

2.9 million students

402,000
academic, research
and artistic staff

HRK

The German universities are brought together in the German Rectors' Conference (Hochschulrektorenkonferenz – HRK). The HRK is an independent organisation, representing all types of higher education institutions. More than 92 percent of all students in Germany are enrolled at its member universities. Hence, the HRK is the voice of German universities vis-à-vis policymakers and the public.

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**GERMAN
UNIVERSITIES
OPEN TO
THE WORLD
AGAINST RACISM
AND CHAUVINISM**

Date: November 2020

HRK



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**German Universities:
Excellence in Education,
Research and Innovation**

HRK German Rectors' Conference
The Voice of the Universities

120 universities

215 universities of
applied sciences

57 colleges of arts and music



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Many courses have a high level of **practical relevance**: universities and industry are connected through dual degree programmes, internships and research projects at companies.

The **combination of research and teaching** is a trademark of the German higher education system. This ensures that students are close to research processes and the latest findings.

Not only do students at German universities acquire **expert knowledge** and **professional competences**, they also develop on a personal level and learn how to **critically reflect**.

On average, German graduates find a **qualified position** within three and a half months of completing their studies.

German universities address both **basic and applied research** problems while helping to solve today's global challenges. In 2017 they spent €17.3 billion on research and development.

The German universities' **research performance** is **exceptionally strong** – the Excellence Strategy has made them even stronger.



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In Germany, universities excel in applied research and innovation, making them the **preferred partner for businesses and industry**. In this respect, German universities hold a top position worldwide.

Germany is a **centre of European excellence in research**: in 2019, Germany-based researchers acquired 186 European Research Council Grants – ranking first in Europe. Two-thirds of those went to universities.

German universities interact with **academic partners worldwide**, but also reach out to their **local communities**. They cooperate with SMEs and civil society groups in research projects, while combining teaching with community service.



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The **fundamental principle** of all university activity is the **constitutional freedom** of art and science, research and teaching.

Germany offers **excellent opportunities for doctoral research**. In 2019, more than 28,000 doctorates were awarded, of which 19.8 percent were completed by **international doctoral candidates**.

German universities offer **excellent quality** across the board. They foster a **wide variety of disciplines**, advancing our global knowledge and safeguarding our cultural heritage.

Germany is one of the **most popular host countries** for internationally mobile students worldwide. About 411,000 international students are currently enrolled at German universities.

German students seek mobility: in 2017, 139,000 German students studied abroad.



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Around **12 percent** of all **Master's programmes** have an **international focus** and about the same percentage of Master's programmes is offered in a **foreign language**, predominantly in English.

German universities are part of an **international network**: through around 38,300 partnerships they collaborate in research and teaching with more than 5,800 partner institutions in about 160 countries around the world.