

GÖTTINGEN INTERNATIONAL

# Newsletter

International news and activities

## The University of Göttingen is a Founding Member of the New European University Network

On June 1st 2016, a group of world leading universities, i.a. the universities of Bologna, Glasgow, Göttingen, Groningen, Krakow (Jagiellonian), Oslo, Tübingen, Uppsala, and Warwick, met in Brussels to found the Guild of European Research Intensive Universities.

The Guild brings together universities that have demonstrable excellence in teaching, research and policy formation from across Europe to collaborate on the creation of innovative solutions for some of Europe's most intractable scientific and social challenges.

Rector of the University of Oslo and Chair of the Board of The Guild of European Research Intensive Universities, Prof. Ole Petter Ottersen, spoke for all members when he said: "The Guild represents a fresh approach to engagement and capacity building across Europe. We are excited by the prospect of engaging closely with the European Commission, European and national parliamentarians,



officials and others to secure outstanding strategic and practical outcomes that will benefit the myriad of communities in Europe."

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## Scholarships for Mexico

The Mexican government is funding mobility scholarships for international professors, scholars and university staff. Further information on the scholarships and their application processes can be found [here](#). Applications can be submitted online until September 15th 2016.

Further scholarships beginning in 2017 are available for consecutive professional studies, undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, as well as research stays for PhDs and Post-Docs. Specifications and further information can be found [here](#).

## Workshop with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

In the framework of the University of Göttingen's cooperation with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, there is a call for applications for funding a scientific workshop in 2017. The workshop should preferably take place in Göttingen and can start as early as January 1st of 2017. The call is open to all subjects.

The workshops are designed to intensify existing relations and are regarded as an opportunity to discuss proposals to potential third-party funding bodies.

The participants should, hence, consist of junior as well as senior scientists.

Informal applications (max. two pages) envisaging the workshop can be sent to Dr. Esther von Richthofen by the 15th July 2016.

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## Erasmus+ Teaching Mobility Call (Mobilities within Europe)

Lecturers who are interested in an Erasmus+ lecturer mobility at a European partner university can apply for a grant with immediate effect.

Your department should already hold a valid Erasmus+ InterInstitutional Agreement with the partner university you would like to visit. The teaching secondment should last for a minimum of two days (not including the days of travel) and a maximum of 5 – 15 days. It is compulsory to teach for eight hours for up to seven days during such secondments; for longer stays, the number of teaching hours increases proportionally.

Applications can be submitted with immediate effect up to October 15th 2016 for mobilities during the winter semester 2016/17. For all mobilities during the summer semester 2017, applications can be submitted with immediate effect up to February 15th 2017. Selections will be made continuously and are subject to remaining scholarship funds as well as on the condition that all documents submitted are complete.

Further information can be found at [www.uni-goettingen.de/en/517481.html](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/517481.html).

## Grants for Erasmus+ Staff Exchange (Mobilities within Europe)

From August 8th to September 30th 2016, technical and administrative staff can apply for an Erasmus+ staff mobility scholarship. The mobilities offer the chance to take part in organised staff training weeks or to visit one of our European partner universities (EU countries as well as Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway and Turkey) for a minimum of two to five working days in order to exchange best practices and develop one's professional skills.

An Erasmus+ staff mobility is also a great opportunity to exchange ideas on different topics with European colleagues, to learn from one another, to acquire additional intercultural experiences, to improve or develop one's language skills, and to actively take part in one of the university's international programmes.

For further information, please visit [www.uni-goettingen.de/en/540251.html](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/540251.html).

## Strengthening the Cooperation with Non-European Partners

In 2016, the University of Göttingen raised almost 640,000 Euros for 135 mobilities in the Erasmus+ Key Action 107 (mobility with partner countries).

From 2016 onwards, the EU will support the two-year project for special cooperation on faculty level with the following countries: Bhutan, Chile, China, Fiji, Georgia, Indonesia, Israel, India, Myanmar, the Philippines, Russia, Tanzania, Vietnam and South Africa.

The mobility of students (credit mobility) and the staff mobility for teaching will be supported within this programme. Further information can be found at: [www.uni-goettingen.de/en/541186.html](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/541186.html).

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## Integrated Plant and Animal Breeding - New Study Course at the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences

Highly specialised experts in the field of plant and animal breeding are sought after worldwide and have excellent career opportunities in both academia and industry. For students interested in breeding research on crops and livestock, the University of Göttingen offers the new specialisation "Integrated Plant and Animal Breeding" (iPAB). iPAB is scheduled to start in the winter semester 2016/17 and will initially be embedded in the Master programme for Agricultural Sciences.

