

GÖTTINGEN INTERNATIONAL

Newsletter

International news and activities

New EU Funding Programmes

On January 1, 2014 the EU will launch three new funding schemes for research, education and regional development. The EU funding programmes support the EU member states in their joint approach to reach the objectives of the "Europe 2020" strategy.

"Horizon 2020" – This framework programme for research and innovation plays a central role in reaching the objectives set by the European strategy for growth. It should bridge the gap between excellent science and the market and it should strengthen the positions of the European Research Area and Europe as a business location in the global competition.

"Erasmus+" – This framework programme for education, training, youth and sport opens up new possibilities for mobility and international cooperation in the educational sector. The programme consists of three main actions: "Mobility for individuals", "Strategic partnerships", and "Support for policy reform".

"EFRE" (European Regional Development Fund) focuses on strengthening economic and social connections. These are a prerequisite for increasing growth and employment rates, especially in the research and innovation areas of the economy.

The team of the EU Office of the University of Göttingen offers personal consultations with regards to these programmes. Contact us – we would be glad to support you with information on how to categorise your research proposal, how to draft applications for funding as well as with assistance with all the arrangements needed for carrying out your project.

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Inaugural Meeting for the New EU Funding Programmes in Göttingen

The University of Göttingen and the Ministry for Science and Culture of Lower Saxony (MWK) are hosting the inaugural meeting for the new European Union funding programmes "Horizon 2020", "Erasmus+" and "EFRE". On the 27th of November 2013 Vice-President Prof. Dr. Reiner Finkeldey, will welcome around 200 guests, among them Dr. Gabriele Heinen-Kljajić, Minister for Education of Lower Saxony, and Prof. Dr. Marianne Assenmacher from the Higher Education Conference of the State of Lower Saxony.

The inaugural meeting will address the rectors and deans of universities and universities of applied sciences of Lower Saxony and will offer an overview of the European funding programmes. It will also point out the political links between the different programmes. Furthermore, the service offered by the EU offices and research managers of Lower Saxony will be presented.

In addition to this event, special information events for researchers will be held in Lower Saxony. The EU office of the University of Göttingen would be glad to personally assist you in finding the right seminar. In addition, it offers personal consultations concerning the EU funding programmes.

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U4-Network: Second Announcement for Student and Scientific Exchange

The DAAD is supporting the U4-Network in order to promote the exchange of students, postgraduates and researchers between the U4 partner universities (Göttingen, Ghent, Groningen and Uppsala). Through this support the DAAD hopes to promote international postgraduate research, the development of collaborative research projects and the identification of new cooperation opportunities in the areas of research, teaching and administration. Following the first announcement, almost 100 exchange students and researchers were given funding by the DAAD. Here are the exchange opportunities for 2014:

From Göttingen to Ghent, Groningen and Uppsala:

- Bachelor/Master/PhD stay, up to 6 months
- Master/PhD participation in a conference
- Master/PhD participation in a workshop
- Postdoc/Professor participation in a workshop
- Postdoc/Professor research trip, up to 60 days.

From Ghent, Groningen and Uppsala to Göttingen:

- Master/PhD participation in a conference
- Master/PhD participation in a workshop
- Postdoc/Professor participation in a workshop
- Postdoc/Professor research trip, up to 60 days.



Participants of the U4 Staff Training Week "Welcome Centre". Göttingen, 10/2013

The application deadline for the exchange in 2014 ends on the 15th of November 15 2013. Further information about the project as well as the application form can be found at www.u4network.eu.

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Erasmus Mundus Action 2 Scholarships

The University of Göttingen participates in 26 Erasmus Mundus Action 2 projects and coordinates another 8 projects that enable academic mobility to and from South and South-East Asia, ACP countries, the Caucasus, Middle East, Latin America, and South Africa.

In 2014, the University of Göttingen will award numerous scholarships for students (undergraduate, Master, PhD levels), researchers (including postdoc) and staff. The scholarships include a monthly subsistence allowance during the fellowship period of 1000 € for Bachelor and Master students, 1500 € for PhD students, 1800 € for post-doctoral researchers and 2500 € for staff members. The opening dates or deadlines for applications are the following:

- ALRAKIS II (Central Asian and Caucasian regions): until January 10, 2014;
- ANGLE (Angola, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Congo, Fiji, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Senegal, East Timor, Barbados, Jamaica, and Trinidad & Tobago): until November 15, 2013;
- EUROPLATA (Argentina): until January 24, 2014;
- EXPERTS4Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka und Thailand): until January 15, 2014;
- NAMASTE (India): from October 2014.

