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## 20<sup>th</sup> FREIBERG SHORT COURSE IN ECONOMIC GEOLOGY: “MINERAL SYSTEMS AND METAL ENDOWMENT OF THE VARISCAN OROGEN”



Freiberg short course participants and lecturers. (PHOTO: HIF FREIBERG)

The Freiberg Short Course in Economic Geology celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary Dec 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> 2025 with a special focus on ore deposits and mineral systems of the Variscan Orogen. Invited speakers guided nearly 100 participants on a geological journey across the most relevant ore deposit districts related to the Variscan basement of central and western Europe. More than half of the short course participants were students, about one third were academics and the remainder represented industry and government. The course attracted participants from nine different countries from Europe—and well beyond. A significant number of external students received financial support to participate. We sincerely thank the German Mineralogical Society (DMG) and the Society for Geology Applied to Mineral Deposits (SGA) for their generous support of student participation.

The course opened with an overview of the regional tectonic framework presented by Uwe Kroner (TU Bergakademie Freiberg, Germany). This was followed by regional spotlights on ore deposits of the Iberian Peninsula (Íñigo Barraló, IGEO, Spain), France (Matthieu Harlaux, BRGM, France), and southwestern England (Eimear Deady, BGS, UK). One full day was dedicated to the “backyard” of the Freiberg Short Course—the Erzgebirge/Krušné Hory region. Topics included structural geology (Jan Černý, HIF, Germany), granites, gneisses, and skarns (Mathias Burisch, Montanuniversität Leoben, Austria), and hydrothermal systems (Marie Guilcher, HIF). A concluding panel discussion highlighted similarities, differences, and prominent scientific challenges across the Variscan Orogen.

The scientific program was complemented by a guided tour of Terra Mineralia, one of the world’s most spectacular mineral exhibitions, a pub quiz organized by the Freiberg student chapter of the Society of Economic Geologists (SEG) and two one-day post-conference excursions. The two excursions introduced the participants to field and underground exposures of the polymetallic veins of the Freiberg Mining District and the greisen-type Li-Sn deposits of the Altenberg area. The Freiberg excursion visited the Reiche Zeche Mine in Freiberg, guided by Christin Kehrer (TU Bergakademie Freiberg), while the Altenberg excursion was led by Thomas Dittrich (Zinnwald Lithium Plc) through the historic workings of the Tiefer Bünaustolln at Zinnwald. Both excursion groups reunited in Freiberg in the evening for discussion and a well-earned beer.

We are committed to continue the Freiberg Short Course in Economic Geology—in close partnership between the TU Bergakademie Freiberg and the Helmholtz Institute Freiberg for Resource Technology. Accordingly, we have scheduled the 21<sup>st</sup> Freiberg Short Course to take place in early December 2026 at TU Bergakademie Freiberg.

So watch this space!

**Sandra Birtel & Jens Gutzmer** (Freiberg)

## DMG SECTION MEETING 2026

### *Petrology/Petrophysics & Geochemistry*

The joint annual meeting of the DMG Sections Geochemistry and Petrology/Petrophysics will take place from June 12 to 13, 2026 at the Institut f. Geowissenschaften, Universität Potsdam. The event offers the opportunity to present exciting current research activities and to discuss them in an interdisciplinary scientific manner. In particular, young scientists (PhD students, postdocs, and Master’s students) are invited to present their current projects and previous research results. We welcome contributions from all areas of petrology and geochemistry and look forward to a fruitful scientific and personal exchange.



PHOTO: KARLA FRITZE, UNIV. POTSDAM, GERMANY.

### *Venue*

The meeting will take place at the Universität Potsdam, Campus Golm, Inst. f. Geowissenschaften, Lecture Hall 0.01, house 27. (Site plan U Potsdam, Golm: <https://www.uni-potsdam.de/en/geo/institute/location-maps>).

### *Schedule*

**Friday** Start 14:00 h with presentations, poster session from approx. 16:30 h followed by BBQ.

**Saturday** Start 9:00 h lectures, end around 17:00 h with awards for the best posters and lectures.

### *Costs*

In order to cover the meals, a contribution towards expenses of 40€ in CASH will be charged at the time of registration on site. As always, external DMG student members can apply for a travel allowance up to 100€.

### *Registration*

Please sign up for your attendance and your contribution **until May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026**, by using registration form: <https://www.uni-potsdam.de/de/geo/forschung/mineralogie/dmg-sektionstreffen-2026>.

It is not necessary to upload an abstract. Registration on site on Friday June 12, 2026 from 12:30 h in House 27/Foyer.

We hope to welcome many participants in Potsdam and look forward to an exciting section meeting!

**Max Wilke, Hella Wittmann-Oelze, Oliver Plümper, Elis Hoffmann** (DMG Sections Petrology/Petrophysics & Geochemistry)

**“GEOSCIENTIST OF THE MONTH” CAMPAIGN**

Since April 2024, DVGeo has been highlighting a female geoscientist every month who has made an inspiring contribution to the geo community through her research, achievements, outreach activities or commitment. Our initiative aims to raise awareness of equal opportunities in the geosciences and to encourage female geoscientists. The geoscientists featured represent not only mineralogy, but also geology, geophysics, and palaeontology, and represent all career stages from early career to experienced scientists.



PHOTO: ERIC-KEMNITZ.COM.

The photo shows the first Geoscientist of the Month, **Thora Schubert**. She is the public relations editor for site selection at the Federal Company for Radioactive Waste Disposal in Peine. Thora was already involved in science communication during her studies in Göttingen and Aachen and has appeared on many science slam stages. The campaign is initiated and carried out by Laura Krone (FU Berlin) and Tamara Fahry-Seelig (DVGeo).

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