

GÖTTINGEN INTERNATIONAL

Newsletter

International news and activities

Coimbra Group Annual Conference in Göttingen

From the 29th of May to the 1st of June the Annual Conference of the Coimbra Group will take place in Göttingen, as part of the University's Week of Festivities for its 275th Anniversary.

The symposium of this year's Annual Conference will focus on 'Governance for Integrity and Quality in Universities' and will offer the chance to explore how modern academic governance can create an environment conducive to creative thinking and critical reflection and what steps need to be taken to meet the challenges ahead of us. All the employees of the University are welcome to join the Symposium.



The Coimbra Group is a network of 40 renowned and tradition-rich universities in Europe, including Bologna and Padua, Oxford and Cambridge, Leuven and Heidelberg. This collaboration originated in 1987, with the idea of initiating a Europe-wide exchange of students and university faculty. Since then, the universities work together in numerous activities. The network takes into consideration the latest developments in the European educational market, and participates worldwide in projects that set trends for the member universities. Once a year, presidents meet to exchange ideas on the progress of their shared activities. The University of Göttingen has been a member since 1986 and participates in five workgroups in the network.

For more information about the Conference please visit www.uni-goettingen.de/coimbra2012

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EDULINK Call for Proposals is Published

The call for proposals in EDULINK II, the EU programme for university cooperation with African states, the Caribbean and the Pacific (AKP, after the German Staaten Afrikas, der Karibik und des Pazifik), has been published. The program promotes regional and intercontinental university cooperation between the AKP states and the European Union.

The goal is to improve the areas of teaching/curriculum development and university management/administration by means of institutional cooperation. In this new call for proposals, only projects in the areas of Energy access and efficiency and Agriculture and food security will be funded.

Applications can be submitted until the 30th of July 2012.

You can find the programme guidelines and application material at the EDULINK website www.acp-edulink.eu/node/2137.



DAAD Programme

‘Academic Reconstruction in Southwest Europe’

As part of the DAAD special programme “Academic Reconstruction in Southwest Europe”, two special calls for proposal submissions for the year 2012 have been published. University staff of all departments who have permanent employment status at a German university can apply for funding for the following:

- Special courses imparting current specialised content and methods for Albanian, Bosnian and/or Kosovar junior staff;

- Research or continuing education stays (1-3 months) for Albanian, Bosnian and Kosovar junior researchers.

The application deadline is the 17th of July 2012.

The full text of the request for proposals, all information pertaining to eligible activities and target groups, and the documents needed for application can be found at:

www.daad.de/hochschulen/wiederaufbau/stabilitaetspakt-suedosteuropa/20037.de.html

PROMOS - The Programme for the Enhancement of the Mobility of German Students

In the year 2011 a total of 151 students (including two study trip groups) were subsidized by PROMOS. For the year 2012, 140 applications for individual grants and 11 applications for study trips (involving a total of 103 students) were submitted. The Programme for the Enhancement of the Mobility of German Students (PROMOS, after the words in the German title Programm zur Steigerung der Mobilität deutscher Studierender) offers grants for students who study or do an internship abroad.

Students or Ph.D. candidates who wish to participate in language or summer courses abroad are also encouraged to apply. In addition, study trips in the company of a high school teacher are also eligible.

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Science without Borders - New Scholarship Programme of the Brazilian Government

The Brazilian government has announced the programme "Ciência sem Fronteiras – Science without Borders", to promote the development of Brazil as a research location.

In this programme, a total of 100,000 well-funded scholarships for Brazilian doctoral students and undergraduates will be awarded for study and research stays worldwide. Doctoral and Post-doctoral studies (full and "sandwich" studies) and exchange studies for advanced undergraduates (mostly Master's studies) will be funded with these scholarships.

The programme is intended primarily for students in the biological, natural and engineering sciences (chemistry, biology, neuroscience, computer science, environmental planning). The funding includes a laboratory and materials allowance for doctoral studies.



The Academic Deans Council of the University of Göttingen has recommended that three or more applicants should be admitted per faculty. In the undergraduate sector, admission should be made possible in accordance with the capacity of the individual courses of study. It has been determined that the undergraduates should be exempt from paying administrative fees. Admission of the Brazilian students follows the usual procedures.

Göttingen International recommends a favourable examination of the requests for admission of the Brazilian scholarship recipients. A regular and highly selective selection process precedes the scholarship award. Candidates apply for a scholarship at their universities. There, ranking lists are produced; CAPES und CNPq make the final selection. After the selection process, recipients apply for admission, with the scholarship confirmation, at the host universities under consideration.

