models, ATAFOM eliminates the didactic distance between students and instructors—in favor of a transnational academic proximity that is essential for a new generation of learners.

Earlier. Deeper. More Global. – The ATAFOM Difference

While many universities continue to struggle with integrating digital formats into outdated curricula, ATAFOM follows a pedagogically and technologically coherent approach: Students are viewed not merely as learners, but as active members of an academic Community of Practice.

International comparative studies (e.g., OECD “Education at a Glance”) show that the majority of digital education worldwide is delivered asynchronously—often through isolated content, a lack of interaction, and algorithmically driven learning paths. ATAFOM counters this trend with an alternative model: discursive instead of passive, interactive instead of receptive.

This approach is based on a learning-psychological understanding of knowledge transfer: cognition, participation, and social interaction as equally important elements of successful study. This creates community-based learning processes that aim not only at passing exams, but at building sustainable competencies—fully aligned with the UNESCO concept of education as “Learning to know, to do, to be and to live together.”

Education Without Borders – Linguistically and Culturally

ATAFOM’s educational model is not only technologically innovative but also culturally inclusive. Access to knowledge should not be hindered by language barriers or regional infrastructure. With the ATAFOM Language Academy (ALA), the university has established an internal language bridge institution open to all students—regardless of their country of origin or previous language level.

ALA offers not only practical English language qualifications, but also aims at the development of academic literacy: arguing, reflecting, structuring—core skills for success in international studies. These competencies are taught adaptively, personalized, and in continuous feedback with academic teaching formats.

This integration of language, subject, and culture contributes systematically to the internationalization of higher education—a goal embedded in the Bologna Process and the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The University of Tomorrow – Already a Reality

ATAFOM exemplifies the fusion of academic excellence with digital innovation. It represents not just a university, but a new paradigm of higher education:

- Founded in 2020 – as a response to global educational challenges, not as an emergency measure
- 100% live online study – real-time teaching as the core of the learning experience
- Open access – regardless of nationality, geography, or visa status
- Digital campus – with personal support, collaborative learning spaces, and real-time events
- Career-relevant study programs – focused on future industries, soft skills, and critical thinking
- Language as a key to education – through ALA as an independent center of excellence
- Technology serving pedagogy – not an end in itself, but a tool for participation and educational equity

ATAFOM stands for humanistic education in the digital age. It transforms not just the how of teaching, but also the why—guided by a clear social mission: international education as a collective good, not an exclusive privilege.

Perspective. Future. Rights. Education.

For a New Generation of Global Academics

ATAFOM University International redefines academic education beyond the boundaries of nation-states and institutional conventions. In times of geopolitical crises, social divisions, and growing educational inequality, it is more than a university: it is a model of hope, a tangible example of how education can be designed to be digital, democratic, and decolonial.

Through the consistent integration of technology, ethics, and global participation, ATAFOM succeeds in shaping a new academic generation—not as carriers of elite knowledge, but as individuals embodying responsibility, reflection, and resilience.

Şakir Yavuz has not only envisioned this model but implemented it with conviction. His work stands for an educational philosophy rooted in participation, equality, and global thinking. Today, the name ATAFOM stands for more than an institution—it represents a worldwide mission for education in the digital era.

**ATAFOM University International: Real - Time Education.
Since 2020. Global. Innovative. Inclusive. Academically Leading.**

"The success of every action begins in the head."

Şakir Yavuz
President & Founder,
ATAFOM University International.



FOUNDER & PRESIDENT

Şakir Yavuz

ATAFOM University International



"The success of every action begins in the head."

Helped him pave a way to create the university offering an inclusive education. He is firmly convinced that the children of this world with different cultural backgrounds and countries of origin as well as languages should have the same right to education.

He has set himself the task of giving young people access to university education of the highest international quality and with equal opportunities, in the conviction that success requires permanent concentration, strong motivation and extreme commitment. At ATAFOM University International, "Education for Integration" is developed, taught and lived. The team of internationally renowned professional teachers and experienced staff at ATAFOM University International will meet the highest international standards and will do everything possible to meet and exceed all of our students' expectations and educational goals as they embark on undergraduate studies or learn the English language when they enroll in ATAFOM Language Academy.

