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1. Opening of the German Science Center in Cairo

With close involvement of Freie Universität Berlin, the new German Science Center (DWZ) was opened in November 2012 in Cairo by the German Federal Foreign Minister Dr. Guido Westerwelle. The establishment of the DWZ was initiated by the German Federal Foreign Office and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). The president of Freie Universität Berlin, Prof. Dr. Peter-André Alt, the president of DAAD, Prof. Dr. Margret Wintermantel and top representatives from other German institutions attended the opening ceremony. The new science center was set up so that German educational and academic institutions and universities can join forces to intensify their contacts with Egyptian researchers and the business community. It focuses on themes of natural, environmental, and social sciences. Other partners include TU Berlin, TU Munich, Philipps-Universität Marburg, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the Orient Institute Beirut, the Fraunhofer Society, and the German Central Agency for Schools Abroad. On the occasion of its opening, the DWZ opened its doors to the public: About 1000 Egyptians attended the German Science Day with numerous events, among others organized by Freie Universität Berlin.

[Read more and view the photo gallery ->](#)

[Visit the Website of DWZ ->](#)

[View the film of the Opening Ceremony on Youtube ->](#)

2. Workshop on Equal Opportunities in Higher Education

On 1-2 December Freie Universität Berlin organized in cooperation with the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education a workshop on “Equal opportunities in higher education: Egypt and Germany in comparative perspective”. The workshop was part of the project “Gender Equality in the Egyptian Higher Education System”. For two days, representatives of the four partner universities Alexandria, Cairo, Sohag and South Valley and other Egyptian universities, the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education, and Freie Universität Berlin discussed different strategies and policies to enhance equal opportunities in higher education and to support work-life balance at the university. In the context of the workshop, Freie Universität Berlin Cairo Office organized a CTTC panel discussion on [“Transforming gender relations - challenges for theory and society”](#) in cooperation with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the Orient Institute Beirut.

[Detailed information about the workshop->](#)

[Website of the project ->](#)

3. Second Science Slam in Cairo

Following the success of the “First Berlin Science Slam in Cairo”, organized by Freie Universität Berlin in cooperation with TU Berlin, the German Science Centre Cairo (DWZ) organized an international Science Slam on 2 December 2012 in Cairo on the occasion of the European-Egyptian Year of Science. Young scientists from Egypt, Germany and other member states of the European Union who currently conduct their research at German universities – among them at the Berlin Mathematical School – presented their research topics to the audience in a creative and entertaining way. [More Information ->](#)

4. Cairo Talks on Transformation and Change (CTTC)

In autumn 2012 the Liaison Office of Freie Universität Berlin in cooperation with the Cairo Offices of DAAD and Orient Institute Beirut continued its series of debate on Egypt’s ongoing transformation process. On 2 October, Prof. Dr. Gudrun Krämer, Director of the Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Society discussed with the German-Iranian writer and Orientalist Dr. Navid Kermani on: “From Rebellion to Reform: New Perspectives on Democracy”. On the occasion of the German Science Day Prof. Dr. Ezzedine Choukri Fishere (AUC) and Prof. Dr. Lora Anne Viola (John-F.-Kennedy Institute, FU Berlin) explored the implications of America’s presidential elections for Egypt and Europe. The third talk took place in the context of a workshop on gender relations (see above). To view the [program of CTTC please click here ->](#)

5. [Humanities at Freie Universität Berlin at Rank 25 Worldwide](#)

According to this year's university rankings by the prestigious journal Times Higher Education ([THE](#)), Freie Universität Berlin continues to place among the world's best universities in the humanities. As announced by THE in London, Freie Universität's position in the international comparison improved by four positions since last year to place 25, and Freie Universität Berlin became not only the best German university but also the highest ranked university in continental Europe in this category. For the institution as a whole, the 2012 THE University Rankings put Freie Universität Berlin at position 128 worldwide. That is 23 positions higher than in last year's rankings (2011: place 151). In the notable [QS Rankings](#) (2012), Freie Universität Berlin was again among the world's top 100 universities.

