



NEW MID-LEVEL TEACHING STAFF OR RESEARCHER?
.....overview.....networking....contact.....

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the **Research Associates' Council**, it is our pleasure to welcome you as a member of the research associates.

The research associates, also referred to as mid-level teaching staff and researchers (in German, the *Mittelbau*) include all salaried employees who are carrying out scholarly activities, especially, salaried doctoral researchers, assistants, senior assistants, professors who do not hold chairs, as well as so-called *Akademische Räte*.

According to Article 35 of the Bavarian University and College Act, the constitution of a university may permit the establishment of a council of research associates. Such a council constitutes a joint committee of the research associate representatives in the various university bodies such as the Senate or the faculty councils. Section 15 of the University of Bayreuth's constitution governs the activities and formation of the Research Associates' Council.

One of the most important functions of the Council is its exchange of information with the representatives in the university committees and with all University of Bayreuth colleagues. For this reason, council meetings are held regularly and a university-wide information session is offered at least once a year. You can find the names of our representatives and additional information on our organization by visiting our homepage:

<http://www.uni-bayreuth.de/departments/mittelbaukonvent>

In what follows, you will find a few brief points to help familiarize you with the most important structures relating to mid-level academic staff:

- Those research associates interested in university policy are cordially invited to attend the meetings of the Research Associates' Council. The first item on the agenda (reports/ *Berichte*) is always public. The three or four meetings per semester are always held on a Tuesday evening before the meeting of the Senate (please refer to the notice on our bulletin board).
- If you would like to register for the electronic information and discussion forum, please send an e-mail to

Mittelbau-request@uni-bayreuth.de

with the message: <Subscribe Mittelbau "first name last name">. You will then always be kept up to date with the latest news and can participate in discussions by sending a mail to

Mittelbau@uni-bayreuth.de

- There are official contacts for the following topics (you can find their contact information on the Council's homepage or by asking your group representative):
 - DFG researchers' group, European research programmes, etc. (separate mailing list for those who are interested)
 - European exchange of teaching staff, current DAAD programmes
 - Ombudsman and mediator for problems concerning thesis supervision
 - 'Pro-Lehre' programme for university didactics (seminars on presentation techniques, communication, etc. taught by external trainers)
- If you have any questions concerning your employment agreement or legal consequences that could result from amendments to your contract, especially related to scholarships in research training groups, the spokesman of the Council can provide you with the contact information of a competent specialist.

We wish you much success in your work at the University of Bayreuth, and we would be pleased to welcome you to one of our events in the future.

Sincerely,