

GÖTTINGEN INTERNATIONAL

Newsletter

International news and activities

The University of Göttingen receives European Award

The University of Göttingen has received the "Institutional Award for Innovation in Internationalisation 2015" from the European Association for International Education (EAIE). The award was presented at the EAIE Annual Conference in Glasgow. This European prize rewards higher education institutions who have an outstanding internationalisation strategy and are forging innovative pathways in internationalisation.

The international awards committee found that the University of Göttingen has developed and implemented an outstanding and comprehensive internationalisation strategy in the past years, whilst at the same time, showing an understanding of internationalisation as a cross-sectional mission. The University has advanced this mission in all areas. What particularly impressed the awards committee was the university's internationalisation strategy that envisions internationalisation as a mutual task of the entire Göttingen Campus, the university's close affiliation with seven excellent non-university research institutions at the location along with its regional economic partners to be expanded in the coming years.



The development of the currently benchmarked welcoming culture promoted by a joint Welcome Centre plays a special role, as well as the further internationalisation of all curricula.

The success reflected in this award has also been achieved on the merits of the many staff members of the University - professors, employees and students - who have shown a dedicated conviction to internationalisation.

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Göttingen University intensifies cooperation with top U.S. universities

Moving forward, the University of Göttingen will collaborate more closely with the world-class University of California (UC) in the USA. The initial aim is to expand cooperations with the UCs Berkeley, San Diego and Davis in the fields of sustainability research, diversity and immigration research and digital transformation. Further cooperation projects in trans-regional research and energy research are currently in the planning stages.

In the future, the University of Göttingen should be able to offer Göttingen students better opportunities

to study at these excellent universities. Among other strategies, organising joint summer schools with the American partner universities should lead to more study places for German students in the USA.

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Universities of Göttingen and Edinburgh intensify cooperation

The University of Göttingen and the University of Edinburgh have agreed to collaborate more closely in the humanities, social and natural sciences. Professor Ulrike Beisiegel, President of the University of Göttingen, and Gavin McLachlan, Chief Information Officer and Librarian to the Scottish university, signed a cooperation agreement with this scope, as well as plans for the intensification of student exchange programmes.

One main objective of the two-day visit by the delegation from Edinburgh was their participation in the interdisciplinary workshop "The Digital University – The Future of Digital Research Infrastructures",

designed and organised by Dr. Wolfram Horstmann, Director of the Göttingen State and University Library.

The workshop aimed at intensifying the way the two universities shape the bilateral exchange of staff and joint projects in the future by illuminating aspects of academic policy.

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Annual Meeting of the External Advisory Board on Internationalisation

The third Meeting of the External Advisory Board (EAB) on Internationalisation took place on September 21st, 2015 in Göttingen. Within the framework of the meeting, the members of the EAB, university (senior) management and the student representatives took the opportunity to discuss the current state of internationalisation at the University of Göttingen and its further development.

Special attention was given to the project "Campus 2020" and the internationalisation of the curricula. The status report was positively received by the Board members, since nearly all set objectives were successfully met and additional measures were implemented.

The student perspective with regard to internationalisation efforts at the University of Göttingen was given more emphasis at this year's EAB Meeting through participation of the chair of the AstA General Students' Committee.

Members of the Advisory Board include leading higher education experts that exchange their ideas on internationalisation of higher education and support the University of Göttingen in achieving its goals.

For information on the External Advisory Board, please see www.uni-goettingen.de/en/496396.html.

Mobility with non-European partners – next call for applications in fall 2015

In 2015, Erasmus+ has promoted the mobility outside Europe (“with partner countries”), as well as the mobility within Europe (“with programme countries”).

The mobility with partner countries is supposed to help talented students from countries and regions of origin, which are strategically crucial for each higher education institution, to be introduced to the European Higher Education Area. In order to provide support for such activities, the mobility of university staff is also intended. The next call for applications is expected in the last quarter of 2015 (deadline: February 1, 2016). The application for mobilities limited in time (“Credit Mobility”) is controlled centrally by Göttingen International.

Please note: In fall 2015 new calls for further Erasmus+ funding deadlines will also be opened:

•Erasmus+ Key Action 1.2 – Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees (EMJMD) and

•Erasmus+ Key Action 2 – Partnerships and Cooperation Projects.

The Erasmus+ Key Action 2 promotes the internationalisation of European universities within the framework of strategic partnerships and knowledge alliances as well as the formation of networks and joint projects for capacity development in European neighbourhood regions and international partnerships worldwide.

