

Universität Heidelberg

General Presentation



UNIVERSITÄT
HEIDELBERG
ZUKUNFT
SEIT 1386



Atelier Altenkirch, Karlsruhe

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From “Universitas” to the Comprehensive University of the Future



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Oldest university in today's Germany
(founded in 1386)

Research university of international reputation

Successful in all funding lines of the Excellence
Initiative and the Excellence Strategy

Comprehensive university with a broad spectrum
of subjects

Focus on research-based teaching and well-
structured training for doctoral candidates

Heidelberg Nobel Laureates

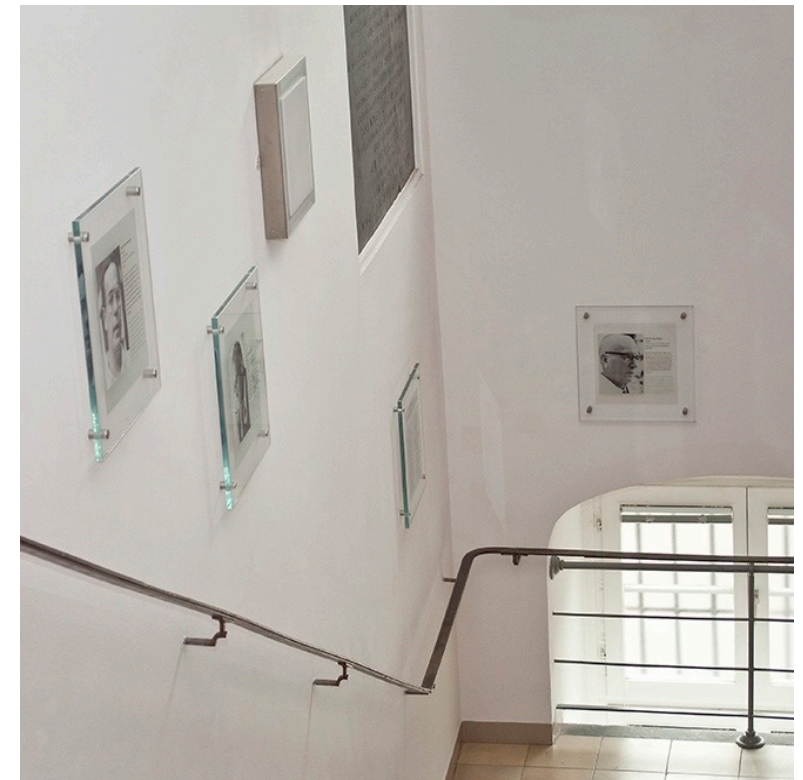


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11 Nobel Prize winners who taught or conducted their research as professors at Heidelberg University:

- 2014 Stefan W. Hell, chemistry
- 2008 Harald zur Hausen, medicine
- 1991 Bert Sakmann, medicine
- 1979 Georg Wittig, chemistry
- 1963 Hans Jensen, physics
- 1963 Karl Ziegler, chemistry
- 1954 Walter Bothe, physics
- 1938 Richard Kuhn, chemistry
- 1922 Otto Meyerhof, medicine
- 1910 Albrecht Kossel, medicine
- 1905 Philipp Lenard, physics

46 other Nobel laureates' names are associated with either Heidelberg University or the City of Heidelberg



International Rankings



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Academic Ranking of World Universities (Shanghai Ranking 2024)

No. 3 in Germany
No. 14 in Europe
No. 50 worldwide

QS World University Ranking (2024/2025)

No. 3 in Germany
No. 28 in Europe
No. 84 worldwide

Times Higher Education Ranking (2024/2025)

No. 3 in Germany
No. 13 in Europe
No. 47 worldwide

Three University Campuses in Heidelberg

One in Mannheim



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Old Town Campus
Humanities and social
sciences



**Neuenheimer Feld
Campus**
Natural, engineering
and life sciences
including medicine



Bergheim Campus
Asian studies,
sociology, political
science and
economics



Mannheim Campus
Medical Faculty
Mannheim with Central
Institute of Mental Health

13 Faculties

Faculty of Theology
Faculty of Law
Medical Faculty Heidelberg
Medical Faculty Mannheim
Faculty of Philosophy
Faculty of Modern Languages
Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences
Faculty of Behavioural and Cultural Studies
Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science
Faculty of Chemistry and Earth Sciences
Faculty of Physics and Astronomy
Faculty of Biosciences
Faculty of Engineering Sciences



