



האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

Workshop: Developing Joint Online Courses



With the *German-Israeli Virtual Campus* (GIVCA), Freie Universität Berlin (FUB) and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HUJI) foster digital courses to encourage international online teaching.

The aim of the project is to develop specific application possibilities for online teaching-cooperation in international higher education and to increase awareness of the strategic potential of online teaching as part of the internationalization of universities as a whole.

For more than a decade, the use of digital technologies has opened up new possibilities in teaching. Despite the widespread discussion of e-learning and blended learning formats at universities, the strategic potential for the use of digital formats in international university cooperation often remains untapped.

As a first step, GIVCA will design and implement courses, seminars and colloquia as well as lectures as joint online formats of Freie Universität and the Hebrew University and integrate them into the regular programs offered by the institutions.

The medium-term plan is to create joint online dual degree programs.

In a next step, there are also plans to extend the project to the German-Israeli higher education area as a whole and to open it up to other universities.

Innovative online didactic concepts will link the fields of internationalization and digitization; the participating universities will be able to expand their existing courses, use complementary expertise and promote intercultural and international competences of a large number of their students through transnational, digital teaching.

These collaborations are also expected to have repercussions for joint research projects.

GIVCA thus aspires no less than to shape the digital future of German-Israeli cooperation in higher education.

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Freie Universität Berlin have been partner universities since 1986. A strategic partnership agreement was signed in 2011; it serves as a model for five further strategic partnerships that have been implemented at Freie Universität Berlin since.

Currently, more than 100 researchers from both universities are cooperating in joint research and teaching projects.

A special focus lies on the promotion of young researchers, for example through annual joint PhD workshops and the exchange of doctoral students.

Since 2014, two Joint Postdoctoral Fellowships are awarded each year, enabling excellent young researchers to spend one year each in Berlin and Jerusalem.

Since 2016, doctoral students of the Hebrew University have been able to spend a short research period in Berlin as part of the Ludwig Armbruster Fellowship sponsored by the Berlin Zoological Garden.

In addition to the existing cooperation projects, the two universities promote cooperation in research and teaching through an annual Joint Seed Money Fund, which has funded more than 25 joint research projects over the past years.

Both Freie Universität and the Hebrew University have proven e-learning expertise.



In Germany, the FUB with its central unit CeDiS (Center for Digital Systems) is one of the pioneering universities in this field. CeDiS advises and supports all institutions and members of the FUB in the use of digital media and technologies in teaching and research and is the center for e-learning, e-research and multimedia. It is responsible for the skills development of lecturers in the field of e-learning and blended learning and advises on didactics and application scenarios as well as on the use of the central systems of Freie Universität in teaching and research (Learning Management System, FU-Wikis, FU-Blogs, Adobe Connect as Web-Conference and Virtual Classroom System). Due to its many years of experience in e-learning, CeDiS is the main interface for GIVCA at FUB and offers the necessary competence and infrastructure to carry out the project.

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem is one of the pioneering institutions in the field teaching in Israel.

In addition to the intensive internal use of digital teaching, HUJI has carried out various open MOOCs in recent years. The expertise, experience and infrastructure of both universities provide an excellent environment for the implementation of GIVCA.

The two universities have already gained important experience in online teaching formats as part of the “Intellectual Encounters of the Islamicate World” online master's program. Freie Universität conducts the one-year, English-language Master’s program through various blended learning formats. Lecturers and students are recruited internationally, with lecturers also coming from the Hebrew University.

FUB and HUJI are jointly developing diverse online teaching formats that make use of existing teaching structures and expertise as well as cooperating researchers from both universities.

FUB-HUJI teaching tandems, for example in the fields of law, literature, mathematics and history, have completed successful courses.

The didactical and technical preparation as well as the implementation of selected courses has been accompanied from the outset by evaluation measures to comply with internal quality assurance instruments.

**Current Call:
Funding and technical support for
joint online courses of Freie Universität Berlin
and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem**



With the goal of advancing German-Israeli Scientific Cooperation both in research and teaching and in reaction to the Covid crisis, Freie Universität Berlin (FUB) and The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HUJI), as part of their strategic partnership, are launching an initiative to develop and conduct joint digital and blended learning, teaching and mobility formats. The CfA is open to all disciplines, applicants may apply for funding of up to 6.000 EUR per course. Concept, content and teaching materials of each online lecture or joint course should be developed on a “fifty-fifty-basis” by FUB faculty and HUJI faculty. Funding may be used for the services of the e-learning units at both universities (at FUB: CeDiS).



German-Israeli Virtual Campus



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