

PRESS RELEASE DRAFT. University of Birmingham (UoB)

EU Erasmus teaching exchange leads to further collaboration

University languages teacher hosts architecture education forum in Hamburg



From left to right, German Teaching Fellow Dr John Goodyear leads discussion with Professor Wolfgang Willkomm and Matthias Kulcke, M.A. (HafenCity Universität Hamburg), Professor Katja-Annika Pahl (School of Architecture Bremen) and Professor Julia Bargholz (Jade University of Applied Sciences). Credit: Heidi Fletcher

10 weeks after finishing a month-long EU-funded teaching mobility at the Jade University of Applied Sciences in Oldenburg, German Teaching Fellow [Dr John Goodyear](#) was back in Germany to lead a podium discussion on unlocking creativity in teaching and learning architecture in the German Higher Education sector. Held at the Freie Akademie der Künste in Hamburg and organised by the Jade University of Applied Sciences, the discussion formed the final event of a week-long exhibition entitled [Transforming the City](#). The exhibition and accompanying programme formed part of the wider 2019 [Hamburger Architektur Sommer](#) – a series of events across Hamburg attracting architects, designers and engineers to the north German city every three years.

“Being invited to lead the podium discussion in German by German colleagues on aspects related to the German Higher Education system, weeks after the conclusion of my Erasmus stay, showed me how such exchanges formed the basis for further collaboration,” Dr Goodyear said. “Such invitations also go to show how exchanges are still lived well after the mobility comes to an end,” he added.

During his four-week mobility in between this year’s spring and summer terms, in April 2019, Dr Goodyear worked in the English Department at the Jade University of Applied Sciences, exploring and developing teaching concepts for the delivery of language content for English for Specific Purposes (ESP). A core element of the mobility was to job-shadow university teaching staff across three campuses in Wilhelmshaven, Oldenburg and Elsfeth, where he saw, at first hand, how engineering, seafaring and architecture were delivered to students whose first language is not English.

Dr Goodyear took a particular interest in the first-year undergraduate architecture programme at the Jade University of Applied Sciences in Oldenburg and its innovative teaching approach in architecture education titled [Transformationen](#) (transformations). Developed by professors [Julia Bargholz](#) and Andreas Oevermann, the programme does much to spur creativity in architecture students through a series of interconnected teaching and learning activities, combining design, drawing and sketching as well as sculptural-spatial design. The aim is to help the students gain their own individual expression as architects. The teaching and learning process also involves exhibiting and presenting the students’ work at a public exhibition. This year, the results of the students’ work were exhibited at the Freie Akademie der Künste in Hamburg between 5-13 July 2017.

[Heidi Fletcher](#), practicing architect and lecturer at the Jade University of Applied Sciences, whose first-year undergraduate architecture transformation classes were shadowed by Dr Goodyear, welcomed the exchange fostered through the ERASMUS programme, saying: “teaching mobilities allow staff and students to showcase work to visiting practitioners with best practice exchange really helping to transfer good teaching across borders”.

Fruitful exchanges on teaching and learning as well as exchange of teaching materials followed Dr Goodyear’s shadowing, leading to an invitation from Heidi Fletcher and Professor [Julia Bargholz](#) to host a podium discussion at the Freie Akademie der Künste in Hamburg on 13 July. The panel comprising of Professor [Wolfgang Willkomm](#) and [Matthias Kulcke](#), M.A. (HafenCity Universität Hamburg), Professor [Katja-Annika Pahl](#) (School of Architecture Bremen) and Professor Julia Bargholz (Jade University of Applied Sciences) discussed issues on teaching architectural space and design, challenges and opportunities of digitalization in study as well as responding to questions and comments from teaching staff and students in the audience.

For Dr Goodyear, the experience of leading a podium discussion in his foreign language in the area of teaching and learning of language content demonstrated the extent to which Erasmus exchanges can form long-lasting partnerships, ones which have tangible outcomes long after the mobility is over. He added: “Insights gained on both the Erasmus teaching mobility and the insightful exchanges during the podium discussion will inform my foreign language teaching practice in the months and years ahead.” After 18 months as German Teaching Fellow in the School of Languages, Cultures, Art History and Music, Dr Goodyear will assume

the role of Academic Lead as Lecturer (Teaching) English as a Modern Foreign Language in
September 2019.