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Students, Staff, Finance

Facts and Figures (2023/2024)



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Students (2024/2025)	31,365
International students	6,296 (20.1 %)
Doctoral candidate	9,068
International doctoral candidates	2,525 (27.8 %)
Staff in main employment	8,994
University, excl. medical faculties	4,383
Academic staff	6,693
Professorships (W3)	557
Total income	940.6 Mio EUR
University, excl. medical faculties	470.7 Mio EUR
Expenditure of third-party funds	346.0 Mio EUR
University, excl. medical faculties	142.0 Mio EUR



University Library

The most rich in tradition in Germany

Historic collections such as the world-renowned *Bibliotheca Palatina* and the most valuable German manuscript, the *Codex Manesse*

Digital library with innovative in-house productions

Focus on digitization and publishing services

National specialist information services for Egyptology, archeology, art history and the South Asian area



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University Library Heidelberg

Research Data Unit (RDU): Research Data Management



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Joint service unit of the University Library and the
University Computing Centre

Support for researchers in every phase of the
research process (“research data life cycle”)

Services and infrastructures for data processing and
storage in ongoing projects (“hot data”)

Services for the publication and archiving of research
data (“cold data”)

Implementation of consultations, training courses and
workshops





Research Excellence



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Research across traditional disciplinary boundaries

Interactive research areas:
“Fields of Focus” (FoF)

FoF 1: Molecular Foundations of Life, Health, and Disease

FoF 2: Patterns and Structures in Mathematics, Data, and the Material World

FoF 3: Cultural Dynamics in Globalised Worlds

FoF 4: Self-Regulation and Regulation: Individuals and Societies



Excellence Strategy



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Clusters of Excellence

STRUCTURES:

A Unifying Approach to Emergent Phenomena in the
Physical World, Mathematics, and Complex Data

3D Matter Made to Order

University of Excellence

The Comprehensive
Research University

Heidelberg: The Future since 1386

Flagship Initiatives

Engineering Molecular Systems
Transforming Cultural Heritage



Research

Facts and Figures



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1,110 doctoral degrees awarded (2023)

88 habilitations (2023)

29 Collaborative Research Centres (DFG)

10 Research Training Groups (DFG)

8 projects in cooperation with the Heidelberg
Academy of Sciences and Humanities

123 ERC Grants (total)*

49 ERC Grants (running)*

* With joint professorships at non-university research institutions

Source: www.uni-heidelberg.de/en/university/facts-figures/research-performance-indicators, February 2025

