

Item 10.c Germanic/Low countries studies

Association for German Studies

The next conference of the [Association for German Studies](#) in Great Britain and Ireland will take place at Swansea University, from 1-3 September 2021. The lead panel for the conference will be German Futures, Future German/ies, with a number of regular as well as one-off panels. Proposals for papers should be 150-200 words and the deadline has also been extended to 30 April 2021.

A group of AGS members whose department's **DAAD-Lektorate** are falling vacant this year has had multiple meetings and email exchanges over the last few months to try to solve the problems arising after Brexit in terms of immigration rules/ salary thresholds / visa regulations for incoming DAAD-LektorInnen and SprachassistentInnen (NB similar problems apply to other language areas). The DAAD has very kindly been present (as have members of HR teams, and the British Academy. There are no solutions for Sept/October 2021.

A summary of the problems (incl. questions to which answers are needed) is to be drafted, with a view to these being shared with stakeholders for further revision and then possibly to go via the Strategic Committee for Languages in HE (that UCML and BA are trying to get off the ground) with a view to lobbying for next year's round of recruitment.

ALCS (Association for Low Countries Studies)

Future events (mostly unchanged from previous report, but with some updates here)

Postgraduate Colloquium at Senate House, University of London, entitled, 'City Lights: Urban Space and Civic Identity in the Low Countries and Beyond'. Enquiries about bursaries for the colloquium are to be sent to Adam Sammut, c/o anws500@york.ac.uk – programme remains more or less unchanged from 2020.

The **Dutch Summer course for beginners**, organised at the University of Edinburgh, where ALCS and the Dutch Language Union are keen to support the teaching of Dutch, has now been postponed to 2022.

ALCS conference – postponed to 2022, and will be held in Edinburgh.

ALCS will be running its **annual essay prizes** as usual in the third term of 2021. ALCS continues to offer **research grants**. More information on our website: <http://alcs.ac.uk/grants-and-prizes/research-grants/>

ALCS and the Dutch Language Union (Nederlandse Taalunie) has been **lobbying the diplomatic representations** of Flanders and the Netherlands in London, and MPs in both language areas. Its widely circulated letter was raised in both parliaments, about the future of academic collaborations and exchanges between our countries post Brexit, both in general and with regard to Dutch Studies specifically.

ALCS feels that momentum has been gained. The Dutch Language Union will **continue to fund language assistants** – in the past these were always Flemish/Dutch exchange students who would

help out with language teaching. (We will now be allowed to appoint local students [Dutch speakers] who are not affiliated with a Dutch or Flemish university.) Ultimately, a DAAD-style scheme is desired, but no success so far.

(Please see previous report for UCML as many of the points there are ongoing/ still valid)

WIGS (Women in German Studies)

Following WIGS' resolve to draw attention to changes and issues affecting the profession and discipline (50% of the profession are on insecure, precarious or fractional contracts, opportunities for employment are dwindling and workload is intensifying), this year's conference (University of Aberdeen, 24-26 June 2021) features a **Special Panel on Diversity and Inclusivity** in German Studies. This year's is an Open Conference and runs under the banner of "Crossing Thresholds". The deadline for abstract submissions has [been extended to end April 2021](#).

The constitution has now been amended in order to appoint to an **Equality and Inclusion** role ([now filled by Professor Iman M. Nick](#)) as well as to a newly **combined ECR/Fractional** rep. Various committee roles are currently up for election. Details can be seen at: <https://womeningermanstudies.wordpress.com/2021/02/24/wigs-committee-vacancies-2/>

14/04/2021

Compiled by Allyson Fiddler (**Rep for Germanic and Low Countries Studies**); Christine Sas (ALCS) was able to assist with ALCS-related points. Schedules did not allow for direct updates from AGS and WIGS. Apologies.