The German Higher Education System

DIES-Information Visit of Arab University Presidents

Coburg, Bamberg, Ilmenau

30 November 2015

Thomas Böhm
The HRK is a voluntary association of state and state-recognized universities and other higher education institutions in Germany.

The HRK currently has 268 member institutions which account for 94 per cent of students in Germany.

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Mission

- Formulates positions and statements on higher education and research policy questions
- Represents the interests of the member universities vis-à-vis the public and in political decision-making processes
- Promotes cooperation between universities
- Informs member institutions of policy developments and problem areas
- Advises and supports member universities in the performance of their tasks and responsibilities
- Fosters international relations.

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The German Rectors’ Conference

Structure

- General Assembly: 268 member institutions (twice a year)
- Senate: 36 elected members (four times a year)
- Executive Board: Presidency (president and seven vice presidents, monthly)
- Secretary General
- Secretariat (Office in Bonn and Berlin: 50 employees and four projects with 30 employees)

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Current Topics

- Academic integration of refugee students
- Internationalisation of universities (Audit)
- European Study Reform (Bologna: Nexus - Project)
- New Media: Digitalisation in Teaching
- Doctoral education
- Funding of universities
- Autonomy of universities
The German Higher Education and Research System — Some Basic Facts and Figures
German Higher Education System

Higher Education Institutions

By Type of Institution

Universities: 110
Universities of Applied Sciences: 231
Schools of Art and Music: 58
Total: 399

By Control

- State: 60%
- Private: 30%
- Church: 10%

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Higher Education Institutions in Germany according to Student Numbers
2.7 mio students in total (as per WS 2014/2015)
90 % of students are enrolled in state universities

Source: Federal Statistical Office

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Legal Framework:

Federal government and State governments
Funding for Higher Education

- **Core Public Funding:** 26.7 bn €
  - 21.8 bn € Federal states (Länder)
  - 4.9 bn € Federal government

- **Core Funding per Student:** 7,300 €
  - 30,000 € for whole study programme per student in average

- **Third Party Funding:** 6.7 bn €
  - (private sponsoring, industry, EU programs etc.)
The European Dimension: From Bologna to Jerewan
European Higher Education Area

The Bologna Declaration

- A system of easily readable and comparable degrees
- A system with two main cycles
- A system of credits
- Promotion of mobility
- Promotion of European co-operation in quality assurance
- Promotion of the European dimension in higher education

→ currently 48 Signatories

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The Reform of Undergraduate Education

New Degree Structure: Bachelor and Master

Bachelor University of Applied Sciences (Fachhochschulen) 3, 3.5 or 4 years

Master 1, 1.5 or 2 years

Doctorate 2-3 years

Master 1, 1.5 or 2 years

Bachelor University 3, 3.5 or 4 years

Postgraduates

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The Reform of Undergraduate Education

Universities and Fachhochschulen

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Universities</th>
<th>Fachhochschulen (FH)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Professors’ Qualification:</strong> Doctorate/PhD, Habilitation</td>
<td>Excellent Doctorate/PhD + five years experience in R&amp;D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average number of teaching lessons per week:</strong> 8-10</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theory oriented</td>
<td>Application oriented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integration of research and teaching</td>
<td>Applied research to solve practical problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right to award Doctorate/PhD</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Study programmes:</strong> Medicine, Law, Natural Sciences, Engineering, Humanities, Social Sciences, Business</td>
<td>Engineering (75 % of German engineers are educated at FH) Business, Social and Health Sciences</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Internationalising Higher Education Institutions
A More Strategic Approach to Internationalisation

- Internationalisation of universities is highly supported by the Federal Ministry
- Internationalisation strategy for each university
- Increasing mobility of students (incoming/outgoing) and researchers:
  - 319,000 international students at German universities (11.8)
  - 138,000 German students at international universities
- Increasing international collaboration in research and technology transfer
  - Joint scientific publications, publications in English peer reviewed magazines

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A More Strategic Approach to Internationalisation

- Shift from traditional to more structured forms of international collaboration

Double and Joint Degree Programmes:
- 208 Bachelor Programmes
- 290 Master’ Programmes

Erasmus +

- Non German taught Degree Programmes

English taught Degree Programmes:
- 171 Bachelor Programmes
- 884 Masters’ Programmes
A More Strategic Approach to Internationalisation

- Increase in the establishment of German-backed universities and off-shore campuses (BMBF funded German partner universities):
  - German University in Cairo (GUC), German Jordanian University (GJU), German Vietnamese University,
  - last foundation: Turkish-German University
  - About 25,000 students

- National and international strategic alliances

Strategic partnerships, partners in selected countries

- Enhance recognition procedures (e.g. HRK Framework Agreements, Lisbon Recognition Convention)

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International Students

Students from the Region (Bildungsausländer 2014)

Egypt: 1.991
Irak: 604
Jordan: 1.003
Palestine: 695
Turkey: 6.701

Iran: 5.463
Israel: 1.623
Lebanon: 920
Syria: 2.381

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Dialogue on Innovative Higher Education Strategies (DIES)
Dialogue on Innovative Higher Education Strategies (DIES)

Dialogue

- DIES Visits: Germany-visits of delegations on a topic related to higher education management. Visits to German higher education institutions, discussions, best-practice examples

- DIES Seminars: Workshop-oriented events

Dialogue ... fosters the exchange on topics of higher education management and quality assurance

- DIES Conferences
- DIES Visits
- DIES Seminars

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Training Courses

Management of Internationalisation
Target group: Directors of international offices (Latin America, Africa, Middle East, Southeast Asia)
• Content: Structures, necessary competencies and instruments for successful and vital internationalisation strategies
• Partner: University of Hannover with partners in Kenya, India and Mexico
• Next call for applications: Spring 2016

... equip university managers with skills for innovative higher education management
• Proposal Writing
• UNILEAD
• Management of Internationalisation
• International Deans Course
Training Courses

International Deans' Course
- Target Group: Faculty management, newly appointed deans and deputy deans
- Content: Strategic management, finance management, quality assurance, internationalisation, research management and higher education management.

UNILEAD (University Leadership and Management Training Course)
- Target Group: young managers who work in their university’s central administrative departments
- Content: blended learning approach: project management, finance management and personnel management.

Proposal Writing Course
- Target Group: young researchers/scientists
- Content: practice-oriented advanced, aim is to impart and train skills that are important for research fundraising

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Thank you for your attention!

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