



## Welcome to our Open University Germany ---E-Newsletter no. 12 ---

What is new, what is interesting about the Open University (OU) in Germany?

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Read more...

#### **01 Registration close: 14.12.2007 for courses starting in January/February 2008**

Register well before the closing date so that you can be allocated a tutor and receive your course materials in plenty of time. There is no risk of registering early because you can withdraw without any financial liability if there is a good reason to do so before the course starts.

You can register online at <http://www.open.ac.uk/courses> via the 'click to register' button at the top of the webpage of your chosen course.

Entry and study requirements:

- You must be aged 18 or over when the course starts.
- There is no upper age limit.
- You may not take courses that amount to more than 120 points at any one time,
- All our courses are taught in English, so your spoken and written English must be of an appropriate standard.
- For advice contact your local coordinator (c.f. details at the end of this newsletter).

What to do?

Step 1: Choose the right course for you.

Step 2: Register for your chosen course.

Step 3: Make arrangements to pay the course fee.

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#### **02 A new colleague in Cologne**

Regular readers and friends of the Open University in Germany might have already realised that there is a new name for the contact in Germany (central): **Jackie Schüller**. Jackie is following Bettina Schwerdtfeger who retired at the end of September after 10 years of enthusiastic work for the OU.

Originally from Scotland Jackie has been living in Germany for over 20 years. As "Wahl-Kölnerin" she lives in a suburb of Cologne with her 12 year old son. During her time in Germany she has worked in the music business and for a lawyer. Jackie's connection to the OU goes back to January 2002 when she started studying DD100 "An Introduction To The Social Sciences". After an enjoyable 5 ½ years of study she has recently sat her final examination for the BSc (Honours) in Psychology.

Jackie can be contacted preferably from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. from Monday to Thursday and 10 am to 12 noon Friday, her email-address is [js22772@guest.open.ac.uk](mailto:js22772@guest.open.ac.uk).

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**03 Upcoming Open Events/Information sessions:**

**Germany - North**

**Open Event and Business and Management Information Event**

Saturday, 3 November 2007, 11.00 – 14.00:

Universität Hamburg, Arbeitsstelle für wissenschaftliche Weiterbildung,  
Vogt-Kölln-Str. 30, Haus E, 22527 Hamburg

Contact: Dr. Marion Bruhn-Suhr, tel: 040 42883-2478, email: [ou@aww.uni-hamburg.de](mailto:ou@aww.uni-hamburg.de)

**Germany - South**

**Munich - Business and Management Information Event**

Thursday 24 January, 19.00 - 21.00

Hilton Muenchen City, Rosenheimer Strasse 15, 81667, Munich

Contact: Tristan Sage, tel +49 89 89 70 90 48, email: [t.sage@open.ac.uk](mailto:t.sage@open.ac.uk)

**Stuttgart - Business and Management Information Event**

Saturday 26 January 2008, 15.00 - 17.00

Hotel Steigenberger Graf Zeppelin, Arnulf-Klett-Platz 7, D-70173 Stuttgart

Contact:Tristan Sage, tel +49 89 89 70 90 48, email: [t.sage@open.ac.uk](mailto:t.sage@open.ac.uk)

**Stuttgart - Business and Management Information Event**

Wednesday 13 February 2008, 18.00 - 20.00

Hotel Steigenberger Graf Zeppelin, Arnulf-Klett-Platz 7, D-70173 Stuttgart

Contact:Tristan Sage, tel +49 89 89 70 90 48, email: [t.sage@open.ac.uk](mailto:t.sage@open.ac.uk)

**Munich - Business and Management Information Event**

Thursday 21 February 2008, 19.00 - 21.00

Hilton Muenchen City, Rosenheimer Strasse 15, 81667, Munich

Contact: Tristan Sage, tel +49 89 89 70 90 48, email: [t.sage@open.ac.uk](mailto:t.sage@open.ac.uk)

You don't have to register for any of these events and they are of course free of charge. For more information about Open Events/Information session in Europe see:

<http://www3.open.ac.uk/contact/events.aspx>

#### 04 **Free “Creative Writing” Workshop in Hamburg** *Do you have a story to tell?*

The workshop looks at some of the techniques needed to get started and shows new ways of expressing yourself. It gives ideas on how to develop plots and characters and illustrates how to edit your work to make it more appealing to readers. Although primarily aimed at beginners, the workshop may also be suitable for more experienced writers in need of a boost. If you've always wanted to write a short story or a book, but didn't quite know where to start, then this is the workshop for you!