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The University of Göttingen Strengthens Cooperation with Japanese Universities

The universities of Göttingen and Heidelberg, as well as the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, are going to expand their cooperative work with the leading Japanese universities of Kyoto, Osaka and Tohoku. Among other things, the partners plan new research projects, two joint postgraduate programmes, and summer schools for doctoral students.

The six universities are members of the German-Japanese "HeKKSaGOn" excellence network, founded in 2010.

At the second German-Japanese Vice-Chancellors' conference in Kyoto last week, the partners signed a corresponding declaration of intent. The next joint conference is in September 2013 at the University of Göttingen.

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Göttingen State and University Library (SUB) is scientific coordinator for the EU-project OpenAIREplus

OpenAIREplus project (2nd Generation of Open Access Infrastructure for Research in Europe) was launched in Pisa in early December 2011. This 30 month project, funded with about 4.2 million Euros by the EC 7th Framework Programme (FP7), will work in tandem with OpenAIRE, and brings together 41 pan-European partners, including three cross-disciplinary research communities.

The project will capitalise on the successful efforts of the OpenAIRE project which enables researchers to deposit their FP7 and ERA funded research publications into Open Access repositories. "The participatory design of OpenAIREplus will seamlessly guide the researcher to Open Access research data. The experienced consortium will pave the way to support the research work of European scientists and open up the road to multi-disciplinary science" says Prof. Dr. Norbert Lossau,

Scientific Coordinator of OpenAIREplus and Director of Göttingen State and University Library, Germany.

As scholarly communication touches upon many disciplines, the project's horizontal outreach will facilitate collaboration across data infrastructures, providing information to scientists, non-scientists as well as to providers of value-added services.

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OpenAIRE: <http://www.openaire.eu>

Joint DFG-Research Project on Fragmentation of Global Forest Policies and Governance

Convened at the Faculty of Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology by Prof. Max Krott and Dr. Lukas Giessen, a team of partners from Göttingen and Freiburg Universities has successfully procured a joint DFG-research project titled "Fragmentation of the International Forest Regime-Complex" (PAK813). This interdisciplinary project is coordinated by Prof. Max Krott and Dr. Lukas Giessen (both Chairs of Forest and Nature Conservation Policy, University Göttingen) and will be operational from 2012 to 2015. It aims to describe the fragmentation of the various existing international forest-related policies (incl. climate, biodiversity and trade policies), to explain this fragmentation using political, legal, technical and ecological factors, to analyse the effects of governance and to develop options to remedy the fragmentation of international forest-related policies.

Scientific Coordinator of OpenAIREplus and Director of Göttingen State and University Library, Germany.

As scholarly communication touches upon many disciplines, the project's horizontal outreach will facilitate collaboration across data infrastructures, providing information to scientists, non-scientists as well as to providers of value-added services.

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www.uni-goettingen.de/en/350489.html

Alexander-von-Humboldt-Foundation Scholars at the Faculty of Chemistry

Six awardees and fellows of the Alexander-von-Humboldt-Foundation are currently guests at the Göttingen Faculty of Chemistry. The researchers from China, India and the USA work together with their hosts in Göttingen on various research projects that range from mini-magnets to bioactive compounds and energy conversion. Postdoctoral fellow Dr. Pampa Guha Mukherjee, for example, develops synthetic procedures for novel compounds with specific magnetic characteristics in the group of Prof. Franc Meyer at the Institute of Inorganic Chemistry. One of two Alexander-von-Humboldt fellows in the group of Prof. Lutz Ackermann at the Institute of Organic and Biomolecular Chemistry is Dr. Thirunavukkarasu Vedhagiri Shanmugam, who is devising innovative methods for the direct functionalization of ubiquitous carbon-hydrogen bonds.

This will enable sustainable drug synthesis in the pharmaceutical industry. Professors Daniel J. Auerbach from the University of California Santa Barbara (USA) and Xueming Yang from the Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics in Dalian (China) have been recognized with Humboldt-research awards. During their research stays in the group of Prof. Alec Wodtke at the Institute of Physical Chemistry, they are focusing on aspects of energy conversion during the collision of different molecules with surfaces. The improved understanding of these elementary processes will set the stage for new approaches to energy production and storage.

Faculty of Chemistry: www.uni-goettingen.de/en/faculty-of-chemistry/18772.html

Welcome to Göttingen - a Guide for International Researchers

Internationally mobile researchers who take up a position at the University of Göttingen or plan a research visit receive assistance and support from the university's Welcome Centre. The Welcome Centre has now published an English brochure „Guide for International Researchers“. The 150-page brochure provides useful information about the university, about organising a temporary stay, and about life in Göttingen and Germany.