The digital innovation and knowledge campus of ATAFOM University International - ConiaSoft Online Campus, which accommodates everyone who is willing to learn, makes it possible to create educational bridges between all continents.

ATAFOM UNIVERSITY

COURSE OFFERINGS



FIRST SEMESTER

WINTER SEMESTER

ACADEMIC YEAR 2025/26

Welcome to ATAFOM University International
Empowering Global Minds. Building a United Future.

At ATAFOM University International, we believe that true education is a journey that connects hearts, minds, and cultures. More than just academics, we offer an experience that inspires unity, fosters innovation, and cultivates future global leaders.

Guided by the visionary leadership of Şakir Yavuz, our university lives by the motto "Education for Integration." We're creating a worldwide community where students from every background come together to learn, grow, and transform their potential into purpose.

Our online classrooms are vibrant hubs of diversity, where bold ideas are celebrated, global perspectives are shared, and lifelong friendships begin. Whether you're just starting your academic path, upskilling for career advancement, or seeking intellectual enrichment, ATAFOM offers programs designed for today's world—and tomorrow's challenges.

Here, education is more than textbooks and lectures. It's a gateway to meaningful impact in an interconnected world. Our commitment to excellence, innovation, and cultural understanding shapes not only careers but character.

Join ATAFOM University International—where learning has no borders, and your global journey begins.

Discover the programs that are redefining international education.



BACHELOR COURSES OFFERINGS

FIRST SEMESTER

WINTER SEMESTER

ACADEMIC YEAR 2025/26



Bachelor of Arts in Media and Communications (B.A.) at the Faculty of Arts

Bachelor of Arts in International Business Development (B.A.) at the Faculty of Economics

Bachelor of Science in Information Technology (B.Sc.- IT) at the Faculty of Information Technology

Bachelor of Science in PreIPO (B.Sc.) at the Faculty of Initial Public Offering

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Write to us for any queries: contact@ATAFOM.university

Link to apply: <https://atafom.university/apply-to-atafom2/>

15 IT CERTIFICATION COURSE OFFERINGS:

- Basics of Python
- Basics of AutoCAD
- Basics of Graphics Designing
- Basics of Backend Development (Using Django)
- Basics of Blockchain
- Basics of Data Analysis
- Basics of Java
- Frontend Development: Level One: Beginner
- Frontend Development: Level Two: Intermediate
- Frontend Development: Level Three: Advanced
- Frontend Development: Level Four: Expert
- Database and SQL
- Generative AI for Everyone
- Deep Learning and Neural Networks
- Basics of Software Engineering Principles

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Write to us for any queries: contact@ATAFOM.university

Link to apply: <https://atafom.university/apply-now-it-certification-course/>



ATAFOM LANGUAGE ACADEMY COURSE OFFERINGS:

English language courses are available at ATAFOM Language Academy, with options for different proficiency levels, ranging from

- ALA 1 to ALA 11.
- ALA-A0 as Pre ALA-A1: Starter
- ALA-A1: Beginner Level
- ALA-A2: Elementary Level
- ALA-B1: Pre-Intermediate Level
- ALA-B2: Intermediate Level
- ALA-C1: Upper-Intermediate Level
- ALA-C2: Advanced Level
- ALA-BE I: B2 Business English I (Requires minimum language level of ALC-B2)
- ALA-BE II: C1 Business English II (Requires minimum language level of ALC-C1)
- ALA-BE III: C2 Business English III (Requires minimum language level of ALC-C2)
- ALA-IT English

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Link to apply: <https://atafom.university/language-academy/>



FACULTY OF INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING CERTIFICATION COURSE OFFERINGS:

The Faculty of Initial Public Offering at ATAFOM University International brings you multiple PreIPO certification programs along with the Bachelor of Science in PreIPO (B.Sc.).

The certification programs begin every month. Find your best match here -



At ATAFOM University International, we are committed to providing an education that blends modern innovation with academic excellence. Our goal is to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and practical experience needed to succeed in today's fast-changing world.

