



Berufswege-Veranstaltungen: Sommersemester 2016

So you want be a Publisher or a Writer?

Talk & Discussion

Referentin: **Debbie Williams, Head of UCLan Publishing (University of Central Lancashire, UK)**

Praxis & Beruf-Büro an der Philosophischen Fakultät

Mittwoch, 29. Juni 2016 | 16:00 – 18:00 Uhr

On 29 June 2016, Debbie Williams, Head of UCLan Publishing (University of Central Lancashire, UK), gave a talk on the topic "So you Want to be Publisher or a Writer?" at the University of Tübingen and informed the students from different faculties about various job opportunities in the publishing industry. Debbie has 15 years' experience as Head of the Children's books section of "Waterstones", the biggest book retailer in England. Nowadays she runs the publishing house of the University of Lancashire where she trains MA students in writing and publishing. She also sets up various projects for charity, for example, to support pupils in Kenya.

sound inspiring! So, in general, publishing is about selection, editing, design, distribution and promotion of literary works. By describing the above-mentioned procedures Debbie Williams illustrated that the publishing industry requires employees with multiple qualifications which go beyond regular professional competences. A person working in publishing should have advanced team and negotiation skills, and organized working strategies, sometimes also be a good manager. Williams also provided an insight into the intersectionality of the field. The industry therefore does not only offer possibilities for creative authors, it is rather a field in which many disciplines are connected in order to realize projects.



Enthusiastic presentation, inspiring speech: Debbie Williams, Head of UCLan Publishing, about publishing routines; (Foto: Praxis & Beruf)

The publishing industry requires employees with multiple qualifications

Debbie Williams gave a detailed description of the everyday working processes in the industry. Her enthusiastic presentation made these routine processes

Writers read more sophisticated academic journals to work on their formulations

Furthermore, Debbie Williams also shared the secrets and techniques of famous writers to inspire her audience for creative approaches. Due to multiple new distractions that have emerged in this digital age, it has become more difficult for writers to concentrate on their work. Therefore, writers try to avoid being bombarded by information and try to keep themselves away from smartphones and magazines. In order to improve their writing, they read more sophisticated academic journals and work on their formulations. Debbie Williams also revealed that some writers do their research in the places where their stories are set. In this case inspiration emerges from the writers' own experience during such a field trip. Furthermore, Williams recommended to write a bit every day and to go for walks in case of a writer's block. "The most important thing is to get it down!"



Advice for her audience: How does one get a job in the publishing industry?; (Foto: Praxis & Beruf)

“Follow your heart and never give up if publishing and writing are your passion”

In a final step, Debbie Williams gave her audience some advice on how to get a job in the publishing industry. According to Williams, it is especially important to do research in the field of your interest to be informed in job interviews and to accept any small chances at the beginning of your publishing or writing career: The industry is a lot about connections that can be established due to such opportunities. Computer skills such as experience with InDesign, CSS, and HTML are recommended. Applicants should also call the desired company, because emails get lost easily. Apart from always being aware of charlatans and fake agents, Debbie Williams also recommended to follow your heart and never give up if publishing and writing are your passion.

*Linda Addae
22. August 2016*