

# GÖTTINGEN INTERNATIONAL Newsletter

01  
2012

NEWS AND ACTIVITIES FROM THE INTERNATIONAL REAL

## Editorial

Dear Readers,

The year 2011 was not only marked by the application for the excellence initiative, there were also many new developments and projects at the University of Göttingen and its partners within and outside Göttingen. Numerous activities, changes and successful fundraising for international projects sometimes caused stress and shortages. This was also the case in the International Office of the University.

In 2012, we will intensify communication and collaboration with the faculties and non-university institutions on-site in order to be able to use all potential and synergies optimally in the future. For this, we wish to develop new strategies and to establish new processes together. We are well on track to meet the challenges.

In 2012 we start not only with good resolutions, but also with a new structure: the International Student Services team is now a part of the International Office, which pleases us greatly.

In the upcoming summer all the employees of the International Office will be brought to von-Siebold-Straße 2. Finally, there will be service for international matters not only from the same hand, but also under one roof!



Dr. Paul Winkler, Prof. Dr. Sarah Köster, Dr. Uwe Muuss representing the University of Göttingen at the European Career Fair 2012 in Boston

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Not all vacancies have been filled yet, and there are still a few items to be improved in the staff units, which are still distributed amongst three locations.

As an example of the improvements that have already taken place, we can mention that the Welcome Centre has extended its service offer to the international students area and institutions which are not affiliated to the university.

Starting from summer 2012, representatives of the city for residency and visas' matter will be present regularly in the International Office to advise students and academics, together with the employees of the International Student Services and of the Welcome Centre.

From now on, the Göttingen International Newsletter will inform on current developments, announcements and highlights more regularly than in the past.

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and we would welcome your suggestions for further improvements!

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## Erasmus Mundus Action 2 Scholarships

Georg-August-Universität Göttingen is involved in 25 Erasmus Mundus Action 2 (EMA2) partnerships projects, which enable academic mobility and exchange between the higher education institutions in the EU and third countries. A number of scholarships for students (undergraduate, Master, PhD levels), researches (including PostDoc) and staff are available in 2012 for Göttingen.

15.03.2012 is the deadline for applications for the Central Asian and Caucasian regions; 01.04.2012 – for Argentina, 24.04.2012 – for Egypt and Lebanon. Please refer to the web pages of the specific projects for more information about available number of scholarships, relevant fields of studies and partner universities involved:

Central Asia (MARCO XXI): [www.marcoxxi.eu](http://www.marcoxxi.eu)

caucasus (ALRAKIS): [www.alrakis.eu](http://www.alrakis.eu)

Argentina (EUROPLATA): [www.europlata.eu](http://www.europlata.eu)

Egypt- Lebanon (MEDASTAR): [www.medastar.eu](http://www.medastar.eu)

You will find more information about all the EMA2 projects, where Georg-August-Universität Göttingen is involved on the following webpage: [www.uni-goettingen.de/en/311785.html](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/311785.html).

For further questions don't hesitate to contact

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## Scholarships for Chinese PhD and Postdocs

The DAAD offers scholarships for Chinese PhD students and Postdocs, who are willing to undertake research in Germany. Most of the scholarships are for long-term stays.

A core programme here is research scholarships offered in the model known as a "Sandwich-Scholarship", as well as a scholarship for a full doctorate in Germany.

The 31st of March is the deadline for Chinese students to apply, at the DAAD in Peking, for a partial or full doctorate scholarship in Germany.

You can find more information at [www.daad.org.cn/stipendien-angebote-fur-chinesen](http://www.daad.org.cn/stipendien-angebote-fur-chinesen)

## BACHELOR PLUS Programme

The DAAD announces a support programme funded by the BMBF for the establishment of 4-year bachelor courses of study in which students spend a year abroad, acquiring a special interdisciplinary and/or career-enabling qualification, without this causing an extension of the study period.