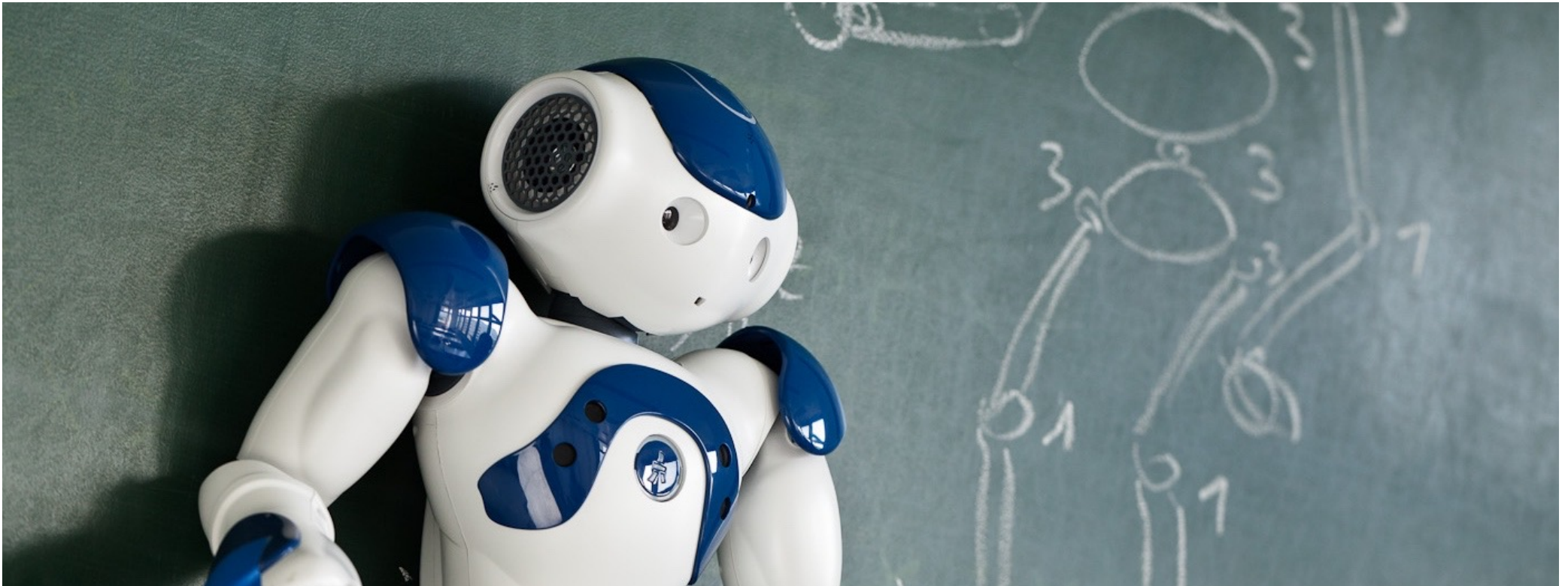


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Transfer



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Transfer

Three Dimensions



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APPLICATION AND CONSULTING

Transfer Agency hei_INNOVATION

- Start-up support
- Innovation projects, promotion of ideas
- Consulting: politics, society, economy
- Networking, scouting

ScienceValue Heidelberg GmbH

- Invention disclosures
- Patent applications
- Exploitation contracts
- Data management

COMMUNICATION

Rectorate's Communications and Marketing Department

- Science communication
- Public relations
- Research news
- Dialogue-oriented event formats

Transfer

hei_INNOVATION



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Profile

Transfer Agency of Heidelberg University

Established in 2020 as part of the
Excellence Strategy

Staff unit of the Vice-Rectorate for Innovation
and Transfer

Central point of contact for the implementation of
transfer activities at Heidelberg University

Promoting the transfer of university knowledge and
technology to society

Target group: all members of the university



Transfer hei_INNOVATION



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Tasks and priorities

Start-up consulting and promotion of ideas

Support with transfer projects

Funding acquisition

Training and continuing education programs,
including the “Entrepreneurial Skills” certificate

Networking within the university

Cooperation with external partners

IP scouting

Technology Transfer

Facts and Figures (2023)



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Total revenue from IP exploitation	7.5 Mio EUR
Current patent families	97
Start-up projects in consultation	40
Exploitation contracts	48
Invention compensation	2.1 Mio EUR
Invention disclosures	75
Start-up consultations	202
Approved funding applications	7



ScienceValue Heidelberg GmbH

Exploitation of Intellectual Property

Founded in 2019 as a one-hundred per cent subsidiary of Heidelberg University

Consultancy for academic technology transfer

IP exploitation, invention management, patenting processes, technology marketing, contract negotiations, license coordination

Bridges university research and industrial application

Responsible for all faculties of Heidelberg University



Transfer

Science Communication

Science Communication as part of strategically oriented overall university communication takes on significant social functions by

- promoting interest in academic research through the necessary translation work,
- generating an understanding of scientific findings and their provisional character,
- making research results accessible to non-experts and actively identifying fake news,
- crafting dialogue with both the general public and specific audiences and
- initiating and supporting cooperation with different partners.



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Transfer

Science Communication



Selected formats

Communications and Marketing (KuM)

- Central portal heiONLINE
- Research news for the press and media
- ‘Research’ newsroom
- Ruperto Carola research magazine
- Academic lecture series and events,
e. g. Ruperto Carola Lecture Series,
ÜberLebensStrategien, Academic Lunch Break



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Science Communication



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Selected formats in cooperation with decentralized university institutions

- Heidelberg Bridge Colloquium
(Heidelberg Center for the Environment)
- Monday Conference
(Institute for Translation and Interpreting)
- wissenschaft.leben
(Centre for Organismal Studies)
- Nature Marsilius Visiting Professorship
(Marsilius Kolleg)
- Marsilius kontrovers (Marsilius Kolleg)



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Studying



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Studying in Heidelberg



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Ideal conditions for studying and pursuing an academic career

More than 190 degree programs: a virtually unparalleled range of subject combinations – all system-accredited

Perfect setting for individualized and interdisciplinary studies

Research-oriented teaching

Bachelor's and Master's Programs

Winter Semester 2023/2024



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58 bachelor's programs

72 master's programs (consecutive)

8 master's programs (continuing education)

