

Welcome to our Open University Germany ---E-Newsletter no. 18 ---



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

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01 OU graduate helping to educate the women of Cameroon into better life

Tabea Müller is an OU graduate who studied in Hamburg, Germany. Keen to use her degree in the field, Tabea now works in a development role in Cameroon and writes regularly about her experiences for well-known German weekly newspaper Die Zeit...

More than 10 years ago Tabea Müller completed her BSc (Hons) with the OU. After digging into the theories of gender, development, environmental policy and social psychology she now works with women in Cameroon who hope to make better lives for themselves through education.

“After a hard working day on their farms or in the market, three dozen women aged between 30 and 75 still have an important date. Two to three times a week they go to their literacy course. They try to catch up on what they missed out on when they were younger, when their families had no money for education or it was simply not seen as important that a girl goes to school. The women are participants of the Women’s Economic Empowerment and Literacy Project (WEELP) of the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon (PCC) which we carry out in the north-west of the country, sponsored by Mission 21.

“Empowering people, enriching lives, learning and discovering new things and improving living conditions are processes which never end and build bridges between different people and cultures. Out of my personal experience, the OU functions as such a bridge builder, together with the various study centres like the one in Hamburg, my former bridge to the OU.”

To read the whole story see: <http://www8.open.ac.uk/platform/news-and-features/ou-grad-helping-educate-the-women-cameroon-better-life>

02 Putting distance into distance learning - The UniCyclist sets off from Open University Headquarter

Student Steven Primrose-Smith is literally putting the distance into distance learning as he left OU headquarters in Milton Keynes on Wednesday April 6 on the next leg of his 31,000-kilometre cycle ride across Europe, visiting 50 capital cities over three years while studying for two OU degrees.

Steven already has an OU English degree under his belt but is studying towards a Maths and a Science degree as he cycles around Europe. His journey began from his home in the Isle of Man and he's already ticked one capital city - Douglas - off his list. He left the OU's campus at Walton Hall, Milton Keynes on the 6th of April and has ticked off his second capital city - London.

So far he's endured a lot of wind, rain, and some lonely cycle rides but has been joined by three biking buddies for the Milton Keynes to London leg. Has Steven found much time to study so far? "I managed an hour the first day, then half an hour and then 20 minutes but the cycling has been tough so far, with the weather against me. It'll get easier and I'll have more time for study as I continue, especially on my days off from cycling."

Steven has a rough route planned out with a few key dates in the diary, including meeting up with his girlfriend in Spain, flying back to Nottingham for an OU residential school, and an astronomy exam in Vienna in June.

Equipped with little more than a tent, a few changes of clothes, a lot of blood pressure medication and a laptop loaded with course material in PDF format, when Steven's not cycling or studying he's blogging for Platform and you can follow his progress [here](#).

03 English theatres and English films

There are quite a few English theatres and English films in Germany, ask for special offers for Open University students if you have got a student card.
Here is a selection from the different catchment areas in Germany:

Theatres

The English Theatre in Hamburg (<http://www.englishtheatre.de/>): **"Roses' dilemma"**

The Hamburg Players e.V. (<http://www.hamburgplayers.de/>): **"Arsenic and Old Lace"**

The University Players in Hamburg (<http://www.universityplayers.de/>): **"Love and money"**

The English Theatre in Frankfurt (<http://www.english-theatre.org/>): **"The dead guy"**

English Theatre in Berlin (<http://www.etberlin.de/content/blogcategory/1/32/>): **"Summer and smoke"**

The Entity Theatre company in Munich (www.entitytheatre.com): **"Alfie"**

Cinemas

Streits, Hamburg: (<http://www.cinestar.de/de/kino/hamburg-streits-filmtheater/>): About three years ago the Streits cinema started the original OV-Sneak-Preview sessions.