The programme is directed towards German institutions of higher education which intend to

develop a new 4-year bachelor course with an integrated year abroad, or which intend to modify an already existing shorter course into a 4-year bachelor course with an integrated year abroad.

All state and state-accredited German institutes of higher education and their faculties/departments/institutes qualify to apply.

For more information please refer to [www.daad.de/hochschulen/internationalisierung/bachelor-plus/11540.de.html](http://www.daad.de/hochschulen/internationalisierung/bachelor-plus/11540.de.html)

## Tender for German-French Research Projects

Since 2007, the united agreement of French Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR) and Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) for scientific collaboration in humane disciplines and social sciences facilitates integrated German-French research projects.

In 2012, this promotion programme is put out for tender for the sixth time.

Grant applications can be submitted from January 17 – April 17, 2012 at DFG or ANR.

For more information, please visit [www.dfg.de/foerderung/info\\_wissenschaft/info\\_wissenschaft\\_12\\_04/index.html](http://www.dfg.de/foerderung/info_wissenschaft/info_wissenschaft_12_04/index.html)

## LLP ERASMUS - Staff Mobility

Since 2007/08, administrative university personnel can move within the ERASMUS area. The possibility of exchanging experiences with colleagues from other European universities, e.g. about examples of best practice, and of informing each other about administrative procedures, is a very good opportunity to look beyond the boundaries of one's own university.

In the past four years, around 39 employees of the University of Göttingen visited European partner institutions. After such mobility there is usually added value for one's own workplace and highly positive motivation.

The Göttingen International Staff Unit itself arranged five "Staff Training Weeks" in the last 3 years and looked after more than 35 colleagues from 14 different European countries.

The hosts were, among others, the International Office, the International Student Services Office, the Department for Academic Programme Development and Quality Management, the IT Department, the Press, Communications and Marketing Department, and many others.

This year the Göttingen Staff Training Week will take place in the week from the 7th to the 11th of May. The first partner institutions have already registered.

Employees who are interested (outgoing applications) and organisations (hosts) can contact Karen Denecke at the International Office.

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Web: [www.uni-goettingen.de/erasmus](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/erasmus) (Personalmobilität)

## Annual Meeting of the German Economics Association

On September 9-12, 2012, the German Economics Association (Verein für Socialpolitik, VfS) will hold its annual meeting in Göttingen. The VfS is the largest association of German-speaking researchers in the field of economic and social sciences. We expect some 800 or more economists, predominantly from the German-speaking countries (plus a substantial share of other scholars from Europe and the US). These participants will be association members, young scientist, representatives from media as well as regional and national notables. The annual congress of the VfS consists of two parts, one with invited papers and one with contributed papers. The invited papers, lectured by renowned experts of the field, deal with a highly relevant topic, the analysis and implications of the labor market, subsumed under the title: "New paths and challenges for the labor market of the 21st century".

In the second part about young 400 scientists have the opportunity to present their current work to a large audience addressing a wide range of problems from all fields of economics.

The deadline for submitting papers is March 1, 2012.



For more information visit the congress website [www.socialpolitik.uni-goettingen.de](http://www.socialpolitik.uni-goettingen.de)

## International Summer School „The City and the Village: Separations, Linkages and Conflicts Over Social Space in Modern India“

In July 2012, CeMIS will organize an international Summer School in Göttingen. Experts on South Asia will direct the weeklong event.

The Summer school proposes to interrogate the ways city and countryside have been both linked and separated by economic processes, political decisions and struggles, and ideological projects.

The deadline for applications from PhD students working on modern South Asian societies is February 24, 2012.

For more information about the Summer School and selection criteria, please visit [www.uni-goettingen.de/de/131932.html](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/131932.html)

## European Mathematical Genetics Meeting

EMGM 2012 will be hosted by the DFG research training group (GRK 1644) "Scaling Problems in Statistics". This annual meeting provides an informal and inviting atmosphere to exchange ideas on the use

of mathematical techniques in the field of genetics.