Please refer to the Erasmus Mundus Action 2 website for the specific project information, the number of scholarships available, relevant fields of study and partner universities involved: www.uni-goettingen.de/erasmusmundus.

Funding for Research Proposal Preparations

The University of Göttingen is providing start-up funding to young academics for the preparation and submission of research proposals. With this new initiative, the university hopes to encourage postdoctoral researchers to remain in academia and pursue careers in research and science. Funding is intended for individual grant proposals. Persons eligible are young academics with a doctoral degree (up to eight years after completing their doctoral thesis), who would like to submit their own grant proposal and are employed at the University of Göttingen for at least 6

months following the application deadline. The deadline for submitting start-up funding proposals is November 15, 2013. For more information, please refer to www.uni-goettingen.de/en/445480.html

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Tandem Programme for Students with and without Children

The Family Service is launching the new tandem programme, a learning partnership for students with and without children, for the winter semester 2013/2014. The aim of this project is to facilitate mutual support for learning and for the organisation of studies. Furthermore, it should also help those students who have to arrange their studies and family responsibilities. The programme is directed at all students, regardless of their semester or course of studies. It is also possible for parents of higher and lower semesters to form a tandem. International students are also welcome to participate.



For more information, see www.uni-goettingen.de/familienervice/tandem

Sino-German Postdoctoral Scholarship Programme

In order to deepen the Sino-German cooperation in research and to support young Chinese scientists, the China Scholarship Council (CSC) and the DAAD are offering a new joint programme for Chinese postdocs in 2014. The programme allows young Chinese scientists to carry out 7 to 18-months research projects at a university or a non-university research institute in Germany.

This programme is open to postdocs from all research fields. It is also open to candidates whose PhD studies are not yet finished at the time of application.

For 2014, the CSC and the DAAD are planning to have 25 positions in the joint funding programme. Applications should be submitted between November 20 and December 20, 2013 to the DAAD office in Beijing and CSC.

The earliest possible date for the beginning of a scholarship is July 2014.

More information about the programme can be found at: www.daad.org.cn/stipendienangebote-fur-chinesen/promotion-und-postdoc/2014-sino-german-csc-daad-postdoc-scholarship-program

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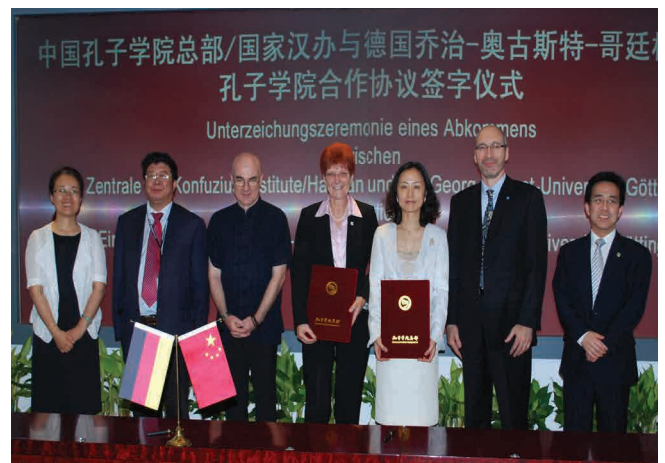
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Confucius Institute at the University of Göttingen

On the 22nd of September 2013, the Vice-President of the University of Göttingen, Prof. Dr. Casper-Hehne, signed a contract with the Confucius Institute Headquarters for the establishment of the Academic Confucius Institute Göttingen. The University of Göttingen will operate the Confucius Institute together with its Chinese partner universities Beijing Foreign Studies University and Nanjing University.

The Confucius Institute Göttingen will be a research-based institute and the world's first Academic Confucius Institute. The main focus of the institute's work will be research on the didactics of teaching Chinese as a foreign language and its transfer into practice as well as conveying current research findings about modern China from the humanities, social sciences and economic sciences to the media, industry, organisations and public.



The opening of the Confucius Institute is planned for early 2014. For more information about the Institute, please visit www.uni-goettingen.de/en/3240.html?cid=4565.