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Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions: new call for structured doctoral trainings



Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Networks (ITN) offer financial support for structured doctoral trainings for four years and they are open to all fields of research. In Horizon 2020 three implementation modi of ITN are possible:

- European Training Networks (ETN)
- European Industrial Doctorates (EID)
- European Joint Doctorates (EJD).

The activities of an ITN comprise research projects, (intersectoral) secondments, training courses, summer

schools, etc. Funding will be available to cover the researchers' salary as well as contributions for training and networking activities, conferences, coordination, management and indirect costs for the applying organisations. The application deadline is January 12, 2016.

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Plattform PhDGermany

Would you like to launch your offers for doctoral studies internationally? The platform PhDGermany gives you the possibility to publish these offers free of charge and make them accessible to a broad audience.

The website was completely refurbished last year and was made more user-friendly. You can find further information here: www.phdgermany.de.

BMBF Funding for Cooperation Projects with Colombia and Mexico

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) supports the scientific and technological cooperation (WTZ) with Mexico: thematic focus areas include health research and bio-economy.

The BMBF also fosters the establishment of contacts between German and Colombian innovation clusters from industry and research in the following areas: Metalworking/Mechanical engineering, Agriculture/Aliments, Biotechnology/Health, and Renewable energies.

The following is to be funded:

- Travels to and stays in Mexico or Colombia for a duration of max. three months per year per person
- Workshops with already established partners or in order to establish new cooperations

- Materials and equipment (to a limited extent)
- Staff for international coordination (researchers or student assistants).

The application deadline is November 30th, 2015.

Further information on funding can be found at www.bmbf.de/foerderungen/29442.php (Mexico) and at www.bmbf.de/foerderungen/29440.php (Colombia).

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New Regional Department Latin America and Africa

In order to further promote the development of international relations of the University of Göttingen with research institutions in Latin America and Africa, the International Office of the University has created a Regional Department for these regions.

Since August this year, Ms. Valia Carvalho is responsible for the advancement, coordination and maintenance of international cooperation with Latin America and Africa as the Regional Coordinator. This particularly includes consulting cooperating scientists, promoting the initiation of new cooperations and maintaining the existing ones.

Valia Carvalho comes from Bolivia and has been living in Germany for 7 years. She has several years of experience in the coordination of international cultural projects and was responsible for the International Office of the excellence cluster "Bild Wissen Gestaltung" of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin in the past two years. Previously, she worked for the Heinrich Böll Stiftung Berlin and WWF Bolivia.

To constitute and promote student mobility, the Regional Department is supported by Ms. Linda Baumann, who joined the team in September.

As the Study Abroad Advisor for the Regional Departments Latin America and Africa as well as USA, Canada, Japan and Oceania, she is the direct contact person for students of the University of Göttingen who are interested in a stay abroad in the respective regions within the frame of their studies.

Linda Baumann has experience in her role as a Study Abroad Advisor as she worked in this function for Romance-language countries at the University of Kassel in previous years. She is German-American, studied English and Romance Studies and gathered experience abroad in France and Ireland. Before working in higher education, she was a language copy-editor for a publisher of scientific journals.

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Annual Alumni Meeting 2015 in China

The Annual Alumni Meeting China of the University of Göttingen will take place on October 17, 2015 in the Sino-German Center for Research Promotion in Beijing.

For more information about the Annual Alumni Meeting China and the registration procedure please refer to: www.alumni.uni-goettingen.de/china.

PiA – Physics in Advent



“Physics in Advent...24 experiments until Christmas” is a special physics advent calendar.

In December, a small experiment, that everyone can repeat and reproduce at home, will be presented via YouTube. The solution can be submitted via the PiA-webpage.

On the next day, the solution and a new question will be presented on YouTube. At Christmas, the results will be processed and the best participants will receive prizes. This year, for the first time, adults are also allowed to participate.

Also for the first time, the project is presented in German, English and French. Registration starts on November 1st, 2015 at www.physik-im-advent.de.

Workshop on “International Human Resources Management”

The Chair of Human Resources Management (HRM) and Asian Business, Prof. Dr. Fabian Jintae Froese, organises a two-day Doctoral/Junior Faculty Workshop on “International Human Resources Management” at the University of Göttingen from November 13 to 14, 2015. The workshop features sessions on qualitative research methods, career development, and publication strategies giving doctoral students and junior faculty the opportunity

to present their work in front of established professors in the field of Human Resources. Participating professors represent countries such as the US, Israel, Spain, France, and Germany.