A research symposium on the genetics of psychosis will be held on 11 April 2012, the day prior to the meeting.

For more information refer to [www.genepi.med.uni-goettingen.de/emgm2012\\_en.html](http://www.genepi.med.uni-goettingen.de/emgm2012_en.html)

## Implementation of a Guest Lecturer Scheme

The University of Göttingen has successfully implemented a guest lecturer scheme with the objective of recruiting and retaining outstanding international scientists. Fourteen internationally renowned scientists have accepted the university's invitation to join our staff at the Göttingen Research Campus for the duration of up to six months, between October 2011 and September 2012.

They provide new input for research and teach specialized courses in Forestry, Economics, Physics, Biology, Mathematics, Literary Studies, and Law, thus enhancing the research-oriented teaching at our University.

You will find more information at [www.uni-goettingen.de/de/projekt/210998.html](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/projekt/210998.html)



## Launch of New DFG-funded Research Training Group „GlobalFood”

In May 2011, the Research Training Group GlobalFood (“Transformation of Global Agri-Food Systems: Trends, Driving Forces and Implications for Developing Countries”) was inaugurated with an Opening Symposium. Over 80 international researchers participated in this inauguration. GlobalFood is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and brings together researchers from the Faculties of Agricultural Sciences and Economics. The GlobalFood Program aims to analyze the transformation of agricultural and food markets in the globalization process and the

resulting effects on market structure, competitiveness, and poverty in developing countries.

Sixteen highly motivated doctoral researchers from Europe, Asia, and Africa and one postdoctoral researcher from Sweden are now pursuing relevant research questions as part of GlobalFood in Göttingen. All research and training activities are implemented in close cooperation with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI, Washington, USA).

For further information please see [www.uni-goettingen.de/globalfood](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/globalfood)

## NEURASMUS - new Erasmus Mundus Master Programme at the University of Göttingen

A new European Master Neuroscience programme ‘NEURASMUS’ was founded with the aim to extend exchange and training opportunities for MSc students.

NEURASMUS is a 2-year full-time study programme taught in English, with a strong emphasis on training in cutting edge techniques in all major topics of brain research, from molecules to cognition.

The programme is offered by five European Institutions (Bordeaux/coordination, Amsterdam, Berlin, Coimbra, Göttingen) and 1 external partner (Laval University in Quebec, Canada).

Very attractive scholarships are offered on a competitive basis to European and non-European students.

You will find more information at [www.enc-network.eu/joint-master-degree/neurasmus](http://www.enc-network.eu/joint-master-degree/neurasmus)

## Days of Japan at the University of Göttingen

From November 2-4, Days of Japan titled "Japan: Research, Studies and Economy" took place at the University of Göttingen. Japan was introduced as center of higher education, business partner and cultural nation.

The programme of first day titled "Japan and the Economy" was opened by His Excellency, Ambassador of Japan and alumnus of the University of Göttingen, Dr. Takahiro Shin'yo with his speech about the perspectives of the German-Japanese business cooperations.



For more information please refer to [www.uni-goettingen.de/de/303917.html](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/303917.html)

Folker Streib, former General manager of Commerzbank in Japan, former supervisory board member of Otto Bock HealthCare and alumnus of the University of Göttingen, delivered a lecture titled "Japan – Germany: Similarities and Differences", in which he explained the peculiar models of German-Japanese business cooperations.

The demonstration of "Tengo Daiko", traditional Japanese drum music, finalized the first part of the day. The performance would not be possible without kind support of the Sparkasse Göttingen.

At night, the students and other invited guests had the honor to witness the world-famous Butho dancer Tadashi Endo and a Martial Arts Group from Göttingen at the old cinema hall of the University.

During the following days, Japan was presented as study and business location. Various cultural events took place and in addition, Japanese specialties were offered through the Göttingen Studentenwerk in the Mensa am Turm as part of the programme.

