

## **Universities and business leaders call for more immigration via the science and research system**

Berlin, 10 July 2014. The Confederation of German Employers' Associations (BDA) and the German Rectors' Conference (HRK) are pushing to win more international graduates from German universities to take up careers in Germany and for the universities to play a greater role in encouraging immigration. The universities and business leaders have agreed to work more closely together in future to improve the results of international university students and to persuade them to stay in Germany.

Prof. Dr. Horst Hippler, President of the HRK, stresses: "The performance of the German research system benefits greatly from its openness to researchers from other countries. We must endeavour to persuade the highest achieving students to apply their creativity and skills in Germany. Greater internationalisation also helps to enable our students to move in a multicultural environment and to manage the transnational challenges of a globalised world."

BDU President Ingo Kramer explains: "We have to help many more international students to bring their degrees to a successful conclusion than has been the case to date. We have to encourage more international students to enter the German employment market so that we do not squander important potential talent. Currently, four out of every ten international students drop out of their courses and only around every second remains in Germany after graduating. We need to develop a genuinely welcoming culture so that more higher education graduates remain in Germany. Employees from other countries are greatly appreciated for their qualifications and skills and enhance companies with their linguistic abilities and intercultural expertise."

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