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DAAD-funded Guest Chair in International Management

In 2014 the Faculty of Economics successfully applied for DAAD funding for a guest chair in the field of “International Management”. By creating this guest chair, students and researchers of the Faculty have the possibility to benefit from an exchange with internationally recognised professors and from internationally oriented courses in English.

In the upcoming winter semester, Prof. Israel Drori, Ph.D. from the Business School of Tel Aviv University in Israel will be welcomed to teach and conduct research for three months in Göttingen.

Among other things, he will be offering the Master seminar „International Management Research” for which several places are still available.

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European Commission supports new Joint Master Degree Programme in Agriculture

The International Master Degree Programme “Plant Health in Sustainable Cropping Systems” was selected by the European Commission for funding in the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree (EMJMD) programme.

The “Plant Health” Master Programme is jointly organised by the Universities of Göttingen (Germany), Valencia (Spain), Montpellier, Agrocampus Ouest and ParisAgroTech (France) and Padua (Italy). The consortium will receive a total funding of 2.7 million euros over a period of five years to provide full scholarships for highly qualified students and exchange visits of scientists. The “Plant Health Master” programme is a two-year world-class course conducted at six universities with significant expertise and teaching experience in research-based and applied crop protection. Students may select the University of Valencia or Göttingen for their first year, and any of the other universities, which offer different areas of specialisation, for the second year.

Ultimately, students will receive a joint Master degree from the respective universities.

“Plant Health” is the only EMJMD programme in agriculture and exceptional within Europe. It is based on the Master programme “Crop Protection” which was launched in Göttingen in 2010 and has gained worldwide reputation in providing students with the capability to link basic and applied research in order to foster effective and sustainable tools and strategies in global crop protection.

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Prof. Dr. Harald Andrés Helfgott receives ERC Consolidator Grant

The European Research Council (ERC) awarded a Consolidator Grant to mathematician Prof. Dr. Harald Andrés Helfgott from the University of Göttingen. The work of Professor Helfgott and his team is funded with about 1.37 million euros in the next five years.

In the ERC project “Groups, Representations and Analysis in Number Theory” (GRANT), Professor Helfgott

studies the growth and expansion in non-commutative groups. He proposes to explore its relation with other fields: algorithms, geometric group theory - in particular, sofic groups - and analytic number theory.

For further information, please refer to: www.uni-goettingen.de/en/266244.html.

Best Paper Award on the “19th Pacific Asia Conference on Information Systems”

Within the framework of the “19th Pacific Asia Conference on Information Systems (PACIS)”, Prof. Dr. Jan Muntermann and Matthias Eickhoff from the Chair of Electronic Finance and Digital Markets were given the Best Paper Award for their article on “Stock Analysts vs. the Crowd: a Study on Mutual Prediction”.

Their research contribution was selected amongst 464 submitted articles and from a further 177 articles selected or presentation. The conference took place from July 5th to 9th, 2015 in Singapore, organised by the Department of Information Systems, School of Computing of the National University of Singapore. Further information can be found at www.uni-goettingen.de/en/518313.html.

International Plant Protection Award of Distinction for Göttingen Scientist

Every four years the IPPAD (International Plant Protection Award of Distinction) is awarded to scientists and scientific institutions who have made an exceptional and innovative contribution to fostering the practical international plant protection or to the further development of the Plant Protection Sciences.

On the occasion of the 18th International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) in August in Berlin, this award was given to six scientists and a team of scientists from the Ivory Coast, India, China, USA and Germany. Prof. Dr. Andreas von Tiedemann, Head of the Section of General Plant Pathology and Crop Protection at the University of Göttingen, was awarded this year's IPPAD. The award was justified, among other reasons, with his research work that has led to a better understanding of mechanisms of infections of crops and the establishment



of the English language Master programme "Crop Protection" in Göttingen. This Master programme is scientifically-based and application-oriented and has attracted students from more than 15 countries since its establishment in 2010.

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MYCAFRICA – A micology network in East Africa



Despite the high number of patients that are expected to have fungal infections due to the high prevalence of HIV and tuberculosis in Africa, there are only few physicians and scientists trained

in mycology.

