

PRESS RELEASE

MORE RELEVANT THAN EVER: CULTURAL EXCHANGE IN EUROPE – THE GOETHE-INSTITUT LONDON TURNS 60



**GOETHE
INSTITUT**

Sprache. Kultur. Deutschland.

The Goethe-Institut London opened its doors in 1962 to become the first UK home for Germany's cultural institute. This autumn, it celebrates its 60th anniversary. Rather than looking at the past, the Goethe-Institut London marks this milestone by directing its focus to the future and fostering collaboration between the UK, Europe, and the rest of the world.

Since opening in 1962, the Goethe-Institut London has grown and gained a reputation as a lively hub for ideas, support, education, and exchange. Once a centre for German culture, the Goethe-Institut today fosters collaboration between the UK, Europe, and beyond. Teaching German is not only about mastering grammar. It is a contribution towards the vision of a multilingual and multicultural world. "We need to be speaking German", said Nick Gibb, Minister of State at the Department for Education, while announcing the government's new language hub initiative in England.

As Katharina von Ruckteschell-Katte, Director of the Goethe-Institut London says: "Our work changes all the time because the world changes and so do relations. We must adapt to that, but what always remains key is the idea of bringing people together. This will help us to understand each other and therefore, to maybe better understand the future."

Besides hosting a 60s-themed anniversary party in December that will also exhibit artworks from Royal College of Arts students, three Goethe Annual Lectures will cover an eclectic range of themes, which are in line with popular culture. Author Mithu Sanyal will pay homage to revolutionaries such as Martin Luther King by diving into love and politics on the 17th of November. Academic Mercedes Bunz will explore artificial intelligence systems through the lens of contemporary art on the 24th of November. And finally, on the 1st of December, musician Matthew Herbert will analyse extraordinary sound recordings to ponder how systemic listening can lead to meaningful action. The lectures are open to all, free of charge and will also be live-streamed.

Despite the current challenges, the Goethe-Institut London is looking ahead with optimism - it is determined to widen its reach as a hub for debate, language learning, and exchange, to serve as a bridge between the UK and Germany, the EU, and the world, to share ideas and to create opportunities for the next sixty years.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About the Goethe-Institut London:

The Goethe-Institut London has played an active role in cultivating strong relations between Germany and the UK over the last sixty years, and even in spite of Brexit, the two countries feel culturally closer than ever.

Since 1962, the Institut has been based at 50-51 Princess Gate, Exhibition Road – a space that has evolved over the years. Between the years 1972-73, No.50 was home to the legendary 'Gallery House' that was visited by stars like Yoko Ono and Eric Clapton. It remains a reference point of that era in the arts scene. Its library; which boasts a collection of 13,000 books, is not only a beautiful space for readers and students studying German, but it also regularly hosts book clubs, translators' workshops, book launches, and game nights. There is even GILON, the library robot.

CONTACT

Christiane Eck
Press & PR Officer

Goethe-Institut London
50 Princes Gate
Exhibition Road
London
SW7 2PH

+44 (0)20 7596 4042

+44 (0)7881 338395

christiane.eck@goethe.de



This year alone, 4600 students learnt German in the language department at the Goethe-Institut London and 2270 exams were taken – more than before the pandemic. The Goethe-Institut has been collaborating with UK-based schools since its inception. It organises popular events and holiday camps for pupils learning German at school. These events attracted almost 7,000 participants in 2022.

About the Goethe-Institut:

The Goethe-Institut connects people all over the world. As a cultural institution of the Federal Republic of Germany, it promotes cultural exchange, education and societal discourse in an international context, not to mention the teaching and learning of the German language. Together with its partners, it focuses on global opportunities and challenges, bringing different perspectives into a dialogue that is based on trust. It regards the ability to listen and to reflect as the key to understanding. It is bound by principles such as transparency, diversity, and sustainability. These principles also characterise its services and way of working.

There are currently 158 Goethe-Institut branches operating in 98 countries around the world. Combining their cross-cultural expertise with the experiences of their local partners, they support and collaborate with cultural institutions, artists, universities, schools, local authorities, and businesses, all of whom share an interest in Germany, and its language and culture. With their networks and collaborations, they also address and promote the European idea, of a shared European cultural space and diversity.

In the UK, the Goethe-Institut is based in London and Glasgow. The Goethe-Institut London has been operating in South Kensington since 1962 and the Goethe-Institut Glasgow opened in 1973.

Goethe-Institut London
50 Princes Gate
Exhibition Road
London SW7 2PH
+44 20 7596 4000
info-london@goethe.de
[goethe.de/london](https://www.goethe.de/london)

https://www.instagram.com/goetheinstitut_london

https://twitter.com/GI_London1

<https://www.facebook.com/goethe.institut.london/>

PRESS INFORMATION

For interviews and further information please email Christiane Eck, Press and Public Relations Officer, christiane.eck@goethe.de

High res images can be found on our website:

<https://www.goethe.de/ins/gb/en/sta/lon/60y/prs.html>