Metropolis, Cologne: <http://www.metropolis-koeln.de/>

CineStar, Frankfurt, <http://www.cinestar.de/de/kino/frankfurt-am-main-cinestar-metropolis/angebote/angebote/frankfurt-s-new-home-of-english-cinema/>

CineStar, Berlin, <http://www.cinestar.de/de/kino/berlin-cinestar-original-im-sony-center/filmprogramm/>

The **Cinema**, Munich, www.cinema-muenchen.com

04 iDA-Seminar “Internationalisierung von Weiterbildungsstudiengängen

The DAAD in Bonn will hold a seminar for study advisors and academics from German universities focusing on the internationalisation of University continuing education programmes in July. Dr. Marion Bruhn-Suhr has been invited to present the Open University, UK. The organisers are keen to present different concepts from different countries and the Open University, UK, is seen as a benchmark. <http://www.daad-akademie.de/uebergreifende-angebote/themenreihe-bologna-macht-mobil/index.html#419>

05 Open Events/ Information Sessions

These events are open to anyone interested in discovering more about the Open University or Open University Business School (OUBS). These days are ideal for you to get to know the OU/ OUBS and the many reasons to study via distance learning. You can take a look at course material and talk to advisors, representatives, tutors, and students about learning methods and other study topics.

In many cases there will be introductory presentations about the OU. The open events are free (British Flair charges an entrance fee of 8 € p.p.). You do not have to register for them.

Hamburg - Open Day

Tuesday 21 June 2011, 18.00 - 20.00.

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

There will be a presentation at 18.15 followed by questions and answers.

Contact: Dr Marion Bruhn-Suhr, tel: 040 428 832 478, email at ou@aww.uni-hamburg.de

Hamburg – British Flair (<http://www.britishday.de/>)

Saturday, 6 August 2011 and Sunday, 7 August 2011, 11.00 – 18.00:

Hamburger Polo Club, Jenischstr. 26, 22609 Hamburg

Contact: Dr Marion Bruhn-Suhr, tel: 040 428 832 478, email at ou@aww.uni-hamburg.de

Hamburg - Open Day

Saturday 27 August 2011, 11.00 - 13.00.

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

There will be a presentation at 11.15 followed by questions and answers.

Contact: Dr Marion Bruhn-Suhr, tel: 040 428 832 478, email at ou@aww.uni-hamburg.de

Munich - Business and Management Information Event

Thursday 9 June 2011, 19.00 - 21.00

Hilton Munich City, Rosenheimer Strasse 15, 81667 Munich.
There will be a presentation at 19.00 followed by questions and answers on our MBA and Certificate in Management programmes.
Contact: Tristan Sage, tel: 089 897 090 48, email t.sage@open.ac.uk

Stuttgart - Business and Management Information Event

Wednesday 24 August 2011, 18.00 - 20.00
Holiday Inn Stuttgart, Mittlerer Pfad 25-27, 70499 Stuttgart.
There will be a presentation at 18.00 followed by questions and answers on our MBA and Certificate in Management programmes.
Contact: Tristan Sage, tel: 089 897 090 48, email t.sage@open.ac.uk

Stuttgart - Business and Management Information Event

Wednesday 7 September 2011, 18.00 - 20.00.
Holiday Inn Stuttgart, Mittlerer Pfad 25-27, 70499 Stuttgart.
There will be a presentation at 18.00 followed by questions and answers on our MBA and Certificate in Management programmes.
Contact: Tristan Sage, tel: 089 897 090 48, email t.sage@open.ac.uk

Munich - Business and Management Information Event

Thursday 25 August 2011, 19.00 - 21.00
Hilton Munich City, Rosenheimer Strasse 15, 81667 Munich.
There will be a presentation at 19.00 followed by questions and answers on our MBA and Certificate in Management programmes.
Contact: Tristan Sage, tel: 089 897 090 48, email t.sage@open.ac.uk

06 For your diary: registration closes 8 September for modules starting in October 2011

Just a few weeks are left if you want to register for modules starting in October 2011. You can register online at <http://www3.open.ac.uk/study/> via the 'click to register' button at the top of the webpage of your chosen course.

The Open University offers new modules on a regular basis. We've picked out a few of the new first level modules which have their first presentations in the autumn to whet your appetite.

T156 Digital film school

Digital film school is your chance to join the millions of people around the world who make and share video every day. The explosion of film-making for websites and mobiles gives people and organisations the opportunity to tell their stories and show what they have to offer, at low cost. This 10-week online course is practical, hands-on and fun, built around simple tasks based on real-world briefs and a strong culture of mutual support between students. Our experienced team of film-makers will show you some of the craft secrets that underpin good film-making, and how the professionals stay up to date.