## Meeting of Göttingen Alumni in China

On September 25, 2011, the University of Göttingen along with its Liaison Office in China hosted the annual meeting of Göttingen alumni in China. This time the Fudan University hosted the meeting. On September 26, 2011, a new partnership contract was sealed between the presidents of the two universities.

Around 70 alumni accepted the invitation of the president of the University of Göttingen to attend the meeting, which was kindly supported by the DAAD. The meeting offered a number of workshops, a plenary assembly with the president and discussions regarding current and future alumni activities. A barbeque with German specialties and German beer finalized the evening.

Two lectures that were offered as part of the event raised special interest in the public. So, Prof. Ulrike Beisiegel introduced changes and innovations that

are to take place in Göttingen within the frames of the the Excellence Initiative. Prof. Liu Zhiguo talked about the successful formation of the alumni society in China and invited all dedicated alumni to join the club.

After this fantastic day, we unanimously say: We are looking forward to next year's meeting!



You will find more information at [www.uni-goettingen.de/china](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/china) und [www.uni-goettingen.de/alumni](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/alumni)

## Intensive Programme “Relations Between the EU and the Emerging Global Players”

From August 25-26, 2011, the Summer School „Relations Between the EU and the Emerging Global Players” took place at the Faculty of Economics for the second time. As an „ERASMUS Intensive Programme” it is financed by the European Union. 45 Students and 10 professors from 12 European partner universities met for two weeks in Göttingen to analyse the economic and political relations between the European Union and selected emerging global players. The Summer School directed special attention to the relations with the emerging economic and commercial powers India and China.

Apart from scientific presentations and discussions with the professors from the participating universities students presented their own papers written in advance of the Summer School. Furthermore, working in internationally mixed teams students learned to research and outline current topics in a limited amount of time. On top of this specific experiences with Chinese and Indian partners were discussed with political and business representatives. Side visits to regional companies with locations in China and India enriched the programme.

For further details please refer to the homepage: <http://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/307815.html>



## Intensive Programme “Europe: Space for Transcultural Existence?”

The international Erasmus Mundus Programme Euroculture convened more than 100 students of its twelve partner universities and 50 speakers from 30 countries in Göttingen.

In dealing with the question of „Europe: Space for Transcultural Existence?” they took their debates beyond lecture halls, the Aula, up to the Paulinerkirche, the Old City Hall and places like the transit-camp Friedland, the former German-German border Teistungen and the memorial in Moringen.

At the forefront of the attention was the much-debated European integration, which the participants discussed with some of the leading policy-makers such as Jürgen Trittin, Christian Schwarz-Schilling, Markus Meckel or Viola von Cramon.

Of major importance for the students was also the Career Day, during which representatives from the private as well as the cultural sector outlined possible career paths for the time after graduation. All in all truly intensive and enriching twelve days!

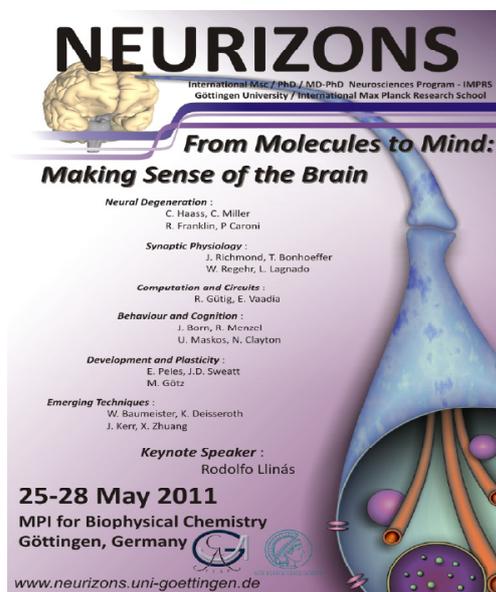
Euroculture at the University of Göttingen: [www.uni-goettingen.de/euroculture](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/euroculture)

## Conference „From Molecules to Mind: Making Sense of the Brain“

From May 25 - 28, 2011, the interdisciplinary Neurizons Conference took place at the Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry in Göttingen. Titled “From Molecules to Mind – Making sense of the Brain”, the conference was organized by students of the IMPRS Neuroscience program and brought together neuroscientists from a wide range of disciplines. This was the fourth in a series of biennial conferences organized solely by the students of the program.

