

Philipps



Universität  
Marburg

# University of Marburg

## Profile and International Cooperations

DIES-Seminar „German-Iranian Cooperation in Research“  
Prof. Dr. Michael Bölker, University of Marburg



# Outline

1. History and Campus
2. Profile
3. Research and Cooperations
4. Study and Teaching
5. International Profile

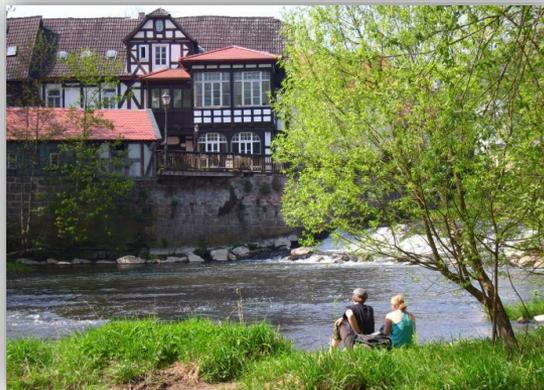


Other cities may have a university - **Marburg is one...**



# History and Campus

- Marburg Population  $\approx$  74,000
- Students  $\approx$  26,000
- Historic town center, founded in 1222
- One hour train ride to Frankfurt (Main)
- Free use of public transport for students in the entire state (Hessen)



# History and Campus

- Founded in 1527 as the world's first protestant university,
- Founding place Old University: originates (in its current state) from the nineteenth century,
- Now accommodates the Department of Protestant Theology and our magnificent assembly hall.





**100 sites  
300 buildings,  
25 % conservation order**

# University of Marburg Alumni

**1901 Nobel prize in Medicine**  
**Emil von Behring (1854-1917)**

**1909 Nobel prize in Physics**  
**Ferdinand Braun (1850-1918)**

**1910 Nobel prize in Medicine**  
**Albrecht Kossel (1853-1927)**

**1930 Nobel prize in Chemistry**  
**Hans Fischer (1881-1945)**

**1936 Nobel prize in Medicine**  
**Otto Loewi (1873-1961)**

**1939 Nobel prize in Chemistry**  
**Adolf Butenandt (1903-1995)**

**1944 Nobel prize in Chemistry**  
**Otto Hahn (1879-1968)**



**1958 Nobel prize in Literature**  
**Boris Pasternak (1890-1960)**

**1963 Nobel prize in Chemistry**  
**Karl Ziegler (1896-1973)**

**1979 Nobel prize in Chemistry**  
**Georg Wittig (1897-1987)**

**2011 Nobel prize in Medicine**  
**Jules Hoffmann (geb. 1941)**

# Profile

- 363 Professors
- 4,636 Employees (without hospital)
- 26,355 Students
- 16 departments representing almost all scientific disciplines



# 16 Departments

- Law
- Business Administration and Economics
- Social Sciences and Philosophy
- Psychology
- Protestant Theology
- History and Cultural Studies
- German Studies and History of Arts
- Foreign Languages and Cultures
- Mathematics and Computer Science
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Pharmacy
- Biology
- Geography
- Medicine
- Education

# Research Profile

- 9 Research Centers
- €351.2m budget (2017) of which €69.9m are external funding
- 13 Leibniz Prize winners
- 6 DFG Collaborative Research Centers
- 6 DFG Research Units
- 5 DFG Research Training Groups
- 1 International Max-Planck-Research School (IMPRS)
- 6 LOEWE Research Centers and Research Clusters
- 2 ERC Grants