Confucius China Study Plan

In order to foster understanding of China and Chinese culture among young elites from around the world, the Confucius Institute Headquarters (Hanban) has set up the "Confucius China Study Plan".

The majority of financial support is provided to specific research projects in designated academic areas of the Humanities and Social Sciences. This plan consists of six subprogrammes: Sino-foreign Joint Ph.D., Ph.D. in China, "Understanding China" Visiting Scholar, "Young Leaders", International Conference and Publishing.

Please find more information about the "Confucius China Study Plan": http://ccsp.chinese.cn/article/2012-11/09/content_469694.htm

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Joint Seminar on Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture and Forestry

Since mid-August 2013, Dr. Simone Pfeiffer is the new scientific coordinator of the Section for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture and Forestry (SeTSAF) of the Centre for Biodiversity and Sustainable Land Use. SeTSAF initiates joint research projects, contributes to interdisciplinary teaching and supports several international alumni networks. Starting in the winter semester, SeTSAF will organise the "Joint Seminar on Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture and Forestry" every second Wednesday at Buesgenweg 1, room F01. Students, scientists and the interested public are invited to learn more about controversial research fields, international university partnerships and funding opportunities.



Open Lecture Series "Poverty and Health"

An open lecture series on the topic of "Poverty and Health" will be held during the winter semester 2013/2014.

Our modern society has seen a significant increase in mobility and a change in its dynamic on a global scale over the last decade. The consequences of such a shift are sociological change, a massive impact on our ecosystem, and climate change, with a significant impact on our health care. The connection between poverty and sickness, or more specifically, poverty and decreasing health, has always been apparent. However, in this lecture series, experts from many different disciplines, members of the Göttingen International Health Network seek to present all aspects of the issue in order to better demonstrate the connection between poverty and health. The questions, problems, explanatory and intervention models deal mostly with Africa, India and bordering states.

Further information about the lecture series, can be found at www.uni-goettingen.de/armut_und_gesundheit.



The lectures will be held every Thursday at 18:15 in ZHG 004 starting from October 24.

New International Research Exchange Scheme

On November 1, 2013 the "International Research Staff Exchange Scheme" (IRSES) programme starts at the University of Göttingen. It is a research-based exchange between research institutions in EU member states and institutions in the Ukraine, Belarus and Russia.

The partner project of Prof. Dr. Konstantin V. Krutovsky from the Department of Forest Genetics and Forest Tree Breeding of the Faculty of Forest Sciences and Forest

Ecology (Büsgen-Institute), which deals with "Plant DNA tolerance - Plant adaptation to heavy metal and radioactive pollution", will receive funding for four years in the amount of 285.000 Euros. Early-stage (PhD) and experienced researchers (postdocs) as well as technical or managerial staff can take part in the exchange. The IRSES programmes belong to the Marie Curie Activities of the European seventh research framework programme (FP7).

EU Funds Three Initial Training Networks

Starting in October, the University of Göttingen will receive aid for three "Initial Training Networks" (ITN), a Europe-wide network for the structured education of postgraduate and postdoctoral academics.

Prof. Gerhard Braus, of the Faculty of Biology and Psychology, will be involved in two of the projects, which will be supported by the European Commission for the next four years with approximately 4 million Euro as well as

with advocacy for the usefulness of fungus research. The third research project, which deals with metallic glass, will also receive 3.5 million Euro over the next four years. The project will be carried out by the Faculty of Physics under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Konrad Samwer.

All three projects are supported by academic institutions and industry partners from many European countries and will combine multiple scientific fields and disciplines.

U4 Leadership Programme

On the 9th and 10th of October, the University of Göttingen welcomed participants to the fourth and final event of the U4 leadership programme. The leadership programme was a training event for those in university and faculty management in the U4 network. The academic and scientific environment in which universities operate is becoming increasingly complex. Managing the process of continuous profiling, and the academic as well as the scientific development of universities requires certain skills that the leadership programme was able to address. Three events had already taken place at the partner institutions. The Göttingen event concentrated on the topic of "Managing Change and Preparing for the Future". For more details, please refer to www.u4.ugent.be/?q=leadership



HeKKSaGOn Network: Rectors' Meeting in Göttingen

On the 12th and 13th of September, the University of Göttingen hosted the third Rectors' meeting of the German-Japanese Network "HeKKSaGOn". In the network, which was founded in 2010, the universities of Göttingen and Heidelberg as well as the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) have united together with three leading universities in Japan, the University of Kyoto, Osaka and Tohoku. In this year's conference, which was titled "Challenges and Perspectives in Promoting Young Researchers", the partner universities have begun a collaborative undertaking to improve funding for young researchers. The partner universities want to build increasingly stronger doctoral programmes, to raise the number of jointly supervised doctoral students, to offer summerschools for their doctoral students as well as to further the exchange of young scientists. Beyond that, the partner universities would like to see the increase in cooperation in research areas which have not yet been involved in the collaboration. The next rector meeting for the "HeKKSaGOn" network will be in early 2015 at the Tohoku University in Japan.