With MYCAFRICA (mycafrica.wordpress.com) researchers and physicians of the University Medical Center Göttingen are building a sustainable network in East Africa, aiming to strengthen the local mycological expertise. Established microbiological laboratories from Kenya (Dr. Christine Bii, Nairobi), Tanzania (Prof. Dr. Stephen Mshana, Mwanza), and Uganda (Prof. Dr. Freddie Bwanga, Kampala) were involved through workshops and exchange visits to

Göttingen to train the African partners in mycology.

In a first joint research project we address the question whether azole resistant fungi are conveyed into the environment through the use of fungicides in the East African flower industry. This would increase the risk that fungal infections of humans would be more difficult to treat.

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Successful Closing Conference of Research Alumni Programme

The Welcome Centre successfully placed a proposal for funding in the 1st round of Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's programme "Researchers Alumni Strategies". Thus, it was not only possible to carry out events for international researchers and various other measures for addressing future research alumni, but also to nominate selected scientists for participation in scientific events.

For the provisional end of the five-year programme, the "3rd Research Alumni Conference Germany 2015" took place in Berlin from September 23th to 25th, 2015. The project manager Nadine Dreyer, Head of the Welcome Centre, and current international scientists at the University took part. During the conference German and international



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speakers not only gave an insight into German and international research strategies, but also gave individual advice to the (young) scientists about career prospects and funding opportunities on research in Germany.

International German Alumni Summer School 2015 in Mongolia



From June 14th to 21st, 2015 the International German Alumni Summer School "Large Scale Natural Landscapes in Mongolia under the Pressure of Climate Change and Competition for Land and Resources" took place in Mongolia.

The main topics of the Summer School referred to the central Millennium Developing Goals (MDGs), such as environmental sustainability, global partnership in research and entrepreneurship and eradication of poverty in developing countries. This Summer School promoted the cooperation between German alumni from selected developing Asian countries (China, India, Nepal, Afghanistan and Iran) and German universities, thereby enhancing the capacity development of alumni for the promotion of the realisation of Millennium Developing Goals.

The event offered very relevant and complex topics relating to biodiversity loss, globalisation, climate change, international and local competition for land, and influence of the mining industry on the environment and socio-economic issues by means of professional education and training through an interdisciplinary approach. Additionally, new methods and technologies and their potential for landscape analysis were reviewed. As an outcome of breakout sessions, research proposals and adaptive measures were worked out. Finally the activities of the Summer School lead to the continuation of networking between the alumni and the German representatives and new interdisciplinary research platforms and projects were promoted.

The Summer School was organised by the Faculty of Geosciences and Geography (Prof. Dr. Martin Kappas) and the Faculty of Biology and Psychology (Dr. Jolanta Slowik) of the University of Göttingen together with Prof. Dr. R. Samija and Prof. Dr. Tsolmon Renchin from the National University of Mongolia within the frame of the DAAD Alumni Programme for Developing Countries. The entire programme and additional information can be found here: www.uni-goettingen.de/en/507103.html.

Great alumni interest in scientific communication and networking with Göttingen

The Centre of Biodiversity and Sustainable Land Use (Section Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture and Forestry) organised an alumni seminar on “Scientific Communication – (new) actors and challenges?” in mid-September in Göttingen. The seminar was financially supported by the DAAD.

Selected from 440 applicants, 12 female and 13 male DAAD alumni from 24 developing countries met for a multidisciplinary practice exchange in the field of sustainable land use management.

The discussion with the participants from research institutions, government departments, consulting services and NGOs showed that there are complex communication challenges from the local to the international level. One result was that the success of projects depends on an early identification of preferably all stakeholders and the active involvement of communication experts. After the workshop the group travelled together with alumni from Witzenhausen to the Tropentag 2015 in Berlin with more than 1,000 participants: www.uni-goettingen.de/en/513371.html.

International Researchers' Summer Garden Party

The first “International Researchers' Summer Garden Party” took place in the garden of the Historical Observatory as the crowning semester final on July 22nd, 2015.

The event which was organised by the Welcome Centre as part of the programme “Researchers Alumni Strategies”, funded by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, was well received by the invited international scientists. They enjoyed - along with their families - BBQ and relaxing music as well as the opportunity to interact across their areas of expertise and research. The great weather emphasised the wonderful atmosphere of the historic venue. The children did not miss entertainment as they had fun on the bouncy



castle and could transform into fairies, princesses or superheroes with face painting.

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