

Lower Saxony – Scotland Joint Forum 2020

23 – 24 November 2020

Leuphana University Lüneburg, Germany

Open Call for Workshops/Panels and Exhibition Stands at Science Fair

The **Lower-Saxony – Scotland Joint Forum 2020** is the first edition of an annual conference fostering the relationship between universities and higher education institutions within both regions. Following the recent signing of a [**Memorandum of Understanding**](#) between [**Universities Scotland \(US\)**](#) and the [**Landeshochschulkonferenz \(LHK\)**](#), both institutions have made a commitment to deepen cooperation and to promote and facilitate the internationalisation of higher education and academic exchange between Lower Saxonian and Scottish universities.

The Joint Forum aims to bring together **researchers from all universities and higher education institutions across Scotland and Lower Saxony**, to provide networking opportunities, to expand existing partnerships and to establish new collaborations. Interested researchers are invited to organise a workshop or panel on any topic they deem relevant. In addition, researchers, institutions, organisations, businesses, foundations, as well as other interested persons, are encouraged to organise **exhibition stands for display during a science fair**, which shall run in parallel to the Joint Forum on both days.

In light of the coronavirus pandemic, we would like to inform you that we are monitoring the situation closely and are prepared to postpone the Joint Forum to a later date. We will keep you informed on any changes. You may find updates on our website www.joint-forum.org.

We recognise that this is a very stressful time for colleagues across universities in both Lower Saxony and Scotland. We also recognise the strain that travel bookings may put on already stretched budgets. However, we firmly believe that maintaining and developing the collaboration between universities from Lower Saxony and Scotland will reap long term benefits for all of us.

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Information for Workshop and Panel Proposals

Workshop and panel proposals are open to individuals from all disciplines and departments (including institutional and administrative). Their intended outcomes shall be to find (new) partners for current research or cooperation projects, present existing partnerships or further expand these partnerships to other universities and/or disciplines. Each workshop or panel should follow a **unified topic** and the session should last for no longer than **120 minutes**, incorporating enough time for **open discussions** at the end of each session. Topics may include anything and everything relevant in the context of Lower Saxony – Scotland university relations.

On the one hand we are looking for **subject-related topics in the field of research**, for example:

- artificial intelligence
- biology and chemistry
- business and entrepreneurship
- climate change and sustainability
- digitisation and digitalisation
- engineering
- law and humanities
- medicine
- museum and theatre sciences
- social and political sciences

and any other topic you as a researcher deem relevant.

We also encourage the presentation of blue-sky research as well as projects including industrial partners.

We also want to hear about other **projects facilitating the cooperation between, and knowledge transfer among, universities**, such as:

- (joint) study programmes (existing and ideas for new ones)
- student, PhD and staff exchanges on all levels (academic, administrative and institutional)
- knowledge transfer projects
- e-learning projects
- and collaborations and alliances among universities, faculties and schools

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Last, but not least, a key goal of the Joint Forum is to nurture ongoing collaboration between universities in Lower Saxony and Scotland via the creation of an online academic network. Through the innovative use of digital technology, we aim to create an online platform where researchers can connect with one another and actively engage in projects, building momentum in existing projects and stimulating new ideas and relationships for future collaborations.

In light of this, we encourage **workshop proposals which explore creative possibilities of building a lasting network between Lower Saxonian and Scottish universities through the use of digital technology and online platforms.**

Workshop and panel organisers are asked to submit a **short proposal of 2-3 pages by 15 September 2020**. The proposal should outline all key elements of the workshop/panel including:

- title
- introduction of the workshop/panel organisers
- presentation/overview of the topic/focus
- relation to the overall objective of the Joint Forum
- own objective of the workshop/panel
- list of invited speakers, panellists, moderators
- and target audience

Workshop proposals will be evaluated primarily on their relevance to the overall goal of enhancing cooperation and promoting collaboration between Scottish and Lower Saxonian universities and higher education institutions, their potential to stimulate interesting discussions and facilitate the exchange of (new) ideas.

Participants may register for the Joint Forum here: <https://www.confotool.net/joint-forum-2020>.

In order to submit your proposal, you need to first register for the Joint Forum. Once completed you will find a link to upload your proposal.

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Information for Exhibition Stands at Science Fair

As the Lower Saxony-Scotland Joint Forum is a **networking event**, we would like to seize this opportunity to organise a **science fair** surrounding the event. Therefore, we would like to invite any interested researchers, organisations and institutions etc. to organise an **exhibition stand** for display during the science fair.

Through the exhibition stand you may present, for example:

- your research
- your institution
- funding schemes and opportunities
- your company

or anything else which might be of interest to researchers and members of the universities in Lower Saxony and Scotland.

If you are interested in organising an exhibition stand, please contact: info@ecas-academia.org.

Contact

For questions or further information please contact:

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