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Alumni Reception at the International House of the University of California at Berkeley

On the 1st of September 2013, 85 alumni of the University of Göttingen who currently live in California came together in the International House of the University of California at Berkeley.

The reception allowed Göttingen Alumni to reconnect with old friends and colleagues, learn about the University of Göttingen today, and to celebrate the beginning of a dynamic and engaging alumni relations programme in North America. This meeting also gave a unique opportunity to get insights into University's vision and plans for the future from the President of the University Ulrike Beisiegel.



German Conference on Bioinformatics

On 10th-13th of September 2013, the German Conference on Bioinformatics (GCB) took place in Göttingen. GCB is an annual conference series which presents original research work in all areas of bioinformatics.

GCB 2013 was jointly organized by the various bioinformatics groups from the university, the university medical center and the MPI for Biophysical Chemistry. More than 220 participants from 16 different countries took part in the conference and four satellite workshops.

Keynote talks were given by Andreas Dress, Gene Myers, Erwin Neher, Terry Speed and Sarah Teichmann. Before the official start of the conference, a reception took place in the Old Town Hall of Göttingen with welcome speeches by the president of the university Ulrike Beisiegel, and by Burkhard Morgenstern, one of the organizers of GCB 2013.



For more information about the conference, please refer to www.gcb2013.de. The GCB 2014 will take place from the 29th of September to the 1st of October in Bielefeld.

International Digital Humanities Summer School

The Göttingen Centre for Digital Humanities (GCDH) hosted the "2013 DARIAH-DE International Digital Humanities Summer School", held August 19-23, 2013. The summer school focused on teaching natural language processing with the programming language, Python. The school brought together 20 students and researchers from 11 European countries and beyond, with different types of programming experience. In 2014 two Digital Humanities summer school sessions will take place at the GCDH.

For further information, please visit the website www.gcdh.de/en/teaching/2013-dariah-de-international-digital-humanities-summer-school/.

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Ecological and Socioeconomic Functions of Tropical Lowland Rainforest Transformation Systems



The Collaborative Research Centre 990 - EFForTS, which is funded by the German Research Foundation, held its first status workshop in Bogor & Jambi, Indonesia on 9-10th of October 2013.

EFForTS is an international interdisciplinary research programme that aims to

provide knowledge-based guidelines on how to protect and enhance the ecological functions and services of tropical lowland rainforests and major agricultural transformation systems, while improving human welfare.

The workshop highlighted the major outcomes of the integrative research activities across disciplines, i.e., environmental processes, biota and ecosystem services and human dimensions. It was opened by the Vice President of the University of Göttingen, Prof. Dr. Reiner Finkeldey, who is visiting Indonesia on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Bogor Agricultural University (IPB), one of the major counterparts of EFForTS.

For more information about the centre, please refer to www.uni-goettingen.de/en/310995.html

IAPN in Dialogue: Knowledge Transfer to Local Farmers in Uganda

On September 25, 2013 the Institute of Applied Plant Nutrition (IAPN) organized for the first time the event "IAPN in dialogue", which dealt with the topic "Knowledge transfer to local farmers in Uganda".

A young agricultural scientist, a member of the NGO Sasakawa Africa Association, Daniel Olol, was one of the guests at the event. He is here to benefit from the Institute's knowledge of applied plant nutrition and specialized methods of soil and plant analysis. His mission is to pass on his knowledge to educators and directly to smallholders in his home country, and to work with them to develop appropriate methods of fertilization for crop plants.

In November 2014, the IAPN will hold, for the second time, the International Symposium on Magnesium in Crop Production, Food Quality and Human Health.



More information about the IAPN, which is a public-private-partnership between the University of Goettingen and the K+S KALI GmbH, can be found at www.iapn-goettingen.de.

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