1 Master of Education (Profile: upper secondary education)
21 degree program components and
19 supplementary teaching subjects

1 Master of Education
(Profile: higher teaching profession at vocational schools)
7 minor subjects

5 state examination programs

1 degree program with other degrees
(ecclesiastical or faculty examination)



Research-Oriented Teaching



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General Presentation

Early involvement in research projects during the bachelor phase

Support of individual research projects in master's programs

Tutor training programs for students

Marsilius Studies: integrating interdisciplinary research in studies

Support for Young Researchers

Doctoral Studies in Heidelberg



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heiDOCS: Quality program for the doctoral phase

Graduate Academy at the Käthe Leichter Forum

Structured doctoral programs

- 4 Graduate Schools

- 10 DFG Research Training Groups

- 4 International Max Planck Research Schools

heiSKILLS: Certificate programs for individual skill sets



Support for Young Researchers After the Doctorate



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heiTRACKS:

Career support for postdoctoral researchers

Career coaching for postdocs

Mentoring program

Management program “Towards a Professorship”

Leadership coaching for junior research group leaders

Certificate program for junior professors

Olympia Morata Program

+3 financing

for Emmy Noether junior research group leaders and
ERC Starting Grant holders

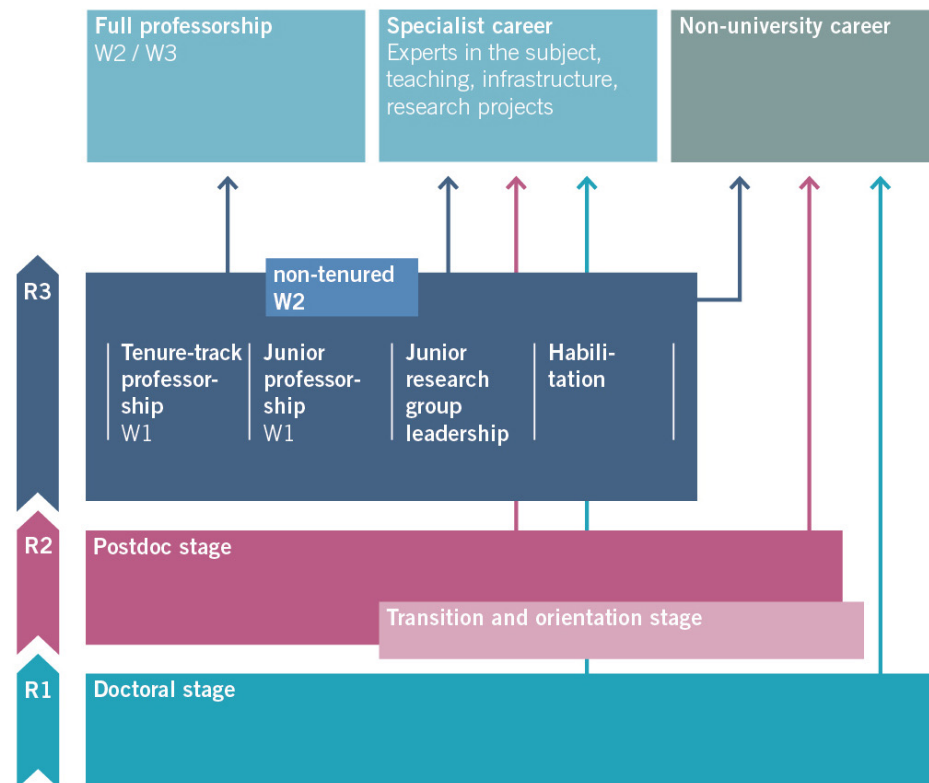


Support for Young Researchers

Career Phases and Career Development



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International Affairs



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International Affairs

Cooperation

Cooperation and Exchange

More than 700 ERASMUS arrangements with European universities

International exchange programs with about 180 universities worldwide

27 partnerships with universities across the world and a large number of further international cooperation agreements at the faculty, institute and subject level



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International Affairs Networks



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4EU+ European University Alliance

(Prague, Heidelberg, Panthéon-Assas/Paris, Sorbonne/Paris, Copenhagen, Geneva, Milan and Warsaw)

League of European Research Universities (LERU)

HeKKSaGOn: German-Japanese University Consortium

Coimbra Group

International Affairs

Facts and Figures (2023)