The curriculum covers all relevant disciplines related to breeding such as quantitative and molecular genetics, biotechnology, selection theory and breeding informatics. Associated topics such as ecology and economics of breeding, seed marketing, and social and legal aspects of breeding research complete the curriculum.

Newly developed modules provide a profoundly interdisciplinary approach to teaching, thus bridging the gap between animal and plant breeding. The coursework is supplemented by external lecturers from leading international breeding companies, research institutions, and national authorities. The study program also comprises research-focused internships in the industry and public research institutes. This will bring students in direct contact with potential employers.

For further information, please refer to [www.uni-goettingen.de/en/533390.html](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/533390.html).

## First MOOC of the University of Göttingen

The first massive open online course (MOOC) of the University of Göttingen - "Politics of Culture in Contemporary Europe" - is about to be launched.

This course has been created as a result of the cooperation between the universities of Groningen, Göttingen, Uppsala and Krakow. It has been developed within the Erasmus Mundus Master programme "Euroculture – Society, Politics and Culture in Global Context" and is scheduled to launch in September 2016.

Participants of the course will have a chance to gain deep understanding of how struggles over the meaning of Europe have shaped European contemporary society and how they will shape Europe's future.

The course aims at helping students to understand and identify the complexities of the contemporary crises of European integration and supporting them in developing novel responses to these crises.

For more information, please refer to [www.futurelearn.com/courses/european-culture](http://www.futurelearn.com/courses/european-culture).

## Göttingen Alumna receives Arenberg-Coimbra Group Prize for Erasmus Students

The 2016 laureate of the Arenberg-Coimbra Group Prize for Erasmus Students is Ms. Ting-jung Chen from Taipei. Ms. Chen undertook her Erasmus Mundus Master programme "Euroculture" at the University of Göttingen and spent her 5-month Erasmus exchange at the University of Uppsala in the academic year 2013-2014.

The Executive Board highlighted that Ms. Ting-jung Chen's experience showed that the value of the Erasmus experience is particularly significant for non-European students allowing them to contribute to the dissemination of a culture of diversity, discussion and creativity.

The Arenberg-Prize is awarded annually to a Master degree candidate from a Coimbra Group University who has succeeded in demonstrating the added value of an Erasmus exchange with another Coimbra Group University to their Master degree work.



After Mr. Steven Otterman (2014), Ms. Ting-jung Chen is now the second Euroculture student to receive this price.

She received her certificate from the Duke of Arenberg on June 10th 2016 during the Coimbra Group Annual Conference which took place at the

University of Poitiers in France.

More information can be found at [www.coimbra-group.eu/activities/arenberg-prize](http://www.coimbra-group.eu/activities/arenberg-prize).

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## Göttingen Alumnus Nominated for the IMPACT Award 2016

University of Göttingen alumnus Jan-Peter Hansen was nominated for the IMPACT Award 2016 presented at the MoveON Conference on Thursday June 16th 2016 in Valencia, Spain.

The IMPACT Award was created by QS unisolution to honour students and institutions working hard to create international education experiences.

Jan-Peter Hansen received runners up award in the category "Best Student Mobility Experience" for his efforts to establish the IndiAlumni Network of the DAAD together with other alumni students. After his exchange semester at the Savitribai Phule Pune University, undertaken within the frames of the DAAD "A New Passage to India" scholarship programme, Jan-Peter finished his Bachelor degree at the Faculty of Economics at the University of Göttingen



with a focus on processes and actors of the Indian economy, therefore including his breadth of experience gained during his stay in India.

For more information, please refer to [www.qs-unisolution.com/winners-of-the-impact-award-2016-announced](http://www.qs-unisolution.com/winners-of-the-impact-award-2016-announced).

## University of Göttingen at the “Made in Germany” Fair in Mexico City

In 2016 and 2017, Germany and Mexico are holding a Year of Germany in Mexico and a Year of Mexico in Germany in order to deepen the knowledge of the cultural, economic, academic, scientific and technology sectors in the respective partner country.

From June 15th to June 19th 2016, the University of Göttingen participated in the fair “Made in Germany 2016: Technology, Science and Innovation”, which took place in Mexico City. Together with the DAAD, the University of Göttingen presented its academic profile and programmes to a wide audience.

