

News of Freie Universität Berlin Cairo Office, 18/9/2011

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1. Arabic Summer Course at Ain Shams University

In September the Liaison Office organizes an Arabic language summer course at the *Center for Excellency in Arabic and German as foreign Languages* (EZ DAAF) at Ain Shams University in cooperation with the Cairo Office of the Center for Near and Middle Eastern Studies at Marburg University. 18 Bachelor and Master Students from Berlin and Marburg attend the one-month intensive course in order to deepen their knowledge of Modern Standard Arabic and to get an introduction into Egyptian Colloquial Arabic. The course combines language training with a cultural program that concentrates this year on Egypt's political development since the 25th of January revolution. Several students benefit from a DAAD Promos grant from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

2. Cairo Talks on Transformation and Change (CTTC)

On 14th September the fourth edition of the Cairo Talks on Transformation and Change (CTTC) took place at DAAD Cairo Office. Prof. Cilja Harders (Freie Universität Berlin) and Prof. Hania Sholkamy (American University in Cairo) discussed the role of women in Egyptian politics during and after the revolution. Prof. Sholkamy underlined the importance of women activism in the run up to the revolution and underlined the importance of "liminal moments" during the revolution when distinctions between women of different class and different political backgrounds were temporarily suspended. Prof. Harders described gender equality as a central question for political change and democratic development. Drawing on international experiences she also warned that gender regimes are as difficult to change as political regimes. With over 100 attendees CTTC has established itself as an important event in Cairo's current public debate. After the two presentations the participants continued the debate on Egypt's political future in the DAAD's garden until late in the evening. The previous three CTTCs addressed the constitutional

amendments, the role of the military and the upcoming parliamentary elections. CTTC is jointly organized by the Cairo liaison offices of FU Berlin, DAAD and Orient Institut Beirut. It is open to students, scholars, activists, decision-makers and the interested public.

[View the program->](#)

3. Direct exchange program with the American University in Cairo

This autumn semester, five students in Economics, Islamic and Political Science take part in a direct exchange program between the American University in Cairo and Freie Universität Berlin. The direct exchange enables Bachelor and Master Students from both universities to pursue one or two semesters at the other university through direct access and without paying tuition fees at the host institution. FU and AUC also cooperate in research as for example through jointly organized summer schools and a symposium "From Revolution to Transformation: Egypt 2011, Germany 1989", held in May in Cairo. AUC offers a liberal arts education in a broad range of disciplines and counts among the most prestigious addresses in the MENA region.

[AUC website->](#)

4. Planning Research for the Future? Freie Universität Berlin is Holding an International Conference on Research Planning: October 13 to 15, 2011

Can research be planned? Is it advantageous to do so, when scientific breakthroughs such as the theory of relativity by Albert Einstein do not appear to result from planning? Freie Universität Berlin, in cooperation with the *Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft*, is hosting an international conference from October 13 to 15, 2011, that aims to take a closer look at the rationale for as well as possibilities and limits of research planning. Experts from the United States, Brazil, India, China, Singapore, and Germany will explain their different viewpoints in brief presentations and discussions. The presenters include one of President Barack Obama's advisers on research policy, Professor Arthur Bienenstock from Stanford University, and the director of the Planning Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Professor Rongping Mu. The conference "Planning Research for the Future?" is being held under the patronage of Professor Dr. Jürgen Zöllner, Berlin Senator for Education, Science, and Research. The conference language is English. Registrations are being accepted through September 30, 2011.

[Further Information and Registration->](#)

5. Scholarships for PhD Candidates at the Berlin Mathematical School

The Berlin Mathematical School (BMS) is a joint Graduate School of the mathematical departments of the three major Berlin universities, FU Berlin, HU Berlin and TU Berlin. It offers a fast track PhD program in the rapidly developing scientific landscape of Berlin presenting an exciting variety of possibilities both for mathematical research and graduate education. As a BMS

student, you will join a diverse community of fellow graduate students coming from over 30 countries around the world of which 30% are women. Prospective students can apply for the program from 1 September 2011 to 31 May 2012. The application deadline for scholarships is 31 December 2011. Students entering Phase I of the BMS are expected to have a bachelor degree, Vordiplom, or equivalent. For entering Phase II, students are expected to have a master or Diplom degree, or to pass the BMS Qualifying Exams. [See the CfA on BMS website->](#)

6. Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation provides special scholarships for Students from Arabic countries

Since early 2011 popular protest has affected many authoritarian governed States in the Middle East and North Africa. More democracy and better living conditions are the central demands of the protesters. Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation likes to sustain this positive development in the region and provides additional scholarship to students coming from the respective countries. Only Master programs are eligible. Application deadline is 1 November 2011. For further information please refer to: <http://www.fes.de/studienfoerderung/bewerbung> (in German)

7. New Scholarship Program of Heinrich-Böll-Foundation for Egyptian and Tunisian Students

The Heinrich Böll Foundation actively supports the democracy movements in Tunisia and Egypt. In a newly developed special program, the scholarship department of the Foundation is offering, with the kind support of the Federal Foreign Office, scholarships to Tunisian and Egyptian students who want to study in Germany. The International Scholarship Program for Tunisian and Egyptian Students wants to give future leaders from Tunisia and Egypt the opportunity to get to know the German academic system and to actively engage themselves with the working areas of the Heinrich Böll Foundation (e.g. democracy and human rights, ecology/climate policy, international cooperation, gender, education policy...). Within the framework of our seminar program, scholarship holders have an opportunity to network with other students from Germany and all over the world as well as with experts from the Foundation. The next application deadline is 1 March 2012. For further information:

<http://www.boell.de/scholarships/apply/application-12414.html>

8. Application deadlines for German Egyptian scholarships and DAAD grants

- The German Egyptian Research Long-term Scholarship (GERLS) is an up to three years scholarship for Egyptian doctoral students willing to pursue their doctorate at a German university. Application deadline: The call has been postponed.

[GERLS homepage->](#)

- The German Egyptian Research Short-term Scholarship (GERSS) is a up to six months scholarship for Egyptian Master and Doctoral or Postdoctoral candidates intended for a research stay at a German university: Application deadline: 15 October 2011.

[Call for Applications->](#)

- The Scientist Exchange Program (WAP) provides financial support for an up to three months research and/or working stay of an Egyptian PhD holder at a German university. Travel costs are paid by the Egyptian university. Application deadline is 31 October.

[Call for Applications->](#)

- Re-Invitation (WE): Former DAAD scholarship holders can apply for a re-invitation for an up to three months research and/or working stay at their former host university: Application deadline 31 October.

[Call for Application->](#)