

News of Freie Universität Berlin Cairo Office, 7/3/2012

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1. Arabic summer courses in Cairo. Apply now!

The Center for Excellence in Studies and Research in German and Arabic as Foreign Languages of Ain Shams University (EZ-DAAF) offers Arabic summer courses for German students in September 2012. The courses are open to students of all disciplines and are adapted to the needs of those students who would like to get a good introduction into Egyptian Colloquial Arabic and improve their knowledge of Modern Standard Arabic. The Liaison Office of Freie Universität coordinates the application process. Application deadline is April 30, 2012. [For further information and the application form see out homepage ->](#)

2. Lecture on „In Search of Europe“ on 21 March, 7 pm at the DAAD premises

As part of our jointly organized lecture series “Studies on Egypt and the Middle East in Berlin”, three scientists of the Berlin based Zentrum Moderner Orient will present their research and art project “In Search of Europe: Considering the Possible in Africa and the Middle East” on Wednesday 21 March 7 pm at the DAAD premises. The question the project poses is not about perceptions of Europe, but about the search for a better future in an unequal world where some parts of the world set the standards which others have to reckon with. [Read more->](#)

3. DIES Conference on Joint Degrees in Cairo

On 28 and 29 January the Arab Network for Quality Assurance and the German Academic Exchange Service held a joint DIES seminar on "Joint Degrees: A Catalyst or a Challenge for Quality Assurance?". Matthias Kuder head of Freie Universität's liaison office network gave the Introductory Note. Kuder is coauthor of the evaluation "Joint and Double Degree Programs in the Global Context". [More->](#)

4. Prof. Hebatallah Fathy researched at Freie Universität

Prof. Dr. Hebatallah Fathy, Professor for German Literature at Kairo Universität, pursued a research stay from 26 January to 10 February at the Seminar for Arabic Studies and the libraries at Freie Universität related to her research topic "The Orient in the Occident and the Occident in the Orient". Her research is on the travel descriptions of Adam Olearius "Vermehrte neue Beschreibung der muscowitischen und persischen Reyse" (1656) and Rifaa El-Tahtawi "Ein Muslim entdeckt Europa" (1849). In March, Fathy will give a presentation on this topic at the society for intercultural German Studies in Kyoto/Japan. Fathy is this year's winner of the German Arabic Translation price of the Goethe Institute in the category "Junior Translator".

5. Student representatives of Cairo University visit Berlin

16 Student representatives of Cairo University visited Berlin from 10 to 17 February. Their program comprised discussions with the Vice President for Student Affairs Prof. Michael Bongardt, student representatives from FU Berlin, the office for student counseling and the International Club. Furthermore, the Egyptian students presented the current transformation in Egypt to their German counterparts in a seminar. Both sides emphasized the important experience of this visit for representatives of CU and FUB and expressed the wish to cooperate more closely in areas of common interest.

6. Call now open for next New Faces Conference

In February, the EU-Middle East Forum of the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP EUMEF) held the 15th New Faces Conference in Cairo, in cooperation with the Liaison Office of Freie Universität. The conference took on the topic of gender equality in the revolution process in Egypt and Tunisia and brought together 20 Young Professionals working in different fields and coming from different countries of North Africa and Europe. The next New Faces Conference will tackle the topic "Socio-economic Malaise as a Security Threat - Which Model and Reforms for Egypt?" and will take place in Cairo from June 14-17, 2012. Applications can be handed in until 18 March.

For detailed information on the conference and the application procedure, please contact the [Liaison Office](#).

7. QS ranking: Berlin is one of the best student cities worldwide

According to a study by Quacquarelli Symonds, which also regularly publishes the prestigious QS World University Ranking, Berlin is one of the world's most attractive cities to study in. According to the most recent evaluation, which compared university cities worldwide, the capital of Germany took 8th place. As such, it was no. 1 in Germany, followed by Munich, which finished 13th worldwide. Freie Universität contributed directly to the good result for Berlin. In the QS World University Ranking of September 2011, Freie Universität ranked no. 66 worldwide and no. 4 in Germany.

[For more information->](#)

8. Doctoral scholarships by „Interart Studies“ starting 1 October, 2012

The DFG-funded International Research Training Group „Interart Studies“ will be awarding 8 to 9 scholarships at the Freie Universität Berlin starting 1 October, 2012. „Interart Studies“ is an interdisciplinary research program jointly conducted by art scholars of Freie Universität Berlin and the Copenhagen Doctoral School in Cultural Studies. The Research Training Group aims to examine works and events of art from different periods of time in order to devise new methodological approaches to emerging Interart-phenomena. The long-term goal is the creation of a new theory, which refers to different types of Interart-phenomena. [Further information and the application form can be obtained here->](#)

9. Call for applications: Joint German-Egyptian/German-Tunisian Master programs

As part of Program 3 of the German transformation partnerships with Egypt and Tunisia, interested German university professors can now apply for funding for the establishment of German-Egyptian or German-Tunisian joint degree or double degree Master programs. The Master program should aim to enhance expertise transfer as well as intercultural communication skills. Programs from two subject areas are particularly needed: “Developing, maintaining and promotion of cultural sites” as well as social sciences and law. Funding starts with the joint development of the curriculum. Deadline for a statement of interest is March 23, 2012. Full applications have to be submitted by June 8, 2012. For further information and contact details, please refer to the website of [DAAD Cairo](#) and the [program description](#) (.pdf).

10. Humboldt Foundation research fellowships

Scientists and scholars from Egypt and Tunisia who have not been sponsored by the Humboldt Foundation are eligible to apply for one of a possible ten special research fellowships until 15 March. Selection and sponsorship are essentially based on the regulations governing the Humboldt Research Fellowship Program for Postdoctoral and Experienced Researchers. A novel feature of this program is that postdoctoral researchers who do not yet have a binding hosting agreement with an academic host in Germany are able to apply nevertheless. [Read more->](#)