6. FU Berlin one of the Winners of Research Alumni Competition

Freie Universität Berlin, the University of Cologne and TU München are the winners of the second round of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's ideas competition "Research Alumni of universities in Germany". 14 submissions were received; those selected contained exemplary concepts for particularly active, sustainable cooperation between the university and its research alumni abroad. Freie Universität Berlin is incorporating its work with research alumni into its existing initiative "International Network University" which aims to recruit outstanding junior researchers. To view the different possibilities for research alumni (former doctoral candidates, postdocs and established researchers) at Freie Universität [please click here ->](#)

7. Call for Contributions: Conference "Arab Revolutions and Beyond: Change and Persistence"

In the framework of the DAAD Project "Challenges and Transformations in the Wake of the Arab Spring", jointly directed by Prof Dr. Cilja Harders (FU Berlin) and Prof. Dr. Ola el-Khawaga (Cairo University), a Young Researchers Conference is to be held in Cairo from 19 - 21 October 2013. This interdisciplinary conference assesses changes and continuities in the field of economic, political and institutional developments as well as in the cultural and knowledge-production dimension, which have taken place in the course of the two years since the 2011 upheavals. The organizers call on PhD students, Post-Docs and senior researchers, specifically those based in the Arab region, to **submit their abstracts by 25 January 2013** to the following address: cairoconf@ymail.com. [See the Call ->](#)

[8. Apply now for the new Erasmus Mundus Consortium EU-METALIC!](#)

The EU-Morocco, Egypt, Tunisia, Algerian, Libya in International Cooperation (EU-METALIC) aims to promote European higher education, to help improve and enhance the career prospects of students, and to promote intercultural understanding through cooperation with third countries. The EU-METALIC Programme offers scholarships for undergraduate, master, doctoral and post-doctoral students and

staff. For full details on the project, please visit: <http://www.eu-metallic.eu>

9. Current Calls of Dahlem Research School Programs

As the Center for Junior Researchers, [Dahlem Research School \(DRS\)](#) has established an overarching framework for structured graduate education at Freie Universität. It ensures the academic quality and integrity of its structured doctoral programs and provides comprehensive training to its doctoral and postdoctoral researchers at every stage of their graduate careers. DRS welcomes applications for the following calls:

- Graduate School of North American Studies

The Graduate School provides closely supervised doctoral and postdoctoral education as well as excellent theoretical and methodological research training within the fields of Cultural and Literary Studies, History, Political Science, Sociology, and Economics, while at the same time promoting interdisciplinary approaches and perspectives in North American Studies. The application deadline for doctoral candidates is **31 January each year**. Further information including the application documents can be obtained [here->](#)

- International Max Planck Research School for Computational Biology and Scientific Computing

The International Max Planck Research School for Computational Biology and Scientific Computing ([IMPRS-CBSC](#)) is a joint graduate program of the Freie Universität Berlin and the Max Planck Institute for Molecular Genetics (MPIMG). The research focus of the IMPRS-CBSC is on the mathematical and computational side of research in sequence analysis, theoretical structural biology, computational chemistry and drug design, molecular evolution, genome analysis and data analysis methods in functional genomics. The application deadline is **24 February 2013**. Further information can be obtained [here->](#)

- Berlin Mathematical School

The Berlin Mathematical School ([BMS](#)) is a joint graduate school of the mathematics departments of the three major Berlin universities, TU Berlin, FU Berlin, and HU Berlin. It combines the broad expertise in mathematics at the three universities into an excellent environment for graduate studies. Applications for studies at the BMS will be accepted from 15 September 2012 until **15 May 2013**. The deadline for applications with BMS scholarships closed on 15 December 2012. After that the allocation of funding is subject to availability. Detailed application guidelines can be found [here->](#)

- Berlin Graduate School for Transnational Studies

The Berlin Graduate School for Transnational Studies ([BTS](#)) is a cooperative project of Freie Universität Berlin, the Hertie School

of Governance, and the Social Science Research Center Berlin. BTS offers young researchers the unique opportunity to collaborate with an exceptional group of scholars from three diverse and renowned institutions in the field of transnational and international relations. The final deadline for complete applications is **1 February 2013**. [See the Call for Applications ->](#)

10. Call for Proposals: Scientific-technological cooperation with Tunisia (BMBF)

This CfP aims to strengthen the bilateral scientific cooperation between German and Tunisian institutions. It supports joint German Tunisian projects in applied research and fact finding measures for the establishment of research partnerships. Moreover it supports the preparation of proposals for calls of the European Union's research framework. The Call is open for German research institutions, universities and companies. The funding may amount to up to 200.000 Euros for applied research projects. Deadline for project outlines is **15 February**. [The text of the call in German can be viewed here ->](#)

11. Subscribe now to our International Newsletter

In addition to the News of Cairo Office, Freie Universität Berlin also offers an international newsletter in English which makes it easy to stay informed about the university, its new teaching programs and research activities. [Subscribe now to the International Newsletter ->](#)