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International students (2024/2025)	6,296 (20.1 %)
International doctoral candidates	2,525 (27.8 %)
International junior research group leaders	25 (37.3 %)
International junior professors	11 (42.3 %)
International professors	69 (14.0%)
International visiting researchers	about 250 every year



International Affairs

Centers Abroad and Institutional Bridges in Heidelberg



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Heidelberg Center Latin America,
Santiago de Chile (since 2001)

Heidelberg Office North America,
New York City (since 2008)

Heidelberg Centre South Asia,
New Delhi (since 2009)

Branch offices of the South Asia Institute in New
Delhi, Colombo, Kathmandu and Islamabad

Heidelberg University Office Kyoto (since 2015)



Institutional bridges in Heidelberg

Heidelberg Center for American Studies | HCA
Heidelberg Center for Ibero-American Studies | HCIAS
Centre for East Asian Studies
South Asia Institute | SAI

International Affairs

Study Abroad Programs



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Heidelberg Center Latin America (HCLA) in Santiago de Chile

Master's, doctoral and continuing education programs in law, psychology, astronomy, earth/environmental sciences, medical informatics as well as medical physics

Jagiellonen University in Krakow School of German Law

Andrássy University in Budapest LL.M. in Comparative Government and Legal Studies



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Diversity, Family and Equal Opportunities



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UNIFY

Unit for Family, Diversity & Equality

Central institution for family, diversity and equality at Heidelberg University

Development and implementation of the university's equal opportunities concept

Promotion of equal opportunities and diversity at the university

Programs to increase the proportion of women in academia

Advice on balancing studies, research and family responsibilities

Designing anti-discrimination measures

Implementing the university's gender and diversity monitoring



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Equal Opportunities

Facts and Figures (2023)



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Female researchers at Heidelberg University

48.0 % researchers (excl. professors)
52.2 % doctoral candidates
48.6 % postdoctoral researchers
46.3 % independent junior research group leaders
21.7 % professors

Focus on the family

Service for families: information and advice,
407 childcare places at Kinderhaus, KidS – program for student parents
96 family flats for parenting students and doctoral candidates

Awards and audits

Since 2010 Audit “Familiengerechte Universität”
2015 “Charta der Vielfalt” (BMBF)
2017 TOTAL E-QUALITY rating
2018 Charta “Familie in der Hochschule”



Equal Opportunities

Measures and Funding Programs



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Service, funding programs and gender consulting

Olympia Morata Program and Margarete von Wrangell Program

Aim: Increasing the proportion of women in academia, especially in management positions; annual call for project funding

Coaching and career guidance

For female researchers of all career levels

Measures to increase the proportion of female professors

- Active recruitment in appointment procedures
- Raising awareness of gender bias in appointment procedures

Dual Career Service

Assistance in 30 percent of appointment negotiations (2022)



Balancing Family and Career

Offers for University Members



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Facilities

- Daycare centers for infants and pre-school children, KidsClub

Flexible childcare

- Backup, conference care, holiday programs
- “KIDS” parent-child offices
- KidsBox

Advice, information, financial support

- Kids – Studying with children
- Concierge service
- Disposal fund
- Clearing office for academia and family: career advice and compensation point for researchers with children



Diversity

Promoting and Embracing Diversity



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Designing and implementing diversity measures

Advice and information

- Diversity consulting
- Information on diversity dimensions

Prevention: raising awareness and empowerment

- Workshops and events
- Support program for first-year students
- Podcast series, online information portal

Networks and coordination

- Pooling diversity stakeholders within the university
- Networking beyond the Heidelberg region: networks 'Diversity in the university', 'Gender and diversity in university teaching'



Fair Conduct

Living Respect – Shaping Togetherness



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Steering committee and guidelines

- **Rectorate Commission for Fair Conduct**
controls, monitors and advises
- **Senate Guideline on Fair Conduct**
commitment and labor law-related consequences

Prevention programs and advice

- **Walk Safe INF** – accompanying service, safety inspections on the Im Neuenheimer Feld Campus
- **Campaign “Respekt leben, Vielfalt fördern, Miteinander gestalten”** – awareness campaign and online tutorials
- Regular evaluation of cases and services
- System for dealing professionally with conflicts and misconduct



Universität Heidelberg

Heidelberg Alumni International (HAI)



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Heidelberg Alumni International (HAI)

Facts and Figures



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Worldwide network of current and former students,
doctoral candidates, researchers and members of staff

Events, publications, career programs, alumni groups,
scholarships, job market

20,250 members in 135 countries

4 national alumni groups
18 international alumni groups
25 subject-related alumni groups