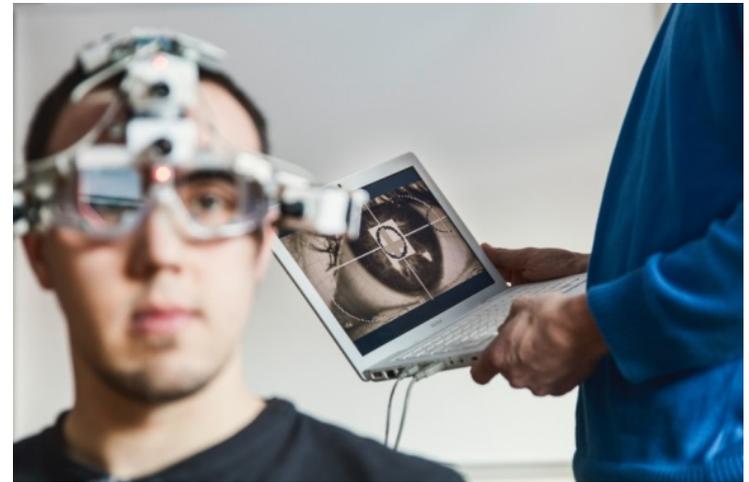


# Research Profile

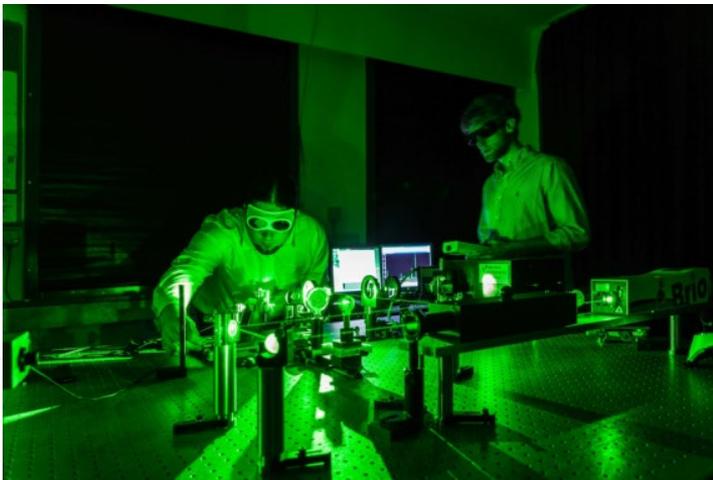
## Life Sciences and Medicine



## Neurosciences



## Materials Science



## Humanities and Social Sciences



# Research Profile: Life Sciences and Medicine

## Life Sciences and Medicine

- Virology und Microbiology
- LOEWE Centre “Synthetic Microbiology” with Max Planck Institute for Terrestrial Microbiology
- Tumor Research and Immunology
- BSL-4 Laboratory for highly pathogenic viruses
- High-performance equipment in core facilities



# Teaching Hospital

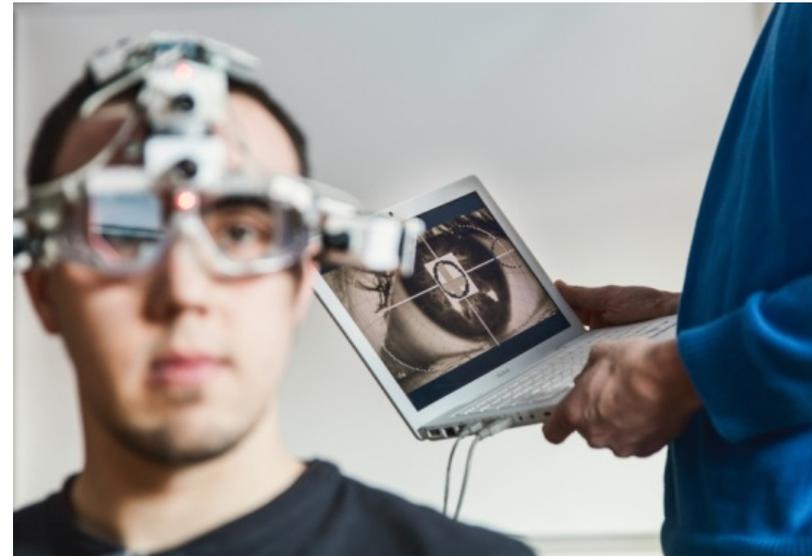
- Unique hospital complex
- 9,600 employees
- 2,230 hospital beds
- 436,000 patients/year



# Research Profile: Neurosciences

## Neurosciences

- Cognitive and Applied Neuroscience
- Marburg Centre for Mind, Brain and Behavior (MCMBB)



# Research Profile: Materials Science

## Materials Science

- Semiconductor Research and Optoelectronics
- Synthesis and Modelling of Functional Materials
- Structure & Technology Research Laboratory