With a strong emphasis on global perspectives and real-world learning, we ensure that our students are not only prepared for their careers but also for leadership in an interconnected society.

Join a university where education knows no boundaries and opportunities are limitless. Your future starts here!



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Write to us for any queries: contact@ATAFOM.university

Link to apply: <https://atafom.university/apply-now-preipo-certification-course/>

THE EVOLUTION OF CAPITAL FORMATION



Pre-IPOs, IPOs, and Technology Platforms

The financial world relies on the capital formation process, where companies secure funds for growth, typically culminating in an Initial Public Offering (IPO) under the supervision of regulators such as the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). However, pre-IPO markets and technology platforms have revolutionized this landscape, enabling earlier capital raises, secondary market trading with improved liquidity, and broader access to investment opportunities.

This article examines how platforms like Forge Global, Nasdaq Private Market, EquityZen, Hotcoin, tZERO, Linqto, Chainup, Hiive, CartaX, Unich OTC, Colb Finance, and Ripple's potential XRP Ledger solutions drive this evolution, focusing on tokenization, blockchain, jurisdictional compliance across the United States, United Arab Emirates, European Union, United Kingdom, Singapore, Türkiye, Germany, Hong Kong, and India, and the impact on going public or private. As the field evolves, an education in capital formation—with emphasis on pre-IPOs, IPOs, and technologies like blockchain and artificial intelligence—is increasingly critical, exemplified by programs such as the four-year Bachelor of Science in Pre-IPO at ATAFOM University International, which equips students to navigate these dynamics.

The Capital Formation Process

Pre-IPO to IPO Capital formation starts with venture capital or loans, progressing to an IPO that opens firms to public markets but demands strict compliance. Recent trends indicate that companies are staying private for longer—often over a decade—due to ample private funding and the avoidance of market volatility.

Jurisdictional Regulatory Compliance

Regulatory frameworks vary globally:

United States: The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) mandates registration with Regulation D exemptions, with the Clarity Bill clarifying roles with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) and stablecoin rules under the GENIUS Act.

United Arab Emirates: The Securities and Commodities Authority (SCA) oversees traditional securities, while the Virtual Assets Regulatory Authority (VARA) in Dubai regulates virtual assets, emphasizing innovation and Anti-Money Laundering/Counter-Terrorism Financing (AML/CFT) compliance.

European Union: The Markets in Crypto-Assets (MiCA) regulation, effective since June 2024 for stablecoins and December 2024 for Crypto Asset Service Providers (CASPs), ensures transparency.

United Kingdom: The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) regulates crypto and stablecoins, using the Digital Securities Sandbox (DSS) for innovation.

Singapore: The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) licenses digital payment tokens (DPTs) and security tokens under the Payment Services Act (PSA) and Securities and Futures Act (SFA), with strict stablecoin rules.

Türkiye: The Capital Markets Board of Türkiye (CMB) enforces strict guidelines, with a 2023 crypto framework mandating licensing and AML/CFT.

Germany: The Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (BaFin) has overseen virtual assets as financial instruments since 2020, focusing on investor protection.

Hong Kong: The Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) regulates virtual assets with a 2025 roadmap for licensing trading platforms and custodians, emphasizing innovation and AML/CFT compliance.

India: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) oversee virtual digital assets (VDAs) with a 30% tax on income, 1% TDS, and registration requirements, focusing on AML compliance amid a proposed comprehensive framework.

Pre-IPO to IPO Capital formation starts with venture capital or loans, progressing to an IPO that opens firms to public markets but demands strict compliance. Recent trends indicate that companies are staying private for longer—often over a decade—due to ample private funding and the avoidance of market volatility.

Technology Platforms and Private Market Exchanges

Platforms such as Forge Global (offering real-time valuations), Nasdaq Private Market (with data analytics), EquityZen (connecting shareholders), tZERO (blockchain-based trading), Linqto (low entry points), Chainup (global compliance), and Hiive (with \$100 million monthly volume and a 44.42% Hiive50 Index gain as of July 26, 2025) transform private trading. CartaX integrates equity management, Unich OTC explores Web3, Colb Finance targets tokenization, and Ripple's XRP Ledger may expand into securities.