Research Alumni Network (RAN)
1,700 researchers across the world



Heidelberg Alumni International (HAI)

Themes



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Getting involved

Studying, exams, finding a job, careers and more: HAI offers a wide range of services and opportunities to get involved at Heidelberg University and beyond



Networking

Expansion of professional and personal network through contacts with HAI members in more than 150 countries and from over 50 subject areas



Career

HAI supports the careers of its members with career talks, mentoring programs, internships, a job market and other offers



Commitment

Support for the HAI network and for the university by members in Germany and abroad: professional and social commitment as well as donations

Heidelberg Alumni International (HAI) Research Alumni Network (RAN)

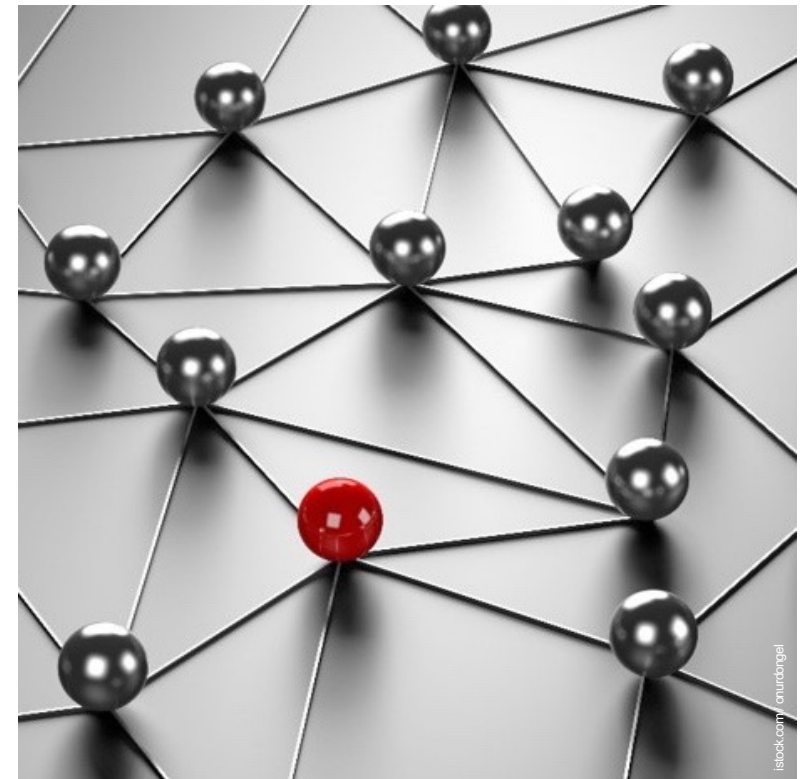
For current and former doctoral candidates,
researchers, their academic supervisors and
international researchers with a connection to
Heidelberg

RAN newsletter, RAN ambassadors, research
mentoring, HAIreconnect, scholarships

Additional offers for researchers within RAN



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Universität Heidelberg

History



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History of Universität Heidelberg



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1385/1386: Founding

On 23 October 1385, Pope Urban VI approves the founding of the university in Heidelberg by Elector Palatine Rupert I.

Instruction begins a year later on 18 October 1386 in three faculties: theology, jurisprudence and philosophy. Medicine follows two years later.

The first rector is Marsilius von Inghen of the Netherlands; the first professors come from Paris and Prague.



University Archives Heidelberg

History of Universität Heidelberg



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16th / 17th Century: First Golden Age

In 1558, Elector Palatine Otto Henry establishes new statutes that remain largely in force until 1786. The university enjoys a period of great prosperity.

The university is esteemed as a center of European sciences and culture.

Its international appeal draws professors and students from all over Europe.



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History of Universität Heidelberg



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Thirty Years' War: Destruction and Reopening

The university is hit hard by the Thirty Years' War (1618 to 1648). Teaching is suspended several times.

In 1623, the *Bibliotheca Palatina*, one of the most valuable collections of German manuscripts of the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Age, is carted to the Vatican in Rome.

The university reopens in 1652.



