

Information Points at JLU: Intensifying the Cooperation with Australia, Colombia and Poland

Opening of the Information Points of Macquarie University, Universidad de los Andes and University of Lodz in the main building of Justus Liebig University Giessen – prepares international mobility for the post-coronavirus period

Decades of cooperation between Justus Liebig University Giessen (JLU) and its partner universities are on a new level: Macquarie University in Sydney (Australia), Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá (Colombia) and the University of Lodz (Poland) opened their liaison offices at JLU on Monday 20 April. "The Information Points are an excellent opportunity to expand the successful cooperation with the partner universities across disciplines and to intensify research collaboration," says JLU President Professor Dr Joybrato Mukherjee and adds in view of the coronavirus pandemic: "Sooner or later international mobility will be possible again. With the Information Points we are preparing for the further implementation of our internationalization strategy after the times of crisis."

The Information Points are located in Room 101 in the JLU main building. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, their work currently focuses on information and counselling services provided through digitally supported formats.

After JLU established branch offices in Bogotá in Colombia (Universidad de los Andes) and in Sydney in Australia (Macquarie University) in 2019 and in Lodz in Poland (University of Lodz) at the beginning of 2020, the partner universities have now opened their Information Points at JLU. "For many years, our universities have maintained a close institutional friendship, to which our Information Points will give a new impulse," says Dr Alejandro Gaviria, Rector of the Universidad de los Andes. The Information Points will be used by JLU and its partner universities to provide information on each institution, its range of courses and research opportunities, to advise and recruit academics and students, and to provide information on the funding opportunities available. Professor Dr S. Bruce Downton, Vice-Chancellor and President of Macquarie University, adds: "We are very pleased to offer an Information Point at JLU in Giessen. We expect to work even more closely together in the future, on joint research projects and joint doctoral education."

The opening of the JLU Information Points at JLU and the operation of JLU offices on three continents constitute a key element of JLU within the framework of its internationalization strategy: "We would like to have a stronger presence in our strategic partner regions Australia, Colombia and Eastern Europe," says Mukherjee. The President of the University of Lodz, Professor Dr Antoni Rozalski, emphasizes the social significance: "Through the Information Points, our universities are now linked more closely together, especially in this challenging time for international cooperation and scientific exchange".

For many years, Australia, Colombia and Eastern Europe have played a significant role in JLU's internationalization strategy. JLU has been cooperating with the leading Australian research university Macquarie University for more than 20 years, particularly in the humanities, cultural and natural sciences.

As early as 1967, the first German-Colombian university cooperation was established with the Universidad de Los Andes in Bogotá. JLU is currently in charge of the two most important German-Colombian collaborative projects, the Center of Excellence in Marine Sciences CEMarin and the German-Colombian Peace Institute CAPAZ.

In 1978, the second cooperation agreement between universities in the Federal Republic of Germany and Poland was signed by JLU and the University of Lodz. Today, exchange activities and joint research projects take place in almost all JLU faculties.

Further information

<https://www.uni-giessen.de/informationpoints>

Picture



Internationalization despite corona crisis: Newly established Information Points of the partner universities at JLU. Photo: Katrina Frieze

Founded in 1607, **Justus Liebig University Giessen (JLU)** is a research university with a longstanding tradition which attracts around 28,000 students. Apart from the wide range of subjects on offer – extending from classical natural sciences, law and economics, social and educational sciences to linguistics and cultural studies – it offers a selection of life science subjects that is unique not only in Hesse: human and veterinary medicine, agricultural, environmental and nutritional sciences and food chemistry. The leading personae who carried out research and taught at JLU include a number of Nobel Prize winners, such as Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen (Nobel Prize for Physics in 1901) and Wangari Maathai (Nobel Peace Prize in 2004). Since 2006, research at JLU has received continuous funding from the Excellence Initiative schemes and the Excellence Strategy of the German Federal Republic and Federal States.