

*Call for Participation, European Writing Centers Association (EWCA) conference 2008 in Freiburg, Germany*

**Initiating Writing Center Work – Connecting Secondary, Higher, and Professional Education** (June 19-22, 2008)

**Schedule**

June 19: Pre-conference workshops (full day: 9 a.m.-5 p.m./half day: 2-5 p.m.)

Evening: Cocktail party

June 20 (all day): Opening, Keynotes, individual presentations, poster session

Evening: Freiburg city tour and dinner

June 21 (all day): Keynotes, individual presentations, workshops

Evening: Tour to Staufen, a nearby medieval town, dinner

June 22 (half day): Individual presentations, round table(s), closing session (until 1 p.m.)

Afternoon/evening: Trip to the countryside of Freiburg and wine-tasting

**Conference fees**

Before April 15, 2008                      90 Euro

After April 15                                120 Euro

Upon arrival                                 150 Euro

Pre-conference workshop                20 Euro (half day), 40 Euro (full day)

Day pass                                        40 Euro (full day), 20 Euro (half day)

**Brief description**

Writing centers are still rather rare in the different educational landscapes within Europe. Nevertheless, the acknowledgement of a growing diversity of learners in primary, secondary, higher and professional education has forced politicians, administrators, and teachers to demand new forms of individualized support for students. In many institutions, so-called learning centers, academic training units, communication centers, and competence centers have been set up. However, in their attempts to support a wide variety of student needs, such centers often fail because of their remit is far too broad.

In contrast, some centers have begun to recognize the importance of focusing on key competencies--such as writing and reading, and presentation skills—in their service. Based on such a focus, highly specialized and therefore effective work with students can become possible, and as a result, specific needs and institutional standards can be made more visible.

This *Conference Call* encourages discussion of **concepts of institutional development** to set up writing centers and to integrate writing center work into discipline-specific and cross-disciplinary instruction and learning. This call also looks for **training programs** for writing/reading experts who work in the writing center and beyond. In addition, presentations on **experiences with genre-specific support** and the facilitation of

writing/reading work aiming for the needs of other educational fields outside of the writing center's institutional home base are strongly encouraged. Proposals should not only present practical ideas on writing center pedagogy but also show how these ideas are emerging from current writing center theory and research.

**Suggested sub-themes**

- Establishing writing (and reading)/learning centers in primary and secondary education
- Shaping writing centers in higher education
- Training of writing/reading tutors and coaches
- Supporting Writing Fellows in the disciplines
- Facilitating academics and teachers in designing writing-intensive courses
- Preparing for genres in the professions

**Suggested formats of presentation**

- Individual presentations (20 minutes)  
*You wish to present work in progress (shorter version) or results (longer version).  
Your presentation will be matched with others in 90 minute sessions.*
- Workshops (90 minutes or half/full day pre-conference workshop)  
*You wish to involve your colleagues actively into aspects of your work.*
- Round-Table discussions (90 minutes)  
*You wish to bring together two to four colleagues to discuss a topic from different perspectives and to involve the audience in this sharing.*
- Poster Presentations  
*You wish to provide a visual overview of your work (either in progress or results) and stimulate individual conversation.*

More information about the conference is available at [www.ph-freiburg.de/ewca2008](http://www.ph-freiburg.de/ewca2008).  
Please submit your proposal online any time before January 15, 2008.