# Research Profile: Humanities and Social Sciences

## Security, Order Conflict

- Interdisciplinary research on politics and culture with regional focus on the Near and Middle East
- Conflict Studies/Transitional Justice/War Crimes Trials (worldwide)
- Political Advice to the German Federal Government on the situation in the Middle East and on dealing with the Nazi past



# Research Profile: Humanities and Social Sciences

## Language Dynamics

- Exploring fundamental linguistic categories and research of regional varieties
- Neuro- and Psycholinguistics
- Research Centre Deutscher Sprachatlas (*German Language Atlas*)

## Comprehensive Collections and Databases

- Speech data, Handschriftencensus (*Mediaeval German Manuscript Census*), German Documentation Centre for Art History (Foto Marburg Picture Archive)



# Center for Near and Middle Eastern Studies (CNMS)

- **Iranian** Studies dealing with Iranian languages and literatures in all their variety, analyzing the historical, religious, social and cultural dimensions of Iranian peoples from antiquity to modern times
- Economics of the Middle East Research Group focusing on **Iran**
- Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Middle Eastern Studies, Master of Arts (M.A.) in Arabic Literature and Culture, **Iranian Studies**, Islamic Studies, Linguistic and Cultural Studies of the Near and Middle East, Middle Eastern Politics and Economics, Middle Eastern Studies
- International Master of Science (M.Sc.): Economics of the Middle East (EMEA)

# Research Campus Central Hessen (FCMH)

University of Marburg

University of Gießen

University of Applied Sciences Mittelhessen

to promote

- joint activities in research,
- the qualification of early-career researchers and
- the research infrastructure of the three Central Hessian universities