AI and machine learning (AI/ML) enhance these by analyzing data for price discovery and automating compliance, boosting efficiency. These exchanges democratize access by lowering barriers and challenging traditional exclusivity. Tokenization and Blockchain Technology.

Tokenization converts ownership into digital tokens on blockchains, including security, utility, and governance tokens, as seen with tZERO's real estate and Colb Finance's deals. Blockchain provides a secure, immutable ledger, reducing the need for intermediaries and enabling smart contracts for KYC/AML and cross-border transactions. Platforms like tZERO and Ripple leverage it for transparency and scalability, meeting global regulatory standards. Wallets secure assets, while liquidity pools and automated market makers (AMMs)—which are decentralized systems that use algorithms to provide liquidity and set prices—enhanced by AI/ML—use bonding curves to adjust prices, thereby broadening access.

These regions differ in approach—the U.S. is fragmented, the EU is harmonized, the UK and Singapore are innovative, the UAE and Türkiye are balanced or strict, Germany is protective, Hong Kong fosters innovation, and India balances taxation with regulation—all aligning with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) AML/CFT standards.

Benefits to Issuers and Investors

Issuers gain early capital without the burdens of an IPO, retaining control for a more extended period. Democratization broadens participation, allowing a wider range of individuals to engage in pre-IPO investments. Web 3, Security, and Exchange Types Web 3's blockchain-driven transparency powers Centralized Exchanges (CEXs) like Chainup and Decentralized Exchanges (DEXs) like Unich OTC, contrasting with Hiive's model. Proof-of-stake addresses sustainability, and multi-signature wallets ensure security.

Impact on Going Public or Private

Robust markets like Hiive's delay IPOs by providing liquidity, thereby reducing the urgency of a public listing. For example, SpaceX, poised for an eventual IPO, has raised billions privately while using secondary platforms to offer employee liquidity, illustrating how such tools enable companies to grow without public pressures. Public firms may opt to go private to avoid volatility, utilizing exchanges like CartaX for buybacks, thereby reinforcing private market trends. Conclusion Platforms like Forge Global and Hiive are revolutionizing capital formation, democratizing access, delaying IPOs, or enabling privatization. Tokenization and blockchain enhance efficiency, while compliance across seven jurisdictions ensures legitimacy and transparency. Looking to 2030 and beyond, a digitized, DeFi-integrated private market with enhanced liquidity is likely to emerge, driven by regulatory evolution.

The market demand for professionals with expertise in pre-Initial Public Offering (pre-IPO) and IPO processes is strong and growing, driven by a robust IPO market and the increasing complexity of capital formation. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects faster-than-average growth in business and financial occupations from 2023 to 2033, with a focus on roles in financial analysis, investment banking, and equity management, core to expertise in pre-IPO and IPO activities. Deloitte's 2025 IPO outlook anticipates \$45-50 billion raised through up to 160 initial public offerings (IPOs), signaling demand for specialists in pre-IPO preparation, valuation, and compliance. EY notes a warming IPO market, bolstered by pre-IPO investment trends and stock-option financing in private companies.

As firms remain private longer, relying on pre-IPO financing, opportunities arise in roles such as financial analysts, CFOs, and bankers focused on IPO readiness and secondary markets. Entry-level finance jobs in pre-IPO equity management are among the highest-paying, with strong growth in the tech and finance sectors. The expanding \$20 trillion alternative investment industry, with over 55,000 listed companies worldwide, underscores the relevance of such education, as it prepares graduates for high-demand careers through 2025 and beyond. Programs like the four-year Bachelor of Science in Pre-IPO at ATAFOM University International exemplify this, offering a fully online curriculum that equips students with practical skills in capital formation, blockchain, AI/ML, and regulatory navigation, enabling them to thrive in investment banking and financial services.

Investing in pre-IPO companies involves significant risks, including potential loss of principal, illiquidity, market volatility, and regulatory changes. The examples mentioned (e.g., Palantir and SpaceX) are for illustrative purposes only and do not constitute investment advice or a recommendation to buy, sell, or hold securities. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

David Grzan

Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Initial Public Offering

ATAFOM University International

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ATAFOM EUROPE

Opens Global Center
for Education and
Training in Germany



A milestone for international educational and training cooperation: A campus is being created in Neubrandenburg that merges digital innovation with humanistic values.

