

Lower Saxony – Scotland Joint Forum 2024: The Jubilee Edition

Open Call for Workshop Proposals

10 + 11 June 2024, Leuphana University Lüneburg

We are looking for **academics, staff and students** wishing to host their own workshop during the **jubilee edition** of the **Lower Saxony – Scotland Joint Forum**. We want to learn more about your ideas, visions and research interests. Our goal is to encourage academic exchange between **higher education institutions in Lower Saxony and Scotland** and to support you in **building new partnerships** leading to **excellent research**.

We invite ambitious persons to **organise a workshop** during the **second day of the Joint Forum** on **Tuesday, 11 June 2024, at Leuphana University Lüneburg**. The choice of topic is free. The workshop should be a representation of the objective to work more closely together across borders and to contribute to the linking of both regions. It shall be hosted by a tandem of member of a higher education institution in Lower Saxony and in Scotland, who present an existing projects, develop a new idea or share experiences. **Use the Joint Forum as your platform for sharing knowledge and creating synergies!**

Successful applicants will be awarded **funding covering their travel expenses**. This includes funding for the two workshop organiser (one from Lower Saxony, one from Scotland) as well as four additional speakers (two from Lower Saxony, two from Scotland). In total, only **six workshop will be selected**. You may find the selection criteria in the explanations below.

The Joint Forum will be hosted as *in-person* event. Attendance of the workshop organisers and speakers is obligatory!

We look forward to receiving your workshop proposal until **23 February 2024**. You will receive feedback on whether or not your workshop has been selected by **15 March 2024**.

You find detailed information on the requirements for the hosting of a workshop below. For impressions of previous editions visit our website <https://joint-forum.org>!

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Workshop Proposals

1. Invited Persons

Anyone working or studying at a higher education institution in Lower Saxony and Scotland is invited to host a workshop, 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 not last longer than **120 minutes**, incorporating enough time for an **open discussion**. The intended outcome(s) shall be to find (new) partners for current research or cooperation projects, present existing partnerships and/or further expand these partnerships to other higher education institutions and/or disciplines. New objectives may be identified and ideas for funding applications formed.

Workshops will take place on the second day of the Joint Forum: **Tuesday, 11 June 2024, in-person at Leuphana University Lüneburg**. They will be organised in two parallel sessions with three different time slots. We may not accommodate specific time slots and expect you to attend both days of the Joint Forum.

3. Topics

Workshops may be hosted on any topic.

In the **field of research**, we look for **subject-related topics**, ranging from *artificial intelligence, biology and chemistry* to *business and entrepreneurship*, from *energy transformation, sustainability and engineering* to *law, medicine and social* as well as *political sciences* or **any other topic you deem relevant!** We encourage the presentation of blue-sky research as well as projects including industrial partners.

Students are expressly invited (undergraduate, graduate and PhD) to organise their own workshop(s) together with their fellow colleagues from the other region.

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We also want to learn more about **projects facilitating the cooperation between, and knowledge transfer among, higher education institutions**, such as:

- (joint) study programmes (existing and new ones),
- student, PhD and staff exchanges on all levels (academic, administrative and institutional),
- knowledge transfer projects,
- e-learning projects,
- and collaborations among universities, faculties and schools as well as support units.

Finally, a key goal of the Joint Forum is to nurture ongoing collaboration(s) between higher education institutions in Lower Saxony and Scotland via the creation of an **online academic network**. 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, we expect you to **organise the workshop together with a partner from the other region**. If you have a great project idea but no partner(s) in Lower Saxony and/or Scotland, please try out our “**Academic Matching**” tool to identify interesting contacts: <https://ecas-academia.org/academic-matching/> or get in touch with us directly.

5. Proposal

Workshop organisers are asked to submit a short proposal of 3-4 pages until **Friday, 23 February 2024, at noon**. The proposal should outline all key elements, including:

- Title,
- introduction of the workshop organiser,
- presentation/overview of the topic/focus,
- relation to the overall objective of the Joint Forum,
- own objective for the workshop,
- list of invited workshop participants (speakers, panellists etc.),
- and target audience.

You will find a template for your workshop proposal on our website <https://joint-forum.org>. Please submit your proposal via email to joint-forum@ecas-academia.org.

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6. Evaluation

Workshop proposals will primarily be evaluated on their relevance to the overall goal of enhancing cooperation and promoting collaboration between Lower Saxonian and Scottish higher education institutions, their potential to stimulate interesting discussions, and facilitate the exchange of (new) ideas. Other criteria taken into account are their innovativeness and sustainability in terms of developing long-term linkages.

7. Funding

Successful applicants will be awarded funding to cover their travel expenses. This includes the workshop organiser (one from Lower Saxony, one from Scotland) and four additional speakers (two from Lower Saxony, two from Scotland). The funding covers the expenses for the attendance of both days of the Joint Forum to encourage networking, gaining new insights in other disciplines and an overall enjoyable experience.

8. Contact

For questions, further information or a personal meeting please contact:

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