“Writing can be one of the most rewarding things you can do with your spare time. It requires no expensive equipment and can be done anywhere and at any time,” says David Stephenson, the workshop presenter. “Having said that, writing is a skill like any other, which requires patience and perseverance to master.”

David Stephenson is a published writer of short stories and poetry. He is currently a member of the External Relations Team at The Open University in the North, based in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, UK

Following highly successful creative writing workshops in Milan, Luxembourg, Amsterdam and Cologne, the Open University now presents the same workshop at Hamburg University (participation is free)

Saturday, November 3, 14.30 to 16.30

As places are limited, pre-booking is essential.  
To reserve your place, e-mail David now at [D.Stephenson@open.ac.uk](mailto:D.Stephenson@open.ac.uk)

For more details see [http://www.aww.uni-hamburg.de/creative\\_writing.html](http://www.aww.uni-hamburg.de/creative_writing.html)

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#### 05 **OpenLearn LabSpace**

LabSpace makes many different open educational resources available to you, all of which you are encouraged to take away, re-use and remix to suit your needs as an educator. Broadly speaking, these resources fall into the categories of ‘content’ or ‘tools’.

##### **Content**

The content of the LabSpace comprises both the unit (structured self-study resources) as well as the individual assets which make up a unit.

The assets of a unit are the materials such as text, images, animation, audio clip etc and which are likely to be in different digital formats. In some cases a unit may consist of just one asset, but most will contain a mix.

As the amount of material in the LabSpace grows, so does the variety of the units available. However, the main types of unit that you will encounter are:

- Segments of current OU courses or support materials.
- Teaching texts from a discontinued OU course.
- Audiovisual material from discontinued courses.
- Specially written guides.
- Knowledge maps.
- Public FlashMeetings.

- Collaborative Units.

### Tools

A variety of software tools are available from OpenLearn to help you communicate with others and to rework content. Compendium is a mind-mapping tool, FlashMeeting enables video-conferencing through a web browser, and MSG is an instant messenger requiring no download. These tools can be used in situ or taken away as a client download or source code.

Try for yourself: <http://labspace.open.ac.uk/>

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## 06 Free research resource launched

With the cost of journals rising and a drive to make information accessible to everyone, The Open University is making its research available free of charge through the Open Research Online initiative, which was officially launched at the end of September.

More than 181,000 people worldwide have already taken advantage of the online information bank and logged on to download published research by OU academics. With research posted ranging from “*The Anti Zombie Argument*” to “*Geometry in Cambridge 1863-1940*”, the content reflects the wide-ranging research interests of the University’s staff.

Posting articles that are normally only available via paid-for journals, Open Research Online is opening up information to everyone and so far people from over 150 countries, including Nepal, Madagascar and Papua New Guinea, have accessed the information free of charge. It is the third largest University online Institutional Repository in the UK.

Nicky Whitsed, Director of Library Services, said: “The Open Research Online initiative takes down the barriers that funding creates and truly opens up research to a global audience, progressing the University’s mission to make educational resources available to everyone.”

Open Research Online website: <http://oro.open.ac.uk/>

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## 07 Latest news: “Bafög” for studying abroad will be put into practice!

We talked about developments regarding the change in student grants for studies abroad in our previous newsletter. Only a couple of days ago the European Court came to the decision that Bafög has to be available for German students studying abroad from the first day of their studies. The law still has to be put into practice by the German government. This is expected to take place at the beginning of next year. For details of the Bafög law see:

[http://www.bafoeg.bmbf.de/gesetz\\_e\\_bafoeg\\_default.php](http://www.bafoeg.bmbf.de/gesetz_e_bafoeg_default.php)

German press has widely reported about the decision which will be attractive for a lot of (potential) students of the OU.

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The "OU team Germany" consisting of

Jackie Schüller in Cologne ([js22772@guest.open.ac.uk](mailto:js22772@guest.open.ac.uk)),  
Matthew Hawkes in Munich ([m.hawkes@open.ac.uk](mailto:m.hawkes@open.ac.uk)) and  
Dr. Marion Bruhn-Suhr in Hamburg ([ou@aww.uni-hamburg.de](mailto:ou@aww.uni-hamburg.de))

will update you in irregular intervals about events, study opportunities, new developments or just interesting issues regarding the OU in Germany and associates.

Please let other interested people know about this newsletter which they can subscribe via [www.aww.uni-hamburg.de/ou/](http://www.aww.uni-hamburg.de/ou/).

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With kind regards  
Marion Bruhn-Suhr