SCIENCE COMPASS

Navigation through German Higher Education

The journey from the insecure home country to the guest country succeeded successfully. Many hopes are linked with the new role of being a visiting scholar in the new Higher Education System.

After the initial euphoria an important finding becomes evident: the new Higher Education System and involved expectations differ fundamentally from previous experiences. It is not easy to adopt the new culture and to integrate oneself in the new scientific working environment.

A key for successful collaboration is to recognize the German Academic system. Many misunderstandings in the common work between supervisors, colleagues and students are based on different experiences and perceptions of teaching, learning and communication. Clarifying German Academic traditions, scientific working culture and related expectations between supervisors, colleagues and students can reduce available tensions in scientific collaboration.

This workshop aims to provide more confidence within the German Higher Education System by having insight in requirements and expectations in research, teaching and supervision. Furthermore, this workshop will help to draw clear picture about structures and career paths within German academia.

Content 1st Day: German Higher Education: structures, traditions, career paths

- From conflict area into the new Higher Education System
- Settling down in the new role as a visiting scholar
- The German Higher Education System: structures and career paths
- Career possibilities: scientific projects, mid-level positions
- Networking and self-marketing in German academia

Content 2nd Day: Conduct teaching and research: roles, expectations, responsibilities

- Teaching in Germany: formal frameworks, didactical concepts, educational levels
- Roles, responsibilities and tasks in research and teaching
- Supervision and bilateral expectations in research and teaching
- Forms of teaching: lecture, seminars, tutorials, fieldwork, excursions, labwork, project work, e-learning
- Insights in teaching sessions – from practical exercises to a teaching roadmap

Learning Outcome

- Insight in structures of German academia and career opportunities
- Overview about requirements and expectations in research and teaching
- Reflection of the role of a visiting scholar and working situation

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