

2.84  
million students

386,752  
academic, research  
and artistic staff

# HRK

The German universities are organised in the German Rectors' Conference (Hochschulrektorenkonferenz – HRK). The HRK is an independent organisation, representing all types of higher education institutions. Around 94 percent of all students in Germany are enrolled at its member universities. Hence, the HRK is the voice of German universities with respect to policymakers and the public.

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

Date: October 2018

# HRK



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

**HRK** German Rectors' Conference  
The Voice of the Universities

121  
**121** universities

217  
**217** universities of  
applied sciences

57  
**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 2016 they spent €16.6 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 2017, researchers acquired 161 European Research Council Grants – ranking second 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.

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 375,000 international students are currently enrolled at German universities.

**German students seek mobility**: in 2015, 138,000 German students studied abroad.



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Around **13 percent** of all **Master's programmes** have an **international focus**, with more than half of them offered in a foreign language.

German universities are part of an **international network**: in around 33,000 partnerships, they collaborate in research and teaching with more than 5,400 partner institutions in 158 countries around the world.

