

DAAD student group from Pushchino State Institute of Natural Sciences (Russia) visited Kassel University during their journey across Germany

From December 6th to 8th 2016, a group of young students and researchers from the Pushchino State Institute of Natural Sciences, educational center “Microbiology and Biotechnology”, visited Kassel and used the opportunity to become acquainted with Kassel University and some of the historic and modern sights of the city, like the UNESCO world heritage site “Park Wilhelmshöhe” with the “Hercules” or the new Brothers Grimm Museum in the city centre.

Background information:

Pushchino is a small-sized town (app. 20.000 inhabitants) in the Moscow Region (app. 100km south of Moscow), Russia and has a unique status and significance in Russian scientific research as it was founded in 1956 as a so-called “Science City” focussing on microbiology, molecular biology, biophysics and astronomy.

Pushchino State Institute of Natural Sciences (PSINS, former

Pushchino State University) is a small Russian university which receives students with a bachelor diploma from other universities and trains them to high qualified M.S. and Ph.D. specialists, to match the needs and demands of the cooperating Pushchino Biological Center (PBC) of Russian Academy of Sciences. This close cooperation with all research institutes of PBC is a unique feature of the Pushchino State Institute of Natural Sciences. All M.S. and Ph.D. students take 2-years trainings in research departments of the PBC and take part in research projects of Russian Academy of Sciences.

A first contact between PSINS and the East-West Science Centre (OWWZ) of Kassel University had been initiated via the German-Russian Cooperation Network Biotechnology (2005 – 2014).

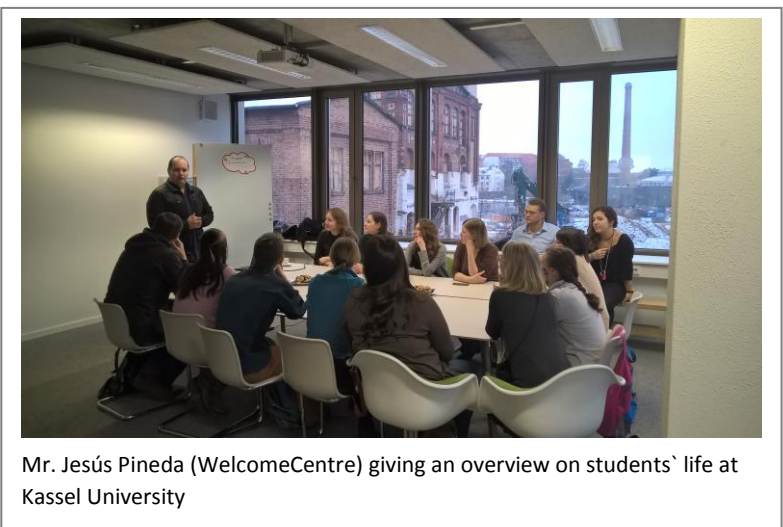
In this context OWWZ was rejoiced to organize the visit – sponsored by the German Academic Exchange Service DAAD – of the Russian student group at Kassel University following up the joint cooperation in the past, with potentials for new cooperation in the future.

The general concepts of Kassel University – along with a tour across the main campus – were imparted by Mr. Jesús Pineda who represented the “Welcome Centre” of the university. To depict the different possibilities of studying in Kassel, he invited several students from KS

University who reported on their experiences and joined the general discussion to answer specific questions of the Russian guests.



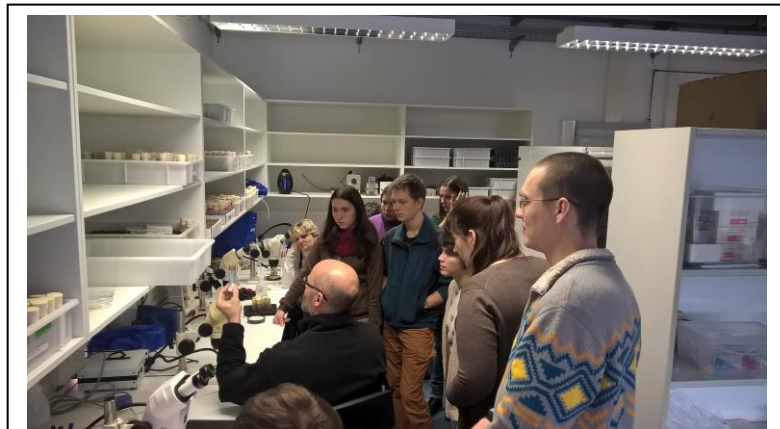
Campus Tour at Kassel University



Mr. Jesús Pineda (WelcomeCentre) giving an overview on students` life at Kassel University

In the Science Park of Kassel University, the group was at first welcomed by the new director of UniKasselTransfer (UKT) - Dr. Detlev Buchholz. Afterwards, Mrs. Nicole Burghardt, general project manager of the East-West-Science Centre, gave a brief introduction in the different subunits of UniKasselTransfer before focusing on the different strategies of the OWWZ to support – together with other subunits of UKT – cooperation and exchange with countries from Middle and Eastern Europe, like the Entrepreneurship Network Eastern Europe. As a so-called “Gründerhochschule”, the university sets value on the topic of entrepreneurship and therefore Mrs. Annika Wallbach from “Incubator” (UKT) took the opportunity to present this thematic field to the visitors. During the last day of their stay the student group went to visit the natural sciences campus. In preparation of the trip and due to the scientific interest of the students the organizers arranged visits to the

- Department of Microbiology (Prof. Dr. Raffael Schaffrath),
- Department of Zoology (Prof. Dr. Georg Mayer) and the
- Department of Developmental Genetics (Prof. Dr. Arno Müller).



Prof. Müller (Department of Developmental Genetics) explaining the current research carried out in his department

The group was cordially welcomed by the heads of the departments and each professor personally presented his current research work along with their laboratories and they exchanged views with the Russian guests.

As for the future, these departments from Kassel University and the Pushchino State Institute of Natural Sciences would like to stay in contact to check out opportunities for further cooperation, like e.g. exchange of students or staff. All joint activities will be supported by the East-West-Science Centre of UniKasselTransfer.

UniKasselTransfer

Ost-West-Wissenschaftszentrum

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