

GÖTTINGEN INTERNATIONAL

Newsletter

International news and activities

Göttingen Welcomes Further Alexander von Humboldt Professor

The Mathematical Institute of the University of Göttingen is delighted to welcome Prof. Dr. Harald Andrés Helfgott, who will support the Institute from June this year. Helfgott was born in Peru in 1977, since 2010 he has worked as a senior researcher at the Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS) in Paris. In addition, Helfgott is a member of the American Mathematical Society and the Société Mathématique de France.

The internationally renowned mathematician, who will help to advance the University of Göttingen to a global leader in the field of algebraic geometry and number theory, has been awarded an Alexander von Humboldt Professorship: the most highly endowed German research award funded by the Federal Ministry for Education and Research amounting to 3.5 million euro over a period of five years.



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EU: Individual Fellowships for Postdocs

Within the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), which are a part of the European research framework "Horizon 2020", a call for "Individual Fellowships" (IF) was published. The application deadline is the 10th of September 2015. Researchers can apply for an "Individual Fellowship" if they have completed a doctoral degree or have evidence of four years of full-time research after completing their university studies. This funding programme aims to support research careers by means of international and intersectoral mobility. Researchers shall thereby either establish or strengthen their independent research position.

The research topic can be chosen freely, however, an essential requirement is mobility.

Researchers will be fostered by expanding and deepening their competencies in another country.

The call for applications as well as general information about it can be retrieved at: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/calls/h2020-msca-if-2015.html>.

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Scholarships from the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education



Once again the Polish Government is offering various assigned scholarships for the academic year of 2015/2016 for students, graduates, doctoral students and scientists from German universities who wish to conduct their studies or research at a Polish university or college.

Thus, academics who fulfil the requirements above can generally apply three months prior to the intended beginning of the scholarship period. They can either apply for scholarships financing study and research stays

(1-9 months) or for one-semester scholarships (4 months) exclusively assigned to applicants from Slavic Studies. Moreover, applications for research scientists from all academic fields for short-term scholarships (1-3 months) as well as for all other academics interested in summer course scholarships on Polish language and culture are also possible.

Further information on scholarships, the quantity of the grants and on the application process can be retrieved at www.daad.pl/de.

Scholarships from the Mexican Government

This year the Mexican Government offers scholarships for so-called "Special Programmes": Visiting lecturers, artists, specialists in Mexican Studies, employees working in the media sector and researchers have to commence their stay in Mexico beginning at the earliest in May and at the latest in October 2015. Scholarship holders will receive a monthly stipend, an international flight ticket and coverage of health insurance costs from the fourth month onwards. The application deadline for all programmes is the 14th of August, 2015.

Further information on all scholarships can be retrieved at: <http://amexcid.gob.mx/index.php/oferta-de-becas-para-extranjeros>.

For the so-called "Academic Programmes", scholarships will be offered for 2016: For consecutive postgraduate studies, Master's programmes, stays in connection to a doctorate, research stays for Postdocs or research stays for postgraduates as well as mobility programmes in order to obtain a first higher education degree (licenciatura) and also postgraduate programmes for the duration of month up to three years. The application deadline for these scholarships is the 31st of August, 2015.

Scholarship Advice for International Students

Since the beginning of 2015, the International Office offers scholarship advice for current and prospective international Bachelor and Master students who are enrolled as regular full-time students at the University of Göttingen.

This offer for scholarship advice and assistance also includes help with the application process for a scholarship, as well as information about other degree funding opportunities.

Please refer to this page for further information www.uni-goettingen.de/en/512299.html.

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Funding of China-Related Projects

A new edition of the "Funding Guide: Researchers' Mobility and Collaboration between Europe and China" is now available for download at <http://tinyurl.com/2015-funding-guide>.

The comprehensive compilation of funding opportunities for research projects with Chinese partners comprises numerous EU-level funding programmes, German and other national funding schemes, and some Chinese funding programmes open for European applicants.

The Funding Guide thus provides valuable advice concerning funding opportunities for China-related projects.

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Professional Supervision of International Doctoral Candidates



Gent
Uppsala
Groningen
Göttingen

The University of Göttingen is organising a Staff Training Course on the "Professional Supervision of International Doctoral Candidates", in cooperation with the the U4 partner Universities (Ghent,

Groningen and Uppsala). The course is going to take place from the 4th to the 5th of December 2015 in Göttingen.

