

Preface

This guide has been produced to serve as an overview of exchanges between German and Canadian universities. It aims at informing the interested public and, above all, stimulating more and new exchange relations.

This guide can only be a preliminary step towards a further, as we were confronted with several problems we needed. The following comments may be helpful in using the guide.

I. INTRODUCTION

(1) The first obstacle for a conclusive inventory of exchange relations is related to the very nature of exchange programs. At the heart of any exchange agreement are personal relations and affinities. Thus many exchanges that have their origin in bilateral relations between individual people, be they faculty members or people with "German-experiences" or "Canadian-experiences", i.e. people that once studied at the partner university or have personal links with the other country. In so far as such bilateral relations are not yet formalized, it is often difficult, if not impossible, to register as incoming exchanges. As a consequence, we have only limited information on programs for the exchange of students or faculty members, be they registered or only informally established. It goes without saying that there is an equally enormous number of other kinds of exchanges and cooperations below this level, e.g. student visits, common publications and research projects. To list all of these would have been beyond the scope of this guide.

(2) The structure of exchange programs, once they are well established or reach the state of formalization, are usually quite solid. Despite this fact, the implementation is often subject to frequent changes. This is especially the case with contact exchanges, number of participants, etc. Thus, the information collected tends to be out of date very quickly. We would kindly ask people concerned to up-to-date on changes in the programs listed.

(3) The information obtained differed considerably in quality and quantity. Thus, the presentation of the individual programs is bound to be more conclusive in one case, while lacking some information in another. Again, we would kindly request those concerned to advise us of errors or omissions whenever possible.

Despite these limitations, we hope this guide will be useful in its present form.

Finally, we would like to thank all the individuals which provided us generously and promptly with the information listed here, without which this guide would not have been possible.