In the structurally emerging northeast of Germany, a visionary center will open in 2026 that redefines education and training: ATAFOM Europe is establishing an educational and training campus in Neubrandenburg that offers young and adult learners worldwide access to high-quality, inclusive, and value-based education and training—aligned with German and European standards.

What is emerging here is far more than a traditional education, further education, or training project. It is a response to the questions of our time:

How do we prepare future generations for an increasingly interconnected, digital, and diverse world? How do we combine technological advancement with human values? How do we make education and training truly borderless?

Education and Training That Connect: Quality, Values, Perspectives

The planned campus will seamlessly blend cutting-edge technical infrastructure with forward-thinking pedagogical concepts. Smart classrooms, virtual reality modules, AI assistance systems, and digital learning labs will create an environment that fosters personalized learning—regardless of location, whether on-site, hybrid, or online.

At the same time, people remain at the center: democracy, tolerance, equality, sustainability, and evidence-based thinking form the foundation of the curriculum. This is education and training in the European tradition—designed for a global community.

Strong Partnerships: ATAFOM University International as Academic Anchor

A cornerstone of the project is the close collaboration with ATAFOM University International, a globally oriented university with students from multiple countries and continents. The new campus in Neubrandenburg will not only provide education and training but also serve as a practical, continuing education, and examination center for students of ATAFOM University International. Theory meets application here—in workshops, labs, and skills training—supported by international expertise and digital teaching methods.

Technology Meets Pedagogy: Innovation as a Principle for Education and Training

The center sees itself as a laboratory for the future of education and training. Educators with interdisciplinary backgrounds, equipped with international experience and ongoing professional development, will implement the latest didactic and technological standards. The vision: learning as a dynamic, interactive process that empowers young and adult learners to become creative, reflective, and responsible architects of their own futures.

A Regional Catalyst with a Global Vision

The choice of location is no coincidence. Neubrandenburg—situated in a region undergoing transformation—will become a hub for international talents, specialists, and managers in fields such as hardware and software technologies as well as financial industries. The collaboration with local and national authorities, educational institutions, companies, organizations, and administrations aims to enable dual education and training—while creating new opportunities for the region. It's an impulse that extends far beyond Germany—especially into key sectors like digitalization, sustainable technologies, international management, and global financial and economic systems.

Diversity in Education and Training: Intercultural. Inclusive. Globally Minded.

The new ATAFOM Europe Education and Training Center makes a strong statement for cultural openness and diversity. Young and adult learners from different countries, cultures, and social backgrounds will not only learn together here—but from one another. Intercultural competence, language development, and global thinking are integral elements of the educational and training concept. A new generation will emerge—one that builds bridges between cultures, ideas, futures, and markets.

2026: A Campus for Ideas, Exchange, and Transformation

The educational and training center—whose renovation will begin in fall 2025—will be much more than a place for learning and qualification. With teaching buildings, laboratories, workshops, innovation spaces, prototype manufacturing, conference halls, restaurants, and more, a vibrant place of exchange, knowledge, and shared growth will take shape.

Education and Training Without Borders: A Vision Becomes Reality

With the new Education and Training Center in Neubrandenburg, ATAFOM Europe is writing a new chapter in international education and training. In a world in transition, this project provides orientation, opportunity, and perspective—for individuals, for regions, and for a global community.

The message is clear:

Education and training know no borders.

And the future begins where learning, values, and innovation meet.

**In Germany, in Neubrandenburg—just a short distance from the capital
Berlin—one such place will open its doors in 2026.**

CONIASOFT AND AI



Food for thought for the next steps in the use of AI at ATAFOM

1. Current Statement of the AI

ATAFOM University International is a private university headquartered in Bangui, Central African Republic. Founded in 2019, it has offered online instruction in English since 2021 in various faculties. The university is known for its high-quality education and equal opportunities for all students and is regulated by the Ministry of Education of the Central African Republic. It has offices in several countries worldwide, including Germany, and uses the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) to assess performance.

