

CAPOD Funding Report

Please complete this report and submit by email to your authorising signature from your School/Unit and capod@st-andrews.ac.uk

Personal details will not form part of the uploaded report to CAPOD webpage

Event /Course Title	Yakety Yak Language Café: German, intermediate level
Date of event	October 2018 to February 2019

1. Brief description of Event (50-100 words):

I have been attending the German conversation sessions run on a weekly basis by the Yakety Yak Language Café in Edinburgh. The sessions take place in small groups and are guided by a native-speaking tutor.

2. What were the benefits of attending and what did you gain from the experience in terms of transferable skills and knowledge.

I have been learning German as a development activity to support my post-PhD research plans and career development and have spent the past two summers attending language courses in Berlin. Attending the Yakety Yak conversation classes during term-time has helped me to keep practicing my language skills and to develop my confidence. Using the language on a regular basis has made a real difference, especially as conversation is challenging, and has helped to build my grammar, vocabulary, and fluency. I even had the opportunity to explain my research in German to other members of the group.

3. What actions will you be taking as a result of attending or by making new networking contacts.

I will shortly be submitting my PhD and am preparing to apply for post-doctoral opportunities in Germany through organisations such as the DAAD, the Humboldt Foundation or the Goethe Institute. The research proposal that I am developing relies on German-language archival materials, which I am now much more confident about using.

4. Can you share any additional resources produced in connection with the event (e.g. feedback from participants, training resources, website links, and additional materials.

n/a

5. Tips/experience learned from the event

Participating in the conversation sessions was challenging at times because I questioned my own abilities. I learned that confidence and resilience are really important when learning a language, as well recognising that everyone learns at a different pace.

6. Any additional comments or information regarding the event

I would like to thank CAPOD for funding my participation in the conversation classes and helping to progress my German language skills.