

**Guidelines  
on the Awarding of and Procedure for  
the Höffmann Academic Award for Intercultural Competence**

### **1. Objectives**

(1) The Höffmann Academic Award for Intercultural Competence, sponsored by the Vechta-based travel company Höffmann-Reisen GmbH, comes with a cash prize of € 10,000. The University of Vechta confers it annually.

(2) The Höffmann Academic Award is a long-term programme aimed at promoting intercultural competence. Intercultural competence means the ability to reflect and act in a constructive manner in intercultural situations when encountering people of different ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds. These are key skills in times of transnationalisation and globalisation. Academia faces the task of promoting intercultural competence through active exchange, integration in studies and teaching, and carrying out relevant research projects. The Höffmann Academic Award contributes to this by awarding a prize for outstanding academic work on topics of intercultural competence.

(3) Due to the multifaceted aspects that represent and define a culture, intercultural competence cannot be covered by one subject alone. An integrative approach is required that goes beyond individual elements like language, history and geography, arts and religion, and connects them. Hence, the Höffmann Academic Award is not aimed at specific disciplines.

(4) In view of these objectives, the Höffmann Academic Award is open to international nominations.

### **2. Target group**

The aim of the Höffmann Academic Award is to support the endeavours of an outstanding academic by awarding a prize to groundbreaking work on topics of intercultural competence. Such work may concentrate on researching the topic from the perspective of a single discipline or it may be interdisciplinary in nature.

### **3. Nominations**

(1) The management of a university or research institution can nominate candidates in the form of proposals. Candidates are not permitted to nominate themselves.

(2) Nominations should contain detailed substantiation from the nominator, two expert opinions, each by qualified university lecturers, a curriculum vitae with a photograph of the nominee and a list of their previous publications. Documents must be submitted in English or German.

#### **4. The selection procedure**

(1) The professor of Practical Theology at the University of Vechta, Prof. Dr. Egon Spiegel, who is also the head of the panel of judges, is the academic director of the programme. The other members of the panel are four members of the group of university lecturers of the University of Vechta: Prof. Dr. Markus Fauser, Prof. Dr. Theo Hartogh, Prof. Dr. Peter Kaiser and Prof. Dr. Margit Stein. In addition, the President of the University of Vechta, Prof. Dr. Burghart Schmidt, and Hans Höffmann from the travel company Höffmann Reisen GmbH, are members of the panel, both with advisory votes. This panel of judges peruses the incoming nominations, stipulates selection criteria and may seek further expert opinions to assist them in their work. The panel decides on the conferral of the academic award. If the panel of judges considers two of the works submitted as equally worthy of the award, it may decide to split it.

(2) The academic award is presented at a public award ceremony at the University of Vechta.

#### **5. Conditions**

(1) The submission of a nomination is deemed acceptance of the provisions of these guidelines.

(2) The judges' decision is final.

(3) The closing date for nominations is the end of June.

#### **6. Final clause**

These guidelines have been agreed upon between the sponsor Hans Höffmann, the University of Vechta and the academic director of the programme.

Vechta, 9 March, 2016

Hans Höffmann

Sponsor

Prof. Dr.  
Burghart Schmidt

President of  
the University of  
Vechta

Prof. Dr.  
Egon Spiegel

Academic director of the  
programme