



European
Centre for Advanced
Studies

Lower Saxony – Scotland Joint Forum 2021

22 – 23 November 2021

Online Conference

Open Call for Workshops

Extended Deadline for Workshop Proposals until 19 September 2021

Make sure to apply with your creative ideas for Lower Saxonian and Scottish cooperation and save yourself one of the last spots for hosting a workshop during the Joint Forum.

The second edition of the Lower Saxony – Scotland Joint Forum continues the successful work of the first, namely by encouraging and fostering a deepened relationship between higher education institutions in Lower Saxony as well as Scotland on the basis of the [Memorandum of Understanding](#) signed between [Universities Scotland \(US\)](#) and the [Landeshochschulkonferenz \(LHK\)](#) in Lower Saxony.

The Joint Forum brings together **academics, staff and students from all higher education institutions across Scotland and Lower Saxony**, to provide networking opportunities, to expand existing partnerships, and to establish new collaborations. Interested academics, staff and students are, thus, invited **to organise a workshop** on any topic they deem relevant in the context of the cooperation and linking of both of our regions. The goal of the workshops shall be the development of joint project ideas which may be further pursued in the future. The European Centre for Advanced Studies (ECAS) will be happy to coordinate any follow-up activities in the aftermath of the Joint Forum and support the realisation of these project ideas.

In light of the persisting COVID-19 pandemic and related uncertainties as well as travel restrictions the Joint Forum – hopefully for the last time – will be held as an online conference. We hope that this will allow everyone in Lower Saxony and Scotland who is interested in this unique effort to participate in the Joint Forum and benefit from this brilliant opportunity to extend networks and intensify exchange.

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Workshop Proposals

1. Invited Persons

Everyone working or studying at a higher education institution in Lower Saxony or Scotland is invited to host a workshop, in particular this includes:

- **Students** (undergraduate, graduate and PhD)
- **Academics and researchers** (at any stage of their career)
- **Staff** (e.g. administrative staff, staff working in support units etc.)

2. Workshops

Each workshop should present a **unified topic** and the session should last for no longer than **120 minutes**, incorporating enough time for an **open discussion** at the end of each session. Their intended outcomes shall be to find (new) partners for current research or cooperation projects, present existing partnerships or further expand these partnerships to higher education institutions and/or disciplines.

Workshops will take place on the second day of the Joint Forum, on **Tuesday, 23 November 2021**. Thus, make sure that you will be available all day, since we might not be able to accommodate specific timeslots for your workshop if there are too many workshops taking place.

As workshop organizer you will be asked to provide us with a **detailed description of the workshop** as well as a **programme** ahead of the Joint Forum so that we may promote your workshop through our different channels and in particular on our website

www.joint-forum.org.

In the aftermath of the Joint Forum we will ask you to provide us with an **outcome report**, incl. for example information on intended actions in order to take your project idea to the next level. ECAS will be happy to support you with any follow-up activities and will provide a platform for such on the basis of your outcome report.

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We are looking forward to supporting you not only during your workshop at the Joint Forum but also through different follow-up activities after the event. That way your workshop can achieve valuable and sustainable results that can boost your academic career and may be the starting point for promising research.

3. Topics

Workshops may be hosted on any topic deemed relevant.

In the **field of research**, we are looking for **subject-related topics**, 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.

Furthermore, we also would like to encourage **students** (undergraduate, graduate and PhD) to organise a workshop together with their fellow colleagues in the other region.

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

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- e-learning projects
- and collaborations and alliances among universities, faculties and schools as well as support units

Finally, 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.**

4. Lower Saxony – Scotland Component

From your workshop proposal it should become clear that you wish to pursue a joint project between a Lower Saxonian and Scottish higher education institution. Thus, you should organise the workshop together with a counterpart from the other region. If you have a great project idea but not yet partners in Lower Saxony and/or Scotland, your proposal should include a list of persons you wish to invite to or involve in your workshop. ECAS will be happy to support you in establishing contact.

5. Proposal

Workshop organisers are asked to submit a short proposal of 2-3 pages by **19 September 2021**. The proposal should outline all key elements of the workshop, including:

- Title
- Introduction of the workshop 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 workshop participants (speakers, panellists etc.)
- If applicable, list of persons you wish to be put in touch with by ECAS
- Target audience

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You may download a respective template for the workshop proposal on our website www.joint-forum.org.

Participants may register for the Joint Forum here: <https://www.conftool.net/joint-forum-2021/>

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.

6. Evaluation

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

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Contact

For questions or further information please regarding the organisation of a workshop please contact:

Judith Crämer

European Centre for Advanced Studies (ECAS) gGmbH

Senior Academic Coordinator

Universitätsallee 1

21335 Lüneburg

t: +49 4131 677 1912

e: craemer@ecas-academia.org

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