With a new record number of more than 250 registered participants from all over the world and 22 invited speakers, Neurizons 2011 provided exciting opportunities for direct communication of young and more advanced scientists from many different institutions and nationalities in the interdisciplinary field of neuroscience. For the first time, Neurizons offered “NeuroNetwork” meetings, in which scientists provided insights into their personal biography, career planning and daily work to small groups of PhD students.

All in all, the event not only helped create connections between young neuroscientists and established researchers in the field, but also served up a dose of inspiration to the neuroscience community in Göttingen. We look forward to an equally successful Neurizons 2013!



You will find more information at [www.neurizons.uni-goettingen.de](http://www.neurizons.uni-goettingen.de)

## Göttingen Institute for Astrophysics coordinates FP7 space weather project “AFFECTS”

Severe solar storms can disrupt the smooth operation of technological systems on earth, or even cause them to fail completely. Electric power outages of longer duration or disruptions of satellite navigation and communication are particularly critical in this context. Until 2014, an international team of scientists are consequently aiming to develop a prototype for a European space weather early warning system. Under the direction of the Göttingen astrophysicist Dr. Volker Bothmer, institutions and enterprises in Germany, Belgium, Norway, the Ukraine and the USA are collaborating.

For more information about the project please refer to [www.affects-fp7.eu](http://www.affects-fp7.eu)

The European Union is granting almost two million Euros in support of the project, whereas the entire project funding amounts to more than 2.5 million Euros for the duration of three years (project started in March 2011).

The administrative project management will be carried out by the EU Office at the University of Göttingen in cooperation with the project coordinator.



## Women's Careers and Networks Symposium

The first Women's Careers and Networks Symposium took place on November 3, 2011 at the Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry. The symposium was organized by PhD students of the Göttingen Graduate School for Neurosciences, Biophysics, and Molecular Biosciences (GGNB). Young scientists were invited to attend lectures by ten successful women from different career fields such as research, industry, journalism and consulting.

The symposium was opened by Prof. Ulrike Beisiegel, followed by short speech by Mary Osborn (professor at MPI-BPC) regarding the situation of women in today's economy. Elisabeth Knust, director at MPI-CBG in Dresden and DFG vice-president, highlighted the career steps scientists take to become academic researchers.

For more information on the program and the speakers, please visit [www.wocanet.uni-goettingen.de](http://www.wocanet.uni-goettingen.de)

Not unexpectedly, one focus of the symposium was on combining a successful career in science and having a family. Anna-Maria Dittrich, Junior Group Leader at Hannover Medical School, delivered valuable insight into her life where she successfully balances exciting research and a strong commitment to her family and children. It became obvious that the alliance of science and family is not easy but can be achieved if both partners are actively working on it.

The diverse agenda of the symposium gave insight into different life and career concepts and opened the minds of many young scientists.

## Ceremonial Reception at Accouchierhaus

On December 9, 2011 the University of Göttingen welcomed its foreign scientists and their families with an official reception.

The annual event is growing in popularity: this year the Welcome Centre of the University greeted more than 200 people. The program included various Christmas market stalls in the patio of the historic Accouchierhaus and a brass ensemble. For the more than 60 children among the guests, activities such as baking bread on a stick, a makeup station and the visit of Santa Claus were part of the program.

University President Prof. Dr. Ulrike Beisiegel, welcomed the guests in the foyer of the Accouchierhaus. More words of welcome were offered by Prof. Dr. Hiltraud Casper-Hehne, Vice President for Research and International Affairs at the University, and Wilhelm Gerhardy, mayor of the city of Göttingen.



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### IMPRESSUM

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