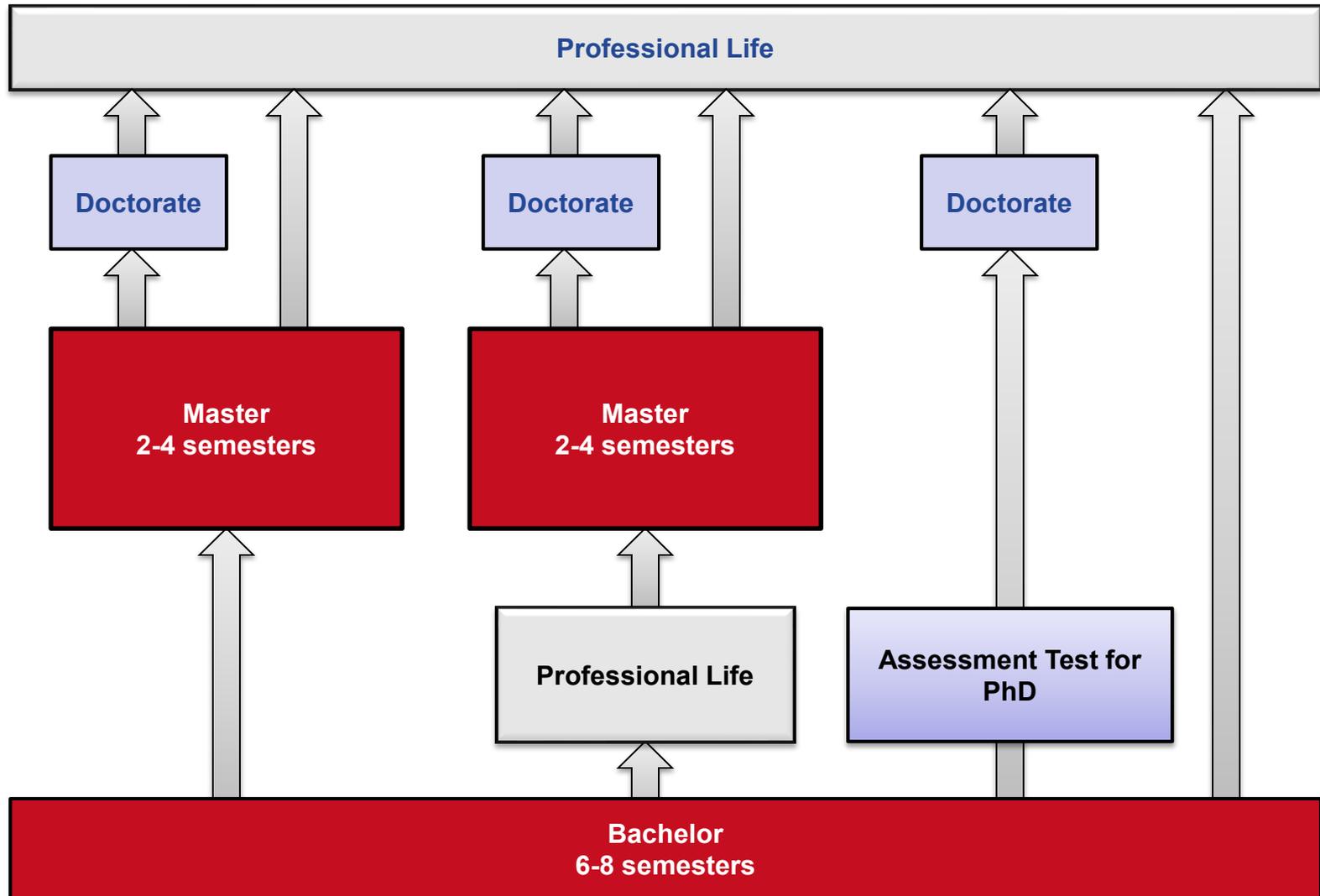


# Study & Teaching at University of Marburg

- 26,355 students (2017/2018)
- 3,627 international students (13,8%)
- 132 degree programs:
  - 33 bachelor programs
  - 64 master programs
  - 35 others (state examination, MBA)



# Study Structure



# Doing a PhD in Marburg

## 1. Individual doctorate (3-5 years)

- Independent work on written thesis or cumulative
- Supervised by one professor
- In many cases no compulsory attendance, no curriculum
- Requires strong individual diligence & endurance
- Binational PhD as an option

## 2. Structured programs (3 years)

- E.g. graduate schools, research training groups
- Systematic and intensive supervision
- Structured, pre-defined curriculum, mandatory attendance
- Often international groups of PhD candidates
- Often interdisciplinary approach

# Marburg University Research Academy (MARA)

University-wide center for the support of PhD and postdoctoral scholars

## Services

- Workshops: Scientific writing, design and management of research projects, funding, time management, career planning, communication and presentation skills etc.
- Advice regarding scholarships, PhD regulations etc.



# International Profile

- 3 Strategic Partnerships:
  - University of Kent (Canterbury, UK)
  - Zhejiang University (Hangzhou, China)
  - Tongji University (Shanghai, China)
- About 80 university-wide agreements with HEI outside of Europe
- Erasmus+ cooperation agreements with 250 European and Non-European universities
- Liaison office in Cairo



# International Profile

- More than 20% of the PhD students are from abroad
- International Research Training Group “Brain in Action”
- 3,627 international students (13.8%)
- More than 400 international exchange students p.a.
- 500 students studying abroad p.a.
- Joint and double degrees



# Support Services for International Scholars and Students

- Welcome Center: accommodation, visits to authorities, child care...
- Orientation program
- Language courses
- Mentoring
- Workshops
- Cultural program, social events and trips

# Marburg International Doctorate

## Support for doctoral candidates to develop an international profile

- Grants for research stays and conference participation abroad

## Support for outstanding graduate students from abroad to start work on a doctoral project in Marburg

- Grants for short-term stays in Marburg
- Workshop program for doctoral candidates from abroad (peculiarities of doing a doctorate in Germany, German system of research and higher education, intercultural communication etc.)



# Cooperations with Iranian partners

- University of Tehran: university-wide
- Shiraz University: university-wide, Erasmus+
- Urmia University (Geography)
- University of Isfahan (Psychology)
- Islamic Azad University (Psychology)
- Isfahan University of Medical Sciences

## Perspectives

- To intensify existing cooperations in Geography, Psychology, Economics and Iranian Studies;
- To initiate new cooperations in Medical Sciences, Biodiversity, Humanities, Social Sciences

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