

MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGE AND COMPLEXITY

Dear Sir/Madam,

discussions surrounding the continuation of the Excellence Initiative are becoming more and more intense. Priorities and procedures for the third funding phase are not yet decided; all we know at this point is that the Excellence Initiative will be continued.

In order to be able to respond quickly once the call for proposals is published, the University of Cologne is currently creating preliminary working groups that deal with specific research areas as well as overarching issues. At the same time, we want to reactivate the Excellence Forum. Already during the first application phase, it ensured that many ideas and suggestions from the university were included in the applications.

At the beginning of November, the meeting of the external academic advisory board will be used to focus these first ideas.

In December, a panel discussion will take place on perspectives for top-level research. This is an opportunity to discuss the possibilities a new call for proposals entails for the university, as well as its significance for regional and European networking.

Sincerely



Univ.-Prof. Dr. Axel Freimuth
Rector University of Cologne



Meeting of the Extended Steering Committee & the University Conference

On September 30, 2015, the sixth meeting of the Extended Steering Committee took place together with the University Conference. Participants used the meeting to engage in lively exchange with all involved actors. Besides the introduction of the two Clusters of Excellence CECAD and CEPLAS and the presentation of the excellence graduate schools a.r.t.e.s. and BCGS, there was intense discussion on the future perspective of the Excellence Initiative and the positioning of the University of Cologne for the application in the next bidding round. You can find further information under: <http://exzellenz.uni-koeln.de/universitaetsentwicklung0.html?&L=1>.

New faces in the Academic Staff Development Department (PE-Wiss)

On October 1, 2015, the Academic Staff Development Department was able to welcome two new faces. DR. ALAN HANSEN is the new department head. Besides strategic planning in the area of academic staff development – taking into account the Excellence Initiative – his tasks include consultation on leadership issues and instruments, the professionalization of staff and faculty selection, team and area development as well as training and coaching needs. Moreover, as scientific assistant for the academic staff development department, LISA HÜBNER is responsible for the PostDoc. Excellent@UzK programme, which aims at the expansion, organization and evaluation of further training measures for postdocs at the university. Welcome!



First UoC Postdoc meeting

On October 14, a network meeting of all postdocs at the UoC and its partner institutions took place for the first time to facilitate networking. Participants also had the opportunity to exchange personal experiences on issues such as strengthening one's scientific independence or first leadership positions. The network meeting was very well attended and should be repeated at regular intervals. You can register with postdoc@verw.uni-koeln.de to receive information on upcoming events for postdocs.

DATES

- >> November 4-5, 2015 - Meeting of the external academic advisory board
- >> November 12-13, 2015 - Advanced-Talents-Days
- >> November 13, 2015 - C-SEB Workshop and Opening Celebration (<http://c-seb.uni-koeln.de/>)
- >> December 14, 2015 - Excellence Initiative reloaded: perspectives for top-level research

EXCELLENT



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zu Köln