In academia, the supervision of doctoral candidates can prove to be a daily challenge. Whether a PhD project turns out to be a success or a failure is not only influenced by the skills and the motivation of the doctoral candidates; the professionalism of the supervisor also plays an essential role. The latter is augmented particularly in the international context, e.g. the cultural and/or academic background of the candidate, the supervisor, or the institution they work for, can differ substantially.

Taking into account the different cultural backgrounds within the different scientific fields, as well as national

differences in academia, we will discuss questions and present tools, which help to avoid or overcome problems. As a result of the workshop, participants

- will gain knowledge of the different phases of a doctoral project and the obstacles which may arise throughout;
- will be aware of the different roles that have to be considered when supervising doctoral candidates;
- will have gained skills to circumvent and to overcome problems.

All academics that are involved in the process of PhD supervision are welcome to participate in the course, which will be held in English.

The registration is open until the 2nd of October 2015 at www.uni-goettingen.de/en/446036.html.

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Workshop “Diversity in the Classroom”

The Equal Opportunities Office (Project “Gender in Education”) in cooperation with the Office for Higher Education Teaching invites all those interested to take part in the workshop “Diversity in the Classroom”.

In the face of ongoing internationalisation of higher education and the pursuit of equality for all students, the idea of human diversity takes on particular significance. What do we mean by diversity? How can institutions of higher education and lecturers, in the framework of their teaching, foster diversity? This workshop addresses these questions, drawing on short presentations, discussions, and exercises. Participants will receive an overview of some of the theoretical debates behind key concepts such as diversity, (anti)discrimination, and privilege.

They will be given opportunities to reflect on their own identities and social positions and draft action plans for their institutions and seminars. Participants will thus leave the workshop with concrete ideas and steps to move forward in their teaching. The workshop will be held in English.

The workshop will take place on the 25th of June 2015, from 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Waldweg 26, Room 3.117/3.119 (Trakt I, 3.OG). For further information and registration until the 15th of June please refer to www.uni-goettingen.de/en/510419.html.

Göttingen Conference on Labour Standards in International Economic Law



The ever-intensifying globalisation and interdependence of the international economy, framed by the rapid evolution of inter-

national economic law, brings about new challenges for the protection and promotion of labour standards.

Labour standards play an increasingly important role in regional trade agreements, unilateral preference schemes, international investment agreements and in a range of non-state initiatives. At the same time, the International Labour Organization is increasing its efforts to readjust its mandate and capacities in order to properly address the challenges posed by globalisation. The plenitude of different (and sometimes conflicting) approaches shapes

a multilevel and multipolar status quo, the structure and potential of which is yet largely to be discerned.

On the 1st and 2nd of October 2015, the Institute for International Law and European Law, Department of International Economic and Environmental Law, will host an international conference, inviting academics and practitioners from around the world to engage in discussions on some of the most pressing issues at the tangent of international economic law and international labour standards.

The Institute cordially invites interested persons and organisations to come to Göttingen and to participate in the discussions. Registrations for the conference are welcomed until the 10th of September 2015 at intecolaw@gwdg.de. For further information, please refer to www.uni-goettingen.de/en/512951.html.

Hadron Collider Physics Summer School – HASCO

This year's Hadron Collider Physics Summer School - HASCO 2015 is going to take place from the 19th to the 24th of July, 2015 in Göttingen. The organisers are expecting 40 Master students from the U4 partner universities in Gent, Groningen and Uppsala,

as well as 20 further European partner universities and the European Center for Nuclear Physics (CERN). Focus of the HASCO 2015 will be the restart of the Large Hadron Collider at almost double the energy. Further information can be retrieved at <http://hasco.uni-goettingen.de/>.

Göttingen Spirit Summer School "Ideology, Power and Religious Change in Antiquity"



From the 20th to the 24th of July 2015, the Göttingen Spirit Summer School "Ideology, power and religious change in Antiquity, 3000 BC – AD 600"

is going to take place. This international academic event, which focuses on ideological messages communicated by different types of ancient leaders in periods of religious change, is organised by the section "Religion" of the Graduate School for Humanities Göttingen (GSGG).

During this summer school, five internationally renowned experts will give public lectures touching upon various topics, including: Which messages were communicated by central and local authorities as well as specific religious authorities in these epochs? What do these messages tell us about the nature of the power exercised by leaders? All interested people are invited to join the lectures. For more information, see www.uni-goettingen.de/iprca2015.

