FRANKFURT SUMMER SCHOOL 2019 (05 to 30 August 2019)

Natural and Life Sciences Track: “Evolution, Biodiversity & Global Change”

General Outline:

Scientists from the Biological and Geological Divisions of Frankfurt Goethe University as well as of Senckenberg Biodiversity and Climate Research Centre will teach about the causes and dynamics of past and current changes on the globe. The 4 weeks' course is subdivided into two modules of two weeks and 4 CP each, the first module focusing on more human and biological aspects, the second on more earth history aspects.

The course will introduce into modern concepts of evolutionary biology and especially on the evolution of humankind. It will be shown how humans modified fundamentally landscapes and biodiversity. It will also focus on some of the very important and often neglected small organisms in soils and aquatic systems, such as fungi, algae and small arthropods. What do they tell us on biodiversity and ecological interactions for the earth system with respect to current problems of global change, of increasing human populations and the effect on climate and biodiversity?

The aim of the two-fold summer course is to train young scientists in this interdisciplinary approach and in selected skills needed to improve the awareness of fundamental questions on our earth system, both for the past and for the present. The students will be become especially trained in the following topics, questions and techniques:

- Evolutionary processes with a special emphasis on the evolution of Mankind
- The influence of Man on the biodiversity and landscape in the past and the present
- What is the role of fungi for our ecosystems and for our daily life? Aspects on diversity, morphology, and systematics of fungi will be taught as a prerequisite to understand how fungi interact with plants
- How do small organisms help us to reconstruct environments? An introduction into marine biodiversity, paleo-oceanography and paleo-climatology
- Evolutionary trends of land-plants in the geological past

Lectures, seminars and practical courses will be presented in English in the Biosciences and Geosciences Buildings on the Riedberg Campus, in part also in Frankfurt Zoo, in Senckenberg Museum and in the Palmengarten (botanical garden). The coordinator of this year's Natural and Life Sciences program is Prof. Dr. Bruno Streit, Senior Professor of Ecology and Evolution at Goethe University.
Programme:
- The courses are held in English (about 50 contact hours).
- Excursions and study tours to the German city of Heidelberg as well as a weekend visit to the French town of Strasbourg and an optional trip to Berlin are also part of the programme. The participants in the Natural and Life Sciences track will visit the Max Planck Institute for Biophysics.
- The optional German language courses for beginners and advanced learners take place in small learning groups.

Requirements:
Be a graduate student (Master) or advanced in an undergraduate (Bachelor) programme (at least two years of studies). Subject orientations: Biology, Geology, Environmental Sciences, (Physical) Geography.

Programme fee: €2,100 (includes accommodation in dormitory, academic courses and cultural programme, German language courses, all study materials, transcript of records, health, liability and accident insurance, transportation ticket within Frankfurt)

Find out more about Frankfurt Summer School on our website: http://summerschool.uni-frankfurt.de/

Deadline for applications: 30 April 2019

Application: http://summerschool.uni-frankfurt.de/application/

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