A special offer of the university is the ATAFOM Language Academy (ALA), which offers English courses at different levels according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). These courses are specially designed for non-native students to prepare them for their studies.

2. What is the difference between AI Agent and AI Assistant?

The key differences everyone should know

With the increasing spread of artificial intelligence (AI) and its integration into everyday life, more and more people are asking themselves what exactly the differences are between an AI agent and an AI assistant.

Although both technologies are designed to support humans, they differ fundamentally in their functionality, autonomy and breadth of application.

2.1 Definition and basic principles

2.1.1 AI Assistant

An AI assistant, such as Google Assistant, Alexa or Siri, is primarily designed to act as an interactive interface between humans and technology. These systems are based on reactive intelligence, which means that they wait for human input to take action.

Your main responsibilities will include:

Provision of information: Answering questions by retrieving information from the Internet.

Organization: Scheduling appointments, creating reminders, and keeping to-do lists.

Voice-controlled control: Control smart home devices or launch applications.

Interaction: Communication is mainly done through voice or text.

The focus here is on support and comfort, with the human user always in control.

2.1.2 AI Agent

An AI agent, on the other hand, is a much more autonomous system.

It is designed to independently pursue goals and make decisions without the need for continuous input or instruction from a user.

Key features of an AI agent include:

Autonomy: He can plan, prioritize and execute tasks independently.

Proactivity: AI agents act on their own initiative, for example by recognizing patterns and deriving measures from them.

Integration: They interact with different systems, platforms, or data sources to complete their tasks efficiently.

Decision-making: You are able to make complex decisions based on algorithms and machine learning.

An example would be an autonomous trading agent that is able to analyze market trends, make trading decisions, and execute transactions on their own.

2.2 Comparison of the main differences

A) Degree of autonomy

Perhaps the biggest difference between an AI assistant and an AI agent is autonomy:

AI Assistant: Reactive, waits for human commands. Without user interaction, the assistant remains inactive.

AI Agent: Acts independently and requires minimal or no human intervention.

B) Complexity of the tasks

AI Assistant: Performs simple, often one-day tasks such as getting weather information or setting an alarm clock.

AI agent: Can control complex, multi-step processes, such as planning and optimizing a supply chain or automating financial analysis.

C) Interaction with the user

AI assistant: Mainly designed for direct interactions with the user.

AI Agent: Often works in the background, informing the user only when needed or when decisions require confirmation.

D) Decision-making

AI assistant: Providing information to support human decisions.

AI agent: Ability to make and execute decisions independently.

2.3 Technological developments of AI

The technological development in AI shows a clear trend towards systems that can increasingly make autonomous decisions and perform more complex tasks.

Google's Gemini 2.0 combines the reactive capabilities of a classic AI assistant with the autonomy of an AI agent. One notable feature is the ability to independently take on tasks such as scheduling online purchases. The system can place goods in a shopping cart and make the preparations for an order, obtaining the final confirmation from the user.

This development clearly shows that the boundaries between assistant and agent are blurring. It is a gradual process in which technologies become more and more autonomous, while the human user remains the final authority.

2.4 Possible uses of AI assistants and agents

2.4.1 AI assistants in everyday life

AI assistants are mainly used in everyday situations.

Examples include:

Smart Homes: Control of lighting, heating and security systems.

Productivity: Organization of appointments, reminders, and meetings.

Entertainment: Play music, answer quizzes or make movie recommendations.

Communication: Compose messages or calls by voice command.

2.4.2 AI Agents in Specialized Areas

AI agents are more likely to be used in professional and complex environments where autonomous decision-making and increased efficiency are required.

Examples are:

Finance: analysis of market data, automated trading or fraud detection.

Industry and logistics: supply chain optimization, inventory management or predictive maintenance.

Healthcare: Diagnostic support, personalized therapy plans, or medical data management.

Customer support: Autonomous chatbots that answer standard queries and solve problems.



ATAFOM UNIVERSITY

EXTERNAL NEWSLETTER

**"The success of every action
begins in the head."**

Sakir Yavuz

**Founder & President
ATAFOM University International**

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