As a handbook for initial orientation, the guide provides an introduction to the university's facilities, guidance through a research visit, and information about all matters concerning work and research in Göttingen, like social insurance, contracts of employment, work or residence permits and child and health care.

The guide can be downloaded via the Internet at www.uni-goettingen.de/welcome or ordered directly from the Welcome Centre.



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Foyer International - Bringing German and Foreign Students Together

Lack of contact to German students is still a relevant issue for international students, as illustrated repeatedly by the results of the social survey of the "Deutsches Studentenwerk" (DSW). The Foyer International of the International Office works in cooperation with InDiGU very successfully against this problem.

This summer semester the Foyer International is again offering a wide range of workshops and theme nights to promote the integration of international students and to enhance the international mobility of German students qualitatively and quantitatively.

At the same time, the programme offers non-mobile students the opportunity to participate in cross-cultural encounters (internationalization at home). In the first three days of the semester, already 141 participants (including 78 from abroad) had taken part in the programme. In 2011, a total of 2981 participants were registered.

Information about the programme can be found on the website: www.uni-goettingen.de/foyer-international

Introduction Weekend for Foreign Students

As in the past, this summer semester also saw a number of international students who began their studies at the University of Göttingen. As part of the introduction weekend, they were greeted in the Foyer International. The aim was to introduce students to academic and extracurricular life in Göttingen, so as to enable them to start as well-prepared as possible.

In addition to a guided tour and getting to know each other, the main emphasis of the weekend was to introduce the most important advisory bodies of the university, to get to know the faculties and to provide an introduction to the organization of study programmes.

For more information please visit www.uni-goettingen.de/en/196393.html

The 1st FONASO Conference

The Faculty of Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology hosted the first international conference of the FONASO Erasmus Mundus PhD programme, from 18 to 21 April 2012. FONASO aims to carry out research in areas related to the subject entitled Forest and Nature in Society and to train highly qualified experts from academia, government and the private sector in the sustainable use of natural resources. Together with the University of Göttingen, participating partners of the program are the Universities of Copenhagen (Denmark), Bangor (Wales), Padua (Italy), Alnarp (Sweden), Montpellier (France) and Dresden (Germany). In all, 18 PhD students from 15 different countries participated in the meeting at the convention centre in the historical observatory.

"The conference was an excellent opportunity for the PhD students to meet, to interact and to build an international network of future colleagues and decision makers", says Prof. Alexander Knohl, the FONASO coordinator in Göttingen. In addition to presentations on the use and protection of natural resources from the perspective of natural science as well as that of socio-economics, an excursion to the Harz Mountains provided local insights into historical land use, forest management and nature protection.

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Tur Abdin - A Study trip to Southeast Turkey

The Chair for Ecumenical Theology and Oriental Church- and Mission History of the University of Göttingen organised a study trip to Southeast Turkey from March 21 to March 29, 2012. The group had a chance to meet the professors and students of the local university and discuss possible future projects to strengthen the international relations. Furthermore, to get a glimpse into the life of

the people in the region, different places that are of high importance for Christians has been visited.

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Conference „The Institution of Literature: 250 Years of English Studies and Cultural Transfer“

The department of British Literature and Culture and the department of English Didactics of the Georg-August University will host a jointly organised conference entitled “The Institution of Literature: 250 Years of English Studies and Cultural Transfer”, which takes place in Göttingen from August 30 – September 1. The conference dignifies the life and work of John Tompson in Göttingen who was appointed professor ordinarius by King Georg III on 25th August 1762 and thus became the first professor of English on the European continent. His English Miscellanies – published in 1737 – was one of the first English publications ever in Germany, and was also the first anthology composed in an academic context for the purpose of the mediation of English literature and culture to German students of English. The Miscellanies was therefore an important watershed in the development of British-German literary and cultural transfer.

The conference addresses, amongst others, questions of the historical and political conditions of cultural transfer, canon formations, German-British networks of knowledge, the literary anthology and, last but not least, of teaching English literature and language in a globalized age.

The conference is open to an interested public. The conference fee will be 50 Euro, payable on registration.

Graduate and undergraduate students are particularly welcome and don't have to pay the fee.

If you would like to participate, please register via mail:

johannes.schlegel@phil.uni-goettingen.

For a detailed programme and information concerning the conference venue, please visit the conference website: www.uni-goettingen.de/de/350726.html

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