

The First 25 Participants Successfully Complete the International Summer School on Biotechnology at the University of Applied Sciences Weihenstephan-Triesdorf

Can we fight the environmental catastrophe in the Gulf of Mexico by oil-eating bacteria? Is gene-manipulated “Golden Rice” the adequate medium to overcome vitamin A shortage in developing countries? These were but a few of the questions that were posed to the 25 students of the first summer school on biotechnology at the University of Applied Sciences Weihenstephan-Triesdorf. A female student from Grenoble was not the only student who was impressed by the summer school. She remarks: “Especially the visits to the companies, the personal contacts and the interesting presentations were the highlights of this school”.

The one-week course offered expert knowledge about all areas of biotechnology: The Biotech Cluster Bavaria was as well represented as the authors of the German Report on Biotechnology from Ernst & Young. Central building blocks of the course were the visits to the biotech companies Roche, Penzberg, and Wacker in Munich as well as the excursions to the Scheyern Estate of the Helmholtz Centre Munich. Cultural aspects were also covered by tours of the monastery at Scheyern and the brewery at Erding.

The students were hosted at the Kardinal-Döpfner-Haus, adjacent to the Freising dome. Here, students worked in groups to eventually hold presentations on biotechnology before receiving their certificates of successful participation. Weihenstephan’s flowery university campus itself is reminiscent of a traditional college campus with the minute-away city of Freising allowing contacts and personal relationships to be furthered. “We are already working on plans for a summer school in 2011”, reveals organizer Prof. Thurner of the Faculty for Biotechnology and Bioinformatics of the University of Applied Sciences Weihenstephan-Triesdorf.

This Summer School has been supported within the EU project AlpsBioCluster by the Alpine Space Programme of the European Union as part of the European Regional Development Fund.

Enclosure

Photo of the Summer School participants and organizers July 2010

Caption:

Participants and organizers of the International Summer School on Biotechnology at the University of Applied Sciences Weihenstephan-Triesdorf, July 2010. From left President Prof. Hermann Heiler and, seating, first from the right, Prof. Dr. Franz Thurner, Faculty for Biotechnology and Bioinformatics.

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