<http://www3.open.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/course/t156.htm>

S175 Frozen planet

Frozen planet is one of a series of short, flexible 10-credit courses introducing fascinating topics in science. This course explores the wonder of the polar world and explains how ice has shaped – and controls – our planet. It also enables you to try out an area of study before you commit yourself to a longer course, or top up your knowledge and skills between longer courses. It has a choice of start dates and you decide how long to take over your studies: eight to ten weeks or up to five months.

<http://www3.open.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/course/s175.htm>

ST174 Inside nuclear energy

Inside nuclear energy is one of a series of short, flexible 10-credit courses introducing fascinating topics in science. Ranging from fission to fusion, this course explores the scientific and technological background to nuclear energy, the biological effects of radiation and the cost of producing electricity. It also enables you to try out a new area of study before you commit yourself to a longer course, or top up your knowledge and skills between longer courses. It has a choice of start dates, and you decide how long to take over your studies: eight to ten weeks, or up to five months.

<http://www3.open.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/course/st174.htm>

To see a full list of upcoming new modules please have a look at:

<http://www3.open.ac.uk/study/explained/new-courses.shtml>

Entry and study requirements:

- You must be aged 16 or over when the course starts.
- All our courses are taught in English, so your spoken and written English must be of an appropriate standard.
- For advice contact your local co-ordinator (c.f. details at the end of this newsletter).

07 “OUSA Futures” is near

Only a few months have passed, since Sonja Schumann (chair), Henning Hoffmann (secretary) and Remy Schueller (treasurer) took over the OUSA Hamburg Branch (i.e. the **Open University Students Association’s** base for OU students in the northern parts of Germany), after official election at the beginning of the year. However, great changes are announcing themselves since OUSA Conference approved a new constitution in April. This constitution had been talked about within OUSA committees, branches and regions for many months and became then known as “**OUSA futures**”. One of the biggest changes “OUSA futures” intends to achieve is to abandon the old structure of branches and regions. Instead, OUSA wants to become more flexible and independent from the pre-given OU regions and catchment areas (which previously determined which branches and regions there had to be). As an alternative to the former branches, there’ll soon be “groups” and “assemblies” forming the overall OUSA structure. In this context, the OUSA Hamburg Branch team has decided to follow the “OUSA futures” - spirit and we hope to become part of an “**OUSA Germany**” group, instead of carrying on as a local, but small branch. The OUSA Hamburg Branch team anticipates that this step would “open things up a bit” and that more German students could get involved and in touch with each other.

Some time will pass before the final switch from the old to the new OUSA structure will have been accomplished. Until then any current and prospective OU student in Germany is more than welcome to drop by the website of “OUSA in Northern Europe” at <http://www.ousainternational.org>. There you can find current information on all issues and events relevant for Northern European OU students (see Eurofests below). There’s also a forum to get in touch with each other. If you want to contact the Hamburg Branch directly, the best way will be to use the contact form on the website and fill in “OUSA Hamburg” as the subject of your message. All messages will be forwarded to the OUSA Hamburg Branch team.

If you feel like meeting some of OUSA Hamburg’s students face to face, the next chance will be the **Open Day on the 21st June 2011** (see separate announcement in this newsletter).

And here is the first Europe-wide event already:

The Open University Students Association (OUSA) in Northern Europe is organising a series of social days, called **Eurofests**, for students across Europe. These events afford the opportunity to meet other Open University students in a convivial atmosphere. Previous Eurofests have been held in Brussels, The Hague and Dublin and were enjoyed by all those who attended. The next **Eurofest is being held in Cologne on the 28th May**. Students from Britain and all across Europe will be attending and it is hoped there will be a large turn-out of German students. Find out more: www.ousainternational.org.

08 Screencast - Browsing the Open University web site

Open University student Dirk Primbs allows to look over his shoulder: he explains the Open University's student home page. A short film on YouTube by Dirk Primbs:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i9xYhEyzcGU>

The "OU team Germany" consisting of

Jackie Schüller in Cologne (germany-central@open.ac.uk),
Matthew Hawkes in Munich (germany-south@open.ac.uk) and
Dr. Marion Bruhn-Suhr in Hamburg (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/.

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With kind regards
Marion Bruhn-Suhr