

AFECO Monthly Newsletter

February 2019

AFECO Internship Presentations

AFECO students who completed their internship in winter term 2018/19 will present their experiences Wednesday 6th February at 16:00-18:00 and 7th February at 16:00-18:00 in SemRoom Nussallee 19. All AFECO students are cordially invited to be inspired by the experiences of their peers and learn about interesting internship opportunities.

Deadline for ERASMUS application: 1st March

Want to study abroad for a semester or a whole year? More information on how to do that and be financed by the ERASMUS programme can be found [here](#). Unfortunately the ERASMUS website at the agricultural faculty is not in English, however personal informational meetings can be arranged with the ERASMUS coordinator [Susanne Hermes](#).

No Worries - International Support Group

Homesick? Feeling isolated? It's nothing to feel ashamed of and it can help to talk about it! Together with a mediator, the international office offers international students the opportunity to meet and speak casually and openly about their problems and find solutions. The next "No Worries" meeting will take place on Wednesday 6 February from 6-8pm at the International Club Poppelsdorfer Allee 53.

Super Bowl 2019 Watch Parties

Many bars in Bonn are hosting Super Bowl 2019 watch parties late into the night on Sunday 3 February including the Dubliner, Bla and Die Wache. If you're looking to salute to this hailed American traditional grab some friends, a lot of caffeine and find more info [here](#).

Sweat Over the Semester Break

No class doesn't mean "no" to working out! If you're going to be in Bonn over the semester break (04.02.-31.03.2019) the UniSport program offers classes to keep you moving! The program is available at the University Bonn Sports [website](#). All courses offered during the non-lecture period are marked with "Ferien".

"Feeding a Hungry Planet: Agriculture, Nutrition and Sustainability" - Free Online Course

SDG Academy is hosting a free, online 7-week long course that addresses the pertinent question of how we can create a healthy and sustainable diet for the growing population. The course targets graduate students in the agriculture and economics fields and gives one the

opportunity to learn about food security worldwide, the effect of malnutrition and more. The course begins Monday 11 February 2019, to enroll and for more info click [here](#).

Internship and Job Opportunities*

[Praktikant m/w](#) Fleischhof Rasting GmbH

[Praktikant \(m/w/d\) im Sektorvorhaben Beschäftigung im ländlichen Raum mit Fokus auf Jugendliche](#), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Bonn, Bewerbungsfrist: 05.02.2019

[Stipendium für 2 Semester](#), Keimling Naturkost GmbH

[Praktikant \(m/w/d\) Corporate Responsibility / Nachhaltigkeitsmarketing](#), REWE Group

[International Renewable Energy Agency \(IRENA\) Internship Programme](#), International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

[Praktikum \(3 bis 6 Monate\) im Bereich Nachhaltigkeit](#), International Sustainability and Carbon Certification (ISCC)

Check out the ILR [website](#) for PhD positions and other post-graduate job opportunities.

*job descriptions in German require fluent German skills

ILR Testimonial: Ursula Ploll

The University of Bonn is conducting research based on **microbe-induced resistance to agricultural pests (MiRA)**, an EU-funded research initiative. I spoke with Ursula Ploll, a PhD student in the Chair of Agricultural and Food Market Research, to learn more and to hear about her experience applying for a PhD position at Uni Bonn.

A.T. - How did you hear about the PhD position at ILR? What experience/work of yours do you think made you most qualified for the position?

U.P. - At the time I was actively looking for a PhD position internationally. I had several different channels which I regularly checked for open positions, but I eventually found out about the position at the ILR through a mailing list from my previous university. Because I was already working for the University of Graz, I was able to gain insight and experience into the research life at the university.

A.T. - What experience did you have in research before beginning your PhD?

U.P. - For my master's thesis I collected data via an online survey. With this data I could already participate at a poster session at a conference in Austria. Later during my employment for the



University of Graz I further used this data for more analysis. I also collaborated with my former colleagues on a publication, a research proposal and presented at another conference.

A.T. - Please explain the MiRA project to those who haven't heard of it.

U.P. - The MiRA project is an EU-funded research project which deals with a new biotechnology based on microbe-induced resistance to agricultural pests (MiRA). This technology is based on specific microbes which are naturally occurring in our soils. The microorganisms enter into a symbiosis with the roots of the plants and can enhance the plants own resistance mechanisms. The role of the University of Bonn in the MiRA project goes beyond the development of this technology and looks at the acceptance and perception of this new technology among producer and consumer.

A.T. - Is there resistance on the producer or consumer side in implementing the use of microbe-induced resistance?

U.P. - That is part of what I am going to find out during my research. Any new innovation will have to deal with questions about acceptance or resistance from the producer or consumer side. Look for example at genetically modified products, in Europe they received tremendous public resistance, whereas the acceptance level in the US was much greater. This alone can be seen in the ongoing debate about CRISPR/Cas.

A.T. - How is climate change going to affect the use of MiR technology?

U.P. - As far as I can tell, when it comes to climate change, MiR technology might play a role in the adaptation to these changing conditions. Aside from an induced pest resistance, these microbes can also enhance the plants resilience to other external stress factors, for example drought. Which will be an especially useful mechanism when facing rising temperatures.

We want you to contribute!

This is a student run newsletter and we want to hear from you! If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, whether it be on a recurring basis or one time, please contact Alex at afeco.info@ilr.uni-bonn.de. If you have any helpful information about the AFECO program, job/internship opportunities, going-ons around town or advice for first year AFECO students that you would like to share, don't be bashful and have your voice heard!