Federal Foreign Office awards services for foreign students prize to the Universities of Cologne and Göttingen

The Federal Foreign Office is to award this year’s prize for excellent support services for foreign students jointly to the Universities of Cologne and Göttingen. The prize, worth a total of 15,000 euro, was donated in 1999 by the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs and is awarded annually to organizations that have devised innovative initiatives and particularly effective schemes to provide advice and support for foreign students. This year’s prize-winners will be presented with the award on 9 July at the annual general meeting of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

The award and associated competition are part and parcel of the Federal Government’s efforts to improve conditions for foreign students in Germany and thereby enhance the country’s attractiveness as a place to study.

The Coordination Office of the international Masters and PhD degree courses in molecular biology and neurosciences at the University of Göttingen is to be commended for the exemplary academic and social support services it has established for its 81 foreign students. The University of Cologne has likewise set up coordination offices at faculty level, which are working closely with the Office for International Academic Contacts to organize a wide range of support services for foreign students.

Other initiatives to receive plaudits are the café run by Trier University at its Treff International (international students centre) - where the Office for International Academic Contacts has a help-desk and German and foreign students can meet and find assistance in an informal setting - as well as the Welcome Service of the Münster University of Applied Sciences, where the student team offering support for foreign students also includes teaching staff.