

Young Researchers Transatlantic Academy



June 3-7, 2012
Aachen, Germany
-- Call for Applications --

In the summer of 2012, RWTH Aachen University, Forschungszentrum Jülich, and the University of Pennsylvania School of Engineering and Applied Science will host an interdisciplinary 5-day Young Researchers Transatlantic Academy focusing on transferable skills for doctoral students. This challenging academic and professional development program aims to strengthen participants' global skills, improve their chances for funding and executing German-American research collaboration, and foster intercultural awareness.

Theme for 2012: Energy

Applications are encouraged from PhD candidates whose work relates to a broadly defined field of energy, grounded in engineering and the sciences. Presentations and practical exercises will be complemented by work in small groups, giving students the chance to further develop their skills and interact with scientists and researchers in related fields from outstanding German and American institutions. The program will center on the following key themes:

- Strategies for collaborative success in energy-related research
- Intercultural communication and awareness
- Successful grant seeking for transatlantic research cooperation
- Leadership and entrepreneurship in an international context

Target Group

Participants are drawn primarily from RWTH Aachen University, Forschungszentrum Jülich and University of Pennsylvania, as well as from additional selected research universities in the US and Germany. The Academy has a capacity of 30, allowing 15 students from the US and 15 from Germany to attend. Participants are accepted on a competitive basis.

PhD candidates in the fields of Engineering, Science, and Technology whose research relates to energy may apply. This is relatively broadly defined, and participants may come from any field of engineering or the sciences. Please [contact the organizers](#) if you are unsure whether your field of research fits with the theme.

The Academy offers participants a special opportunity to meet experts in their field of research from Germany and the US and to interact with other PhD students whose work overlaps with yet is not identical to their own, and with whom they have realistic chances for meaningful future research collaboration.

Participation

The conference fee for the Academy will be entirely sponsored by RWTH Aachen University, including full board for all days of the academy. For participants from outside of the Aachen/ Jülich area, accommodation will be provided in shared dormitory rooms June 1st-7th.

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Participants are generally responsible for funding and making arrangements for their own transportation to Aachen. Applicants from the United States may apply for a travel subsidy of 300 Euros to offset international travel costs.

Application Guidelines

Please submit the application form ([download here](#)) and a current C.V. to info@rwthachenuniversity.us by Wednesday, February 29, 2012.

About the Organizers

RWTH Aachen University is the largest university of technology in Germany and one of the most renowned technical universities in Europe. The university and its university hospital have a particularly strong reputation for engineering, natural science and medical research. Founded in 1870 as a polytechnic institute, the university currently has over 30,000 students, roughly half in engineering fields, a quarter in the natural sciences, and a tenth studying medicine. RWTH Aachen University consistently ranks number one in Germany in third-party funding from business and industry and public research grants.

The Forschungszentrum Jülich is one of the largest research centers in Europe (staff of about 4,600), pursuing cutting-edge interdisciplinary research in key technologies applicable in the fields of health, energy, the environment, and IT. Work at Jülich focuses on both long-term, fundamental and multidisciplinary contributions to science and technology as well as on specific technological applications.

RWTH and Jülich formed the **Jülich-Aachen Research Alliance (JARA)** in August 2007, a partnership between a university and non-university research institution of outstanding international reputation. This Alliance connects internationally renowned research fields in a target-oriented manner - research fields which complement each other with respect to their disciplinary profile, thus enhancing their performance potential and creating extraordinary conditions for research and teaching. The Transatlantic Academy aims to build on these strong research networks, and orient the Academy around the thematic foci of JARA, one of which is JARA-ENERGY.

The University of Pennsylvania, a member of the American Ivy League, is the oldest university in America and one of the most prestigious institutions of higher learning in the world. Penn is ranked in the top five among American universities and has more than 11,000 graduate students enrolled in its 12 schools, all of which are national leaders in their fields. Penn's **School of Engineering and Applied Science** is one of the oldest in the United States, established in 1852 as a School of Mines, Arts and Manufactures. It has grown since that time into a center of excellence in the creation of technology. Penn excels in multidisciplinary research in many sectors of energy. Their Center for Energy Research and Innovation (Pennergy) brings together world-class researchers to solve scientific and technological problems enabling the efficient use of current energy sources, the practical use of more sustainable energy, and the facile conversion of energy to different forms. Penn Engineering includes approximately 1,600 undergraduates, 1,000 graduate students, and 15 research centers institutes.