Universität Vechta
University of Vechta

**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. It is conferred annually by the University of Vechta.

(2)   The Höffmann Academic Award is a long-term programme aimed at promoting intercultural skills. Intercultural competence means the ability to reflect and act that enables us to operate constructively 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 skills through active interchange, integration in studies and teaching, and carrying out relevant research projects. The Höffmann Academic Award makes a contribution to this by awarding a prize for outstanding academic work on topics of intercultural competence.

(3)   Because of the multifaceted aspects that make up 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 carried out on topics of intercultural competence. Such work can concentrate on exploring the topic from the perspective of a single discipline or it may be interdisciplinary in nature.

3. Nominations

(1)   Nominations are made by proposals put forward by the management of a university or research institution. Candidates are not permitted to nominate themselves.

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

4. The selection procedure

(1)   The Academic Director of the programme is the incumbent of the Chair of Practical Theology at the University of Vechta, Prof. Dr. Egon Spiegel, who is also the Chairman of the Panel of Judges. The other members of the panel are four members of the University of Vechta's group of university lecturers, who along with the Chairman make up the Selection Committee for the Höffmann Academic Award for Intercultural Competence. The following persons are on the current panel of judges: Prof. Dr. Markus Fauser, Prof. Dr. Theo Hartogh, Prof. Dr. Peter Kaiser and Prof. Dr. Margit Stein. The panel is completed by the Vice-President for Teaching and Academic Programmes of the University of Vechta, Dr. Marion Rieken, and Hans Höffmann for the travel company Höffmann Reisen GmbH, both with advisory votes. This panel of judges peruses the incoming nominations, stipulates selection criteria and can seek further expert opinions to assist them in their work. The panel of judges 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 can 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 2015.

6. Final clause

These guidelines are agreed between the sponsor, the University of Vechta and the Academic Director of the programme.

Vechta, July 17, 2014

Hans Höffmann	Prof. Dr. Marianne Assenmacher	Prof. Dr. Egon Spiegel
Sponsor	President University of Vechta	Academic Progr. Director