During the five days of the fair, several thousand people came by the Göttingen booth: Göttingen Alumni, students with an acceptance letter from the University who will soon be coming to Göttingen, pupils from German schools as well as our partners from Mexican universities. Through the many conversations with the visitors, it was very clear how palpable the Göttingen Spirit, Göttingen scientific tradition and latest achievements across the ocean are.



Another highlight of the fair was the Science Tunnel created by the Max Planck Society, which addressed the megatrends of the 21st century guiding the visitor on a journey through the major issues of basic research, from the origins of space, the idiosyncrasies of the brain, to the vision of sustainable energy supplies. The [film](#) about the STED microscope invented by Stefan Hell was also part of the exposition.

## Development Economics Conference in Göttingen

Around 150 development economists from across the world met from June 23rd to June 24th 2016 for the international Development Economics Conference - Göttinger Schule in the Pauliner church in Göttingen, to discuss current relevant issues concerning developing countries and research on poverty.

The keynote lecture was held by Prof. Amartya Sen from Harvard University, who was awarded the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences in 1998. The conference was held to mark the 50th birthday of Prof. Stephan Klasen, PhD, Chair of Development Economics at the University of Göttingen Faculty of Economic Sciences.



## Europe as Guest in Göttingen

With a total number of 39 guests, the 10th International Erasmus+ Staff Training Week was not only a great success in terms of the considerable number of participants, but also in terms of the implementation and organisation of the event. 36 colleagues from 15 European countries applied to undertake staff training at our university. Applicants came from partner universities such as the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, the University of Oxford, the University of Warsaw, and the University of Turku.

In addition, two Erasmus Mundus Action 2 grantees from Thailand and China, as well as a colleague from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in India, took part in this training week. The training week enabled the exchange of best practices with colleagues from the Academic and Student Services Department, the Göttingen State and University Library, the IT Department, the Network of Secretaries and the International Office of the University of Göttingen.

## Annual Alumni Meeting in China

The annual meeting of the Association of Chinese Alumni of the University of Göttingen took place on May 21st 2016 in Nanjing.

The participation of University President Prof. Dr. Ulrike Beisiegel, who reported on news from the Göttingen Campus, turned this year's meeting into a particularly special event. With more than 110 participants, it was the hitherto largest alumni meeting of the University in China. Well-known speakers reported on current topics under the theme of "International Cooperation and Global Security". The animated discussions during the afternoon sessions as well as the lively conversations during the joint dinner contributed to a further intensification of the network among the Alumni as well as with the University of Göttingen.



More information can be found at [www.alumni-goettingen.de/termine/archiv/alumni-treffen-in-nanjing/](http://www.alumni-goettingen.de/termine/archiv/alumni-treffen-in-nanjing/).

## The Department of Business Administration Intensifies its Relations to China

From February 29th to March 4th 2016, an 18-member delegation from the Department of Business Administration of the University of Göttingen visited Tongji and Nanjing Universities in China.

The delegation also met representatives from German-Chinese joint ventures of Volkswagen and BASF, as well as the German Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai. The trip led to a deepening of the already positive relationship with Chinese universities and companies, as well as highlighting new opportunities for research collaboration and exchange programmes. A letter of intent was also later signed by the University of Nanjing, for the establishment of a double degree master's programme as well as an exchange of professors, post-docs, and PhD students.



## Nanjing University Honours German Chancellor with Honorary Doctorate

Nanjing University, long-time strategic partner of the University of Göttingen in China, has conferred an honorary doctorate on Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel on June 12th 2016.

The president of Nanjing University, Prof. Dr. Chen Jun, presented the certificate, in the presence of, among others, the Chinese Vice-Minister of Education, Prof. Dr. Hao Ping, and University of Göttingen President Prof. Dr. Ulrike Beisiegel.

After the handover of the certificate, Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel delivered a speech to more than 300 students and attending guests. The efforts of Dr. Angela Merkel towards the Chinese-German cooperation gave rise to the distinction by Nanjing University. As a result of these efforts, especially the economic, scientific and cultural exchange between the two countries has developed rapidly and successfully.

## Multiple Testing of Pathogens to Support the Elimination of Malaria in Nigeria

Starting in July 2016, the Division of Microbiology and Hygiene at the Department of Animal Sciences (Faculty of Agricultural Sciences) will develop a mobile laboratory to support the elimination of Malaria in Nigeria. The study will be performed in collaboration with the University of Ibadan, Nigeria and is funded by Alexander von Humboldt foundation for a period of two years.

