Creating a Network of Solidarity

The current flow of refugees and the armed conflicts in many countries of the Middle East and North Africa considerably hamper the exercise of academic teaching and research. Many scholars are affected by this crisis, either because they had to flee their home country or because their academic mobility has been widely restricted. This development not only causes major challenges for the persons concerned, it also impairs cooperation between Arab and German higher education and research institutions.

With Adopt an Academic, the Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA) and Freie Universität Berlin have launched an initiative that seeks to open up new perspectives for refugee academics and aims to provide a safe space for independent research. On the basis of a peer-to-peer mentoring program, the project intends to create a network of solidarity that not only fosters academic freedom but also promotes the advancement of durable research collaborations between excellent Arab and German scholars.

Contact Information

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Adopt an Academic is an initiative of the Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA) and Freie Universität Berlin.

Freie Universität Berlin

agya
ARAB-GERMAN
YOUNG ACADEMY
OF SCIENCES AND
HUMANITIES

Adopt
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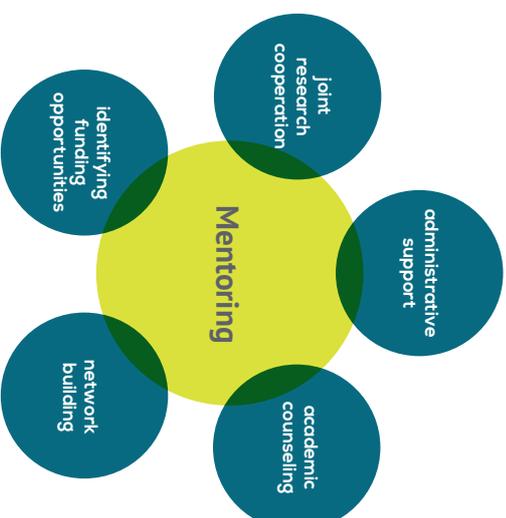# Academic

Arab–German Mentoring Program
for Refugee Academics

About the Project

Adopt an Academic connects refugee scholars with excellent scientists acting as mentors. Services offered by these mentors include administrative support, the introduction into a new scientific environment, counseling on academic career opportunities and the identification of promising funding options.

Next to providing a lasting reintegration into the international scientific community, the long-term goal of the mentoring program is to create an Arab-German network of solidarity and to raise awareness on the value of cross-cultural academic cooperation and scientific excellence.

The Mentors

Adopt an Academic mentors act on a voluntary basis. The mentoring program is open for scholars of all disciplines who are able to provide a safe space for steady mutual academic exchange. Depending on the mentor's and mentee's current location, the mentoring process may take place on site or at distance. In any case, mentoring should proceed on a regular basis. Besides introducing their mentees into a new academic environment and serving as regular dialogue partners, mentors may also help to identify suitable funding opportunities for long-term research projects.

All mentors of the Adopt an Academic program will receive special training and support both prior to and throughout the mentoring process. Furthermore, they will get the chance to exchange ideas and experiences with other mentors at annual network meetings. In this way, mentors may not only explore new venues of collaborative research but also become part of a larger network of solidarity among international academics.

Mentoring

- joint research cooperation
- administrative support
- academic counseling
- network building
- identifying funding opportunities

The Mentees

Adopt an Academic addresses refugee academics who had to leave their home country because of ongoing military conflicts and/or profound limitations of their academic freedom. The mentoring program is open for scholars of all disciplines. Applicants should preferably be researchers at postdoc level. Since the program is supposed to function as a first step towards a permanent reintegration into scholarly life, it also involves new network opportunities and advice on funding options.

In order to guarantee the safety of potential and current mentees, the application and mentoring process will be conducted anonymously. Adopt an Academic also ensures that the program administration may be contacted on a strictly confidential basis.

BENEFITS

- international knowledge transfer
- cross-cultural research cooperation
- annual network meetings
- special training and individual support