15th Anniversary of the MSc/PhD Programmes in Molecular Biology and Neurosciences



The MSc/PhD programmes and International Max Planck Research Schools in Molecular Biology and Neurosciences celebrate their 15th Anniversary and International Alumni Day on the 29th and

30th of May 2015. The 15th Anniversary celebrations commence on the 29th of May 2015 in the University Aula with a scientific keynote lecture by Nobel Prize Laureate Prof. Dr. Stefan Hell. The International Alumni Day on the 30th of May 2015 takes place at the Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry.

An Alumni Career Forum that takes place on the 30th of May promotes the close scientific network of current and former members of the programmes.

In three "vision talks", distinguished guest speakers, including the director of the Hamburg Institute for Social Research Jan Philipp Reemtsma, will give a personal view on current and expected future developments in their field. These talks will conclude with a panel discussion titled "Scientists after the PhD - Perspectives and Challenges".

More than 350 invited guests are expected, among them over 130 alumni from more than twelve countries. Please refer to the anniversary website for further details: www.uni-goettingen.de/en/500951.html.

The anniversary celebrations are scheduled directly after the student-organised NEURIZONS symposium (www.neurizons.uni-goettingen.de) from the 26th to the 29th of May 2015, giving alumni the opportunity to combine their return to Göttingen with a scientific meeting.

IndiAlumni in Göttingen

From the 17th to the 19th of April 2015, Göttingen welcomed 71 former DAAD scholarship holders from all over Germany, who have all stayed in India at least once mainly through the "A New Passage to India" scholarship.

The fourth IndiAlumni meet-up was opened by the Director of the International Office Dr. Uwe Muuss and Heidemarie Albertin from the DAAD. The seminars and workshops that followed shed light on India as an economic power and possible partner of Germany, but also on the health care



system as well as sociocultural issues and the image of India in Germany. Dr. Rajnish Tiwari from the German-Indian Round Table and TU Hamburg-Harburg held a keynote speech "The reawakened giant? Indian perspectives for German-Indian cooperation". The seminars and workshops were followed by fruitful discussions and networking. Indian catering and a dinner with a view of the Historic Observatory created a pleasant ambience for the event.

For more information, please refer to <http://indialumni.de/>.

German-Turkish Workshop on Neurosciences



Deutsch-Türkisches Jahr der
Forschung, Bildung und Innovation 2014

In course of the German-Turkish Year of Research, Education and Innovation 2014 the University of Göttingen and the Boğaziçi University in Istanbul hosted a series of workshops in the field of molecular neurosciences. The Year of Science was run under the tagline "Science Bridging Nations" and activities have been developed to continue beyond the horizon of 2014.

The University of Göttingen successfully applied for funding within the Ideas Competition, which was launched by the BMBF as part of the German-Turkish Year of Science. In September 2014, Göttingen PhD students and scientists visited Boğaziçi University in Istanbul to discuss recent developments in the neurosciences. In return the Department of Developmental Biochemistry chaired by Prof. Dr. Pieler invited Turkish PhD students and researchers to take part in the

"NeuroTurk - German-Turkish Young Scientists Workshop on Molecular Neurosciences", which took place between the 26th and 29th of May in Göttingen. At a scientific symposium the Turkish guests presented their research projects together with the PhD students of the Göttingen Graduate School for Neurosciences, Biophysics, and Molecular Biosciences. Thus, the students had the opportunity to introduce their projects to an international audience and to gain experience in a debate on their results. For the future, a partnership between both universities in research and teaching will be facilitated based on these activities and on existing contacts.

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ERC Grant for Göttingen Chemist Sven Schneider



The European Research Council (ERC) has awarded a Consolidator Grant to Prof. Dr. Sven Schneider from the Institute of Inorganic Chemistry of the University of Göttingen.

The ERC funds his project "N₂ as Chemical Feedstock – Synthetic Nitrogen Fixation beyond Haber-Bosch" with

about two million euro starting in June 2015 for a period of five years.

For this project, Professor Schneider and his team will examine elementary reactions which enable the development of new catalytic synthesis pathways of nitrogenous compounds.

In industry, ammonia is essential for the production of fertilizers, but also needed for synthetic organic materials, like polymers or pharmaceuticals. Within the so-called Haber process, nitrogen from the air is converted into ammonia upon reaction with hydrogen. "The industrial production of ammonia through the Haber-Bosch-procedure is very costly and consumes approximately two per cent of the energy used worldwide", explains Schneider. "In our project, we are searching for alternative procedures." Further information can be found at www.uni-goettingen.de/en/356646.html.