The goal towards the eradication of Malaria requires the detection of cases with very low parasitemia. Samples collected from local hospitals or at the site of an outbreak have to be sent to laboratories over long distances for testing. In developing countries, the necessary equipment for diagnosis is only available in a few central laboratories, with low accessibility and of limited capacity to test the large numbers of incoming samples. Moreover, transport conditions of samples are inadequate and, therefore, lead to unreliable results.

Recently, a mobile suitcase laboratory was developed in Göttingen, Germany. It contains all reagents and equipment for the detection of the nucleic acids of pathogens. Moreover, it is operated by a solar power battery.

In this project, a mobile suitcase laboratory will be implemented in Nigeria, which will allow point of need diagnosis and rapid response to outbreaks without waiting until shipping the sample to the central laboratory.

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## EU-Japan FP7 GreenICN project successfully completed

After three years of intensive research, the EU-Japan FP7 collaborative research project "GreenICN - Architecture and Applications of Green Information Centric Networking" coordinated by the Computer Networks Group of the University of Göttingen successfully passed the final review in Tokyo, Japan, on May 25th 2016, with a grade of "Excellent". More information can be found at [www.greenicn.org](http://www.greenicn.org).

Currently, due to natural and man-made disasters, a large part of the network has become unusable. A highlight of the GreenICN project was the provision of solutions that enable future networks resilient to disasters. Moreover, GreenICN made a lot of progress on energy efficiency in order to increase the battery life of base-stations.

The new EU-Japan Horizon 2020 project "ICN2020 - Advancing ICN towards real-world deployment through research, innovative applications, and global scale experimentation", also coordinated by the Computer Networks Group, has recently been approved by the EU and NICT. It will officially start in July 2016 and will last for three years.

The aim of ICN2020 is to develop network solutions to support video delivery in scenarios that are relevant for large scale future events such as the Football World Cup and the Olympics. It will also develop solutions to improve the network efficiency in a future where almost everything will be connected to the Internet. More information can be found at [www.icn2020.org](http://www.icn2020.org).

## Successful midterm review of the CleanSky ITN

CleanSky ITN, an EU research network coordinated by the Computer Networks Group at the University of Göttingen, was evaluated positively by the EU during its midterm review. CleanSky ITN is an initial training network funded by the EU FP7 Marie-Curie Actions until August 2018. The consortium consists of 10 partners from both academic and industrial research and educates 12 young researchers

in the topic of "Networks for the cloud-computing ecosystem". The education comprises both research and skills training through summer schools and conferences organised by the project consortium. In the second half of the project the focus will be on the practical implementation of the developed systems and algorithms so far.

More information can be found at [www.cleansky-itn.org](http://www.cleansky-itn.org).

## U4 Peer Review Session on Governance

The fourth U4 Peer Review session on “Governance” was hosted by Uppsala University on June 16th and 17th 2016. The session brought together rectors, directors and student representatives of the U4 partner universities, who discussed various topics ranging from “Political Governance and Institutional Autonomy”, “Organisation and decision-making”, “Implementation of Student Influence” to “Funding Mechanisms”.

Apart from governance-related topics, the partners discussed several other challenges within the U4 network. Here, an emphasis lay on fostering interdisciplinary research and triggering innovation through research centres and graduate schools. The path to further innovation might also incorporate taking on additional high risk projects, including their unpredictable outcomes.

Intensification of the collaboration between academic and administrative staff was yet another topic. It included the recognition of the different roles of research and university management, as well as the importance of creating a more efficient work climate to improve the overall performance of research. Therefore, the implementation of joint best practice seminars and workshops was recommended by the participants of the peer review.

In order to create more student interest in summer schools, workshops, internships and exchange programmes, participants also discussed possibilities of optimising the U4 network’s information strategy.

This conference was part of a cycle of peer review sessions. It was preceded by meetings on “Funding and Allocation Models” (2014, Ghent), “HR and Gender Policy” (2014, Groningen), and “Research Infrastructures” (2015, Göttingen). The next U4 peer review session on “Sustainability” will take place in Ghent on September 15th and 16th 2016.

The peer review sessions have been created to offer a framework for peer learning and knowledge exchange, as well as self-evaluation, regarding policy processes and performance. All sessions are based on the input and contributions by in-house experts of the partner universities.



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## Imprint

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