History of Universität Heidelberg



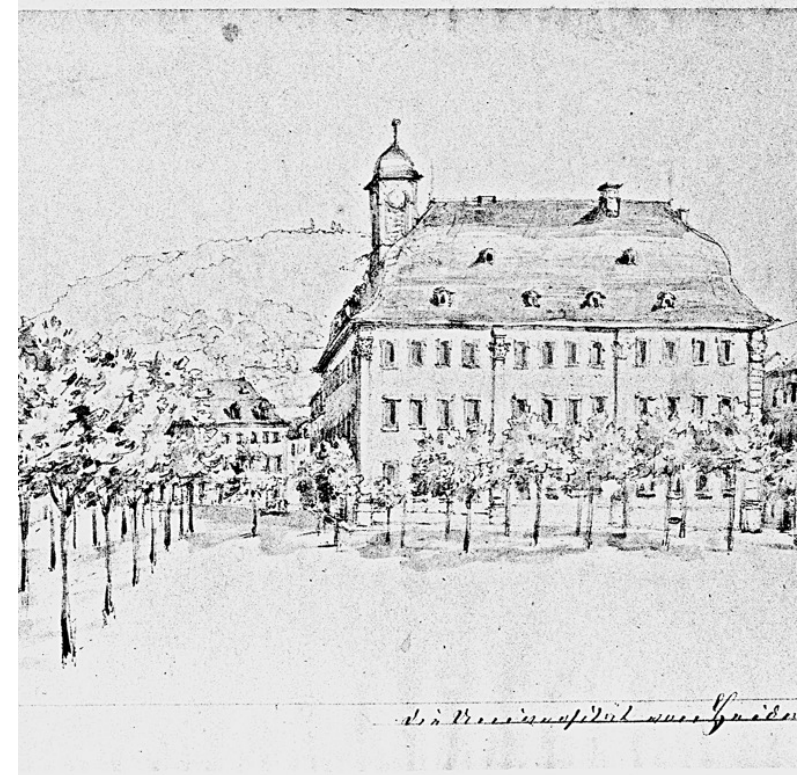
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Palatine War of Succession: The University in Exile

The University is severely affected by the Palatinate War of Succession (1688 to 1697). It is temporarily relocated to Frankfurt and Weinheim.

It returns to Heidelberg in 1700 and teaching resumes four years later.

In the course of the reconstruction of the completely destroyed city, the cornerstone is laid for today's Old University building in 1712.



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History of Universität Heidelberg



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19th Century: Second Golden Age

In 1803 the university is acquired by Baden and reorganized following an edict of Charles Frederick of Baden. In 1805 it is named Ruperto Carola – after the university's founder Rupert and Charles Frederick, Grand Duke of Baden.

As a cosmopolitan and liberal university, Heidelberg enjoys its second flowering during the 19th century, which extends into the early 20th century.

Scientists like Robert Bunsen, Gustav Kirchhoff and Hermann Helmholtz lay the foundations for the success story of the natural sciences in Heidelberg.



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History of Universität Heidelberg



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20th Century: Women at the University

At the turn of the century, the Baden state government makes it possible for women to study on a regular basis. At Heidelberg University, four female students enrol for the first time in the summer semester of 1900.

In 1923, the Heidelberg scientist Gerta von Ubisch is the first woman to habilitate in Baden and in 1929 the first (associate) professor at Ruperto Carola.

From 1966 to 1968, chemist Margot Becke-Goehring is the first woman to hold the office of Rector.



History of Universität Heidelberg



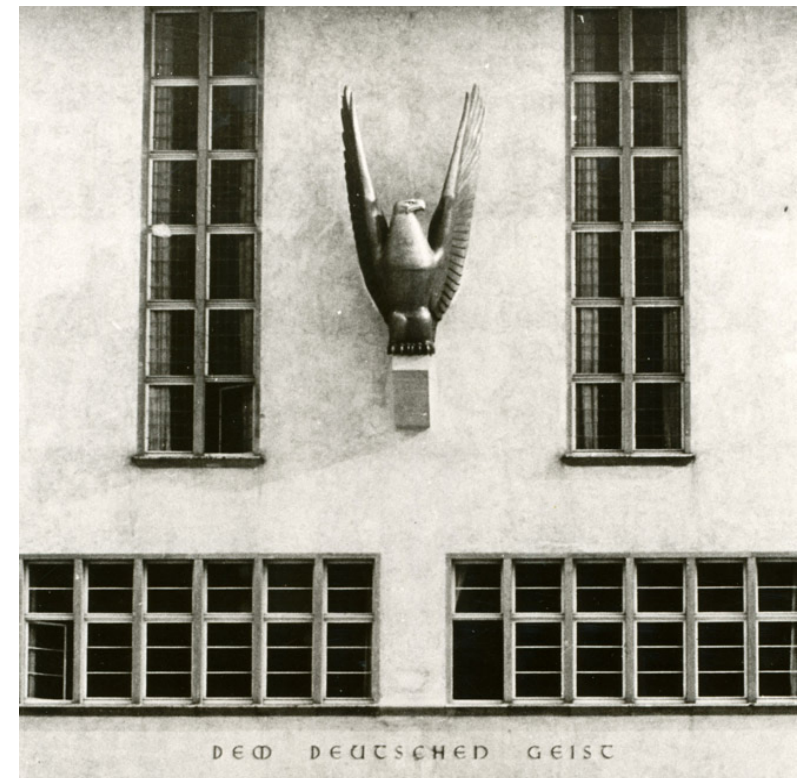
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1933 to 1945:

Decline during the National Socialist Era

With the rise to power of the National Socialists, 59 of 214 Heidelberg academics are expelled and disenfranchised for “racial” or political reasons.

In a move that symbolizes the malevolence of the period, the sculpture of Athena and the inscription “Dem lebendigen Geist” (To the Living Spirit) are removed from above the portal of the New University in 1936. They are replaced with an oversized eagle and the words “Dem deutschen Geist” (To the German Spirit).



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Post-War Years: Reopening and Expansion

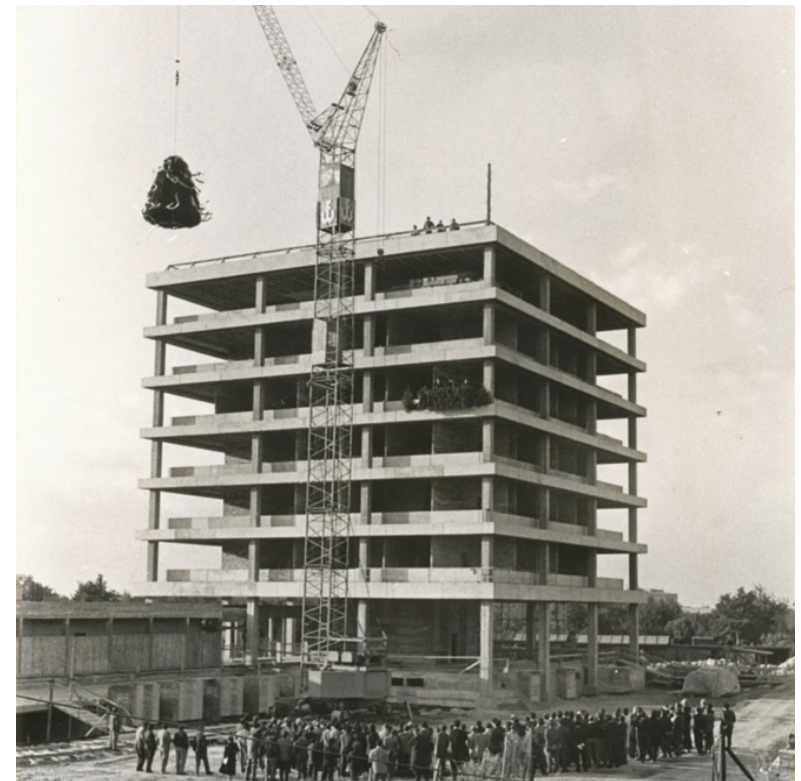
After the end of the Second World War instruction resumes gradually, beginning in 1945.

The university spreads out over three campuses:

Old Town: humanities

Bergheim: medicine
(since 2009: economics and social sciences)

Im Neuenheimer Feld: natural sciences, medicine
(since the 1960s)



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1960s and 1970s: Overcrowded University and Student Riots

This period is characterized by increasing student numbers and a progressive differentiation of the disciplines.

After the student riots that marked this era, the university is given a new basic order in 1969. The five faculties are temporarily divided into 18. The number is reduced to twelve in 2002 and expanded to 13 in 2021.



Stadtarchiv Heidelberg

History of Universität Heidelberg



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Since 2006: University of Excellence

Heidelberg University is successful in both rounds and all funding lines of the German Excellence Initiative and the Excellence Strategy.

In round I and II of the German Excellence Initiative, the university receives funding for its institutional strategy, two Clusters of Excellence as well as three graduate schools.

Two Clusters of Excellence are funded as part of the Excellence Strategy. In July 2019, the university is again awarded the title University of Excellence.