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Exchange of Experiences: Europe as a Guest in Göttingen

From the 11th to the 15th of May 2015, the 9th International Erasmus Staff Training Week took place at the University of Göttingen.

A total of 29 guests from twelve countries, including those from the U4 partner universities, as well as from Japan and Ukraine, participated in various presentations and workshops.

The main focus was the exchange of experiences between colleagues from the IT departments, libraries and those working in the advisory service for students, lecturers and staff, on a national and international level. For the first time, the Secretary Network took part and introduced itself and its objectives with a presentation. Colleagues from Estonia, Spain and Hungary are now planning to make a proposal for such a network at their own universities.

In addition, Ideas and Complaint Management of the Student and Academic Services was very well received, especially considering the fact that services of this kind are rarely found at the partner universities.

The training week was not only an asset for the guests, but also for the colleagues from the different sectors and departments of the University of Göttingen, who were part of a well-balanced exchange of experiences within a pleasant atmosphere. Göttingen International would like to thank them once again for cooperation!



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Introduction Days for New International Students

Göttingen International has been organising the Introduction Days for international students for many years, in order to facilitate the beginning of their stay in Göttingen.

New international students are provided with useful and necessary information on the various offers of the University and get an opportunity to get to know each other and make new friends.

Starting from the summer semester of 2015, the Introduction Days are organised in form of a "fair". At this fair, the institutions of the University of Göttingen, that are of most importance to the international students, as well as the institutions related to the University introduce themselves and their offers at the ZHG, in a similar way to the fair at the matriculation ceremony. In addition to getting relevant information materials, the students have a chance to receive individual consultations. In parallel to this, presentations on studying in Göttingen, FlexNow and StudIP are held.

Göttingen International would like to thank all colleagues for their support and participation. The Introduction Days for the winter semester 2015/16 will be held from the 12th to the 16th of October 2015. Göttingen International is looking forward to the participation of interested institutions and organisations. More information can be found at www.uni-goettingen.de/introduction_days.



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Three Years of Sino-German Forestry Research

Sandstorms, soil erosion and floods are only some of the consequences of the massive deforestation in China from the mid-20th century. For the last 30 years, however, the Chinese Government has reacted to these environmental challenges in an equally massive manner and has initiated huge reforestation projects. Today, already 22% of China is covered with forest while in 1978 it was only 5%.

After dealing with the great challenges of reforestation, methods for the sustainable sustenance of forest are now in demand. The aim of the methods is to convert the plantations into stable, productive forests with a focus on the conservation of biodiversity. To give forestry firms and communes an incentive, the Chinese carbon market plans to implement market-mechanisms for the trade with carbon dioxide certificates on a national level by 2017. As forests remove a large amount of carbon from the atmosphere and store it over long periods of time, the issue of carbon certificates may be an attractive option for Chinese forest managers.

To aid preparations of the Chinese forestry for the upcoming carbon market, was the focus of the Lin2Value project that the Chair of Forest Inventory and Remote Sensing of the University of Göttingen (Prof. Dr. Christoph Kleinn) implemented in the mountainous forests of the Anhui province (partner province of the Federal State of Lower Saxony since 1985). This three-year scientific cooperation project was funded by the Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) with 1.7 million euro.

Objectives of Lin2Value were to develop adapted forest planning methods regarding inventory and mapping of the forests. The project also included the development of methods to quantify the role of forests as a carbon sink, and the development of silvicultural strategies; the latter was implemented by the Chair of Silviculture and Forest Ecology of Temperate Zones (Prof. Dr. Christian Ammer).

A further emphasis in the context of the internationalisation of the Faculty of Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology in Göttingen was to support young forest professionals and to establish working platforms for their scientific exchange in the field of forest management.



An excellent scientific cooperation with the Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF), the International Center for Bamboo and Rattan (ICBR), the Anhui Agricultural University (AAU) in Hefei and with the local forest authorities was established. Long-term observation plots were installed and huge amounts of data was collected and analysed. The integration of young scientists resulted in two bachelor theses, three master theses and three dissertations. At the final workshop in March 2015 in Hefei and Beijing, the results were presented to representatives of the State Forest Administration of China and to Colleagues from different forest faculties in China.

More information about the project can be found at <http://lin2value.uni-goettingen.de>

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