UNIVERSITÄT
HEIDELBERG
ZUKUNFT
SEIT 1386

BACHELOR'S PROGRAMS AND STATE EXAMINATIONS
OVERVIEW

BACHELOR'S PRGRAMS AT HEIDELBERG UNIVERSITY

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BACHELOR'S PROGRAMS AT HEIDELBERG UNIVERSITY

HEIDELBERG UNIVERSITY: THE FUTURE. SINCE 1386.

Founded in 1386, Heidelberg University is the oldest university in present-day Germany, with one of the best research performances in Europe. Its success in the German Excellence Initiative and Excellence Strategy and in international rankings testify to its leading role in the scientific landscape. In educating its more than 30,000 students and promoting outstanding young researchers, Heidelberg University focuses on research-based teaching and excellent conditions for individualized and interdisciplinary studies. In addition to its proven excellence in research and teaching, the university is characterized by its international profile and networks. Heidelberg University also draws its research strength from close cooperation with numerous local non-university research institutions and industry partners.

» Overview

TEN REASONS
FOR STUDYING AT HEIDELBERG UNIVERSITY

1. **Excellent reputation.** Consistently among the top three German universities in the most important rankings: Heidelberg University stands for excellent study and doctoral conditions and outstanding research.
2. **Long tradition.** The Future. Since 1386: Heidelberg University is the oldest university in present-day Germany.
3. **Range of subjects.** A whole world of knowledge: Heidelberg University offers more than 190 different degree programs, allowing students to acquire a top-tier education that is made to measure.
4. **Interdisciplinarity.** Thinking outside the box: Heidelberg University teaches interdisciplinary skills. Such skills will be indispensable in addressing tomorrow's great challenges.
5. **Research-based teaching.** Up to date on the latest research: from their first semester at the university, students are actively involved in research and carry out their own scientific projects.
6. **Strong center of research.** An excellent local network: besides hosting the university, Heidelberg is home to many other research institutions where students and doctoral candidates can work and learn.
7. **International.** At home in the world: Heidelberg University is part of a network of around 500 universities across the globe. 30 partner universities worldwide and four centers abroad in North America, Latin America, India and Japan create a strong foundation for exchange in research, education and teaching.
8. **Excellent support.** For a great student experience on and off campus: Heidelberg University offers its students and doctoral candidates a comprehensive range of advice and support services.
9. **Good career opportunities.** In academia or beyond: no matter where graduates go from Heidelberg University, they are in excellent shape to launch their career. Special training programs teach students everything they need to know for a successful career start.
10. **Living in Heidelberg.** Short distances, a relaxed atmosphere and ample leisure-time opportunities: Heidelberg is the perfect place for students and doctoral candidates. Besides its world-famous Old Town and its magnificent location in the Neckar valley, Heidelberg offers cultural highlights to suit every palate.

» Overview

OUTSTANDING SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

With a large number of advisory and supervisory opportunities, as well as specific professional development programs, Heidelberg University accompanies students at all stages of their career development. Students from at home and abroad can turn to the Central Student Advisory Office, which answers individual questions about their studies at Heidelberg University. In addition, the university assists students in planning periods of study abroad or placements in the framework of their course. The broad range of programs offered by the Career Service contributes especially to a successful start in working life.

» Overview

RESEARCH-BASED AND INTERDISCIPLINARY

As an undergraduate course of studies, the bachelor's program awards graduates the academic degree of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) in the natural sciences and Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in the social sciences and humanities. With a range of approximately 60 bachelor's programs at 13 faculties, Heidelberg University offers a variety of subject combinations that is virtually unparalleled in Germany. The institutes cooperate with research and teaching facilities across the world, opening up possibilities for students to spend part of their studies abroad. The bachelor's degree qualifies graduates to enter into a profession and is the academic prerequisite for enrolling in a master's program. Holders of a bachelor's degree with the option for a teaching certificate may choose to continue studying for a Master of Education (M.Ed), which qualifies them to progress to the teaching experience phase.

» Overview

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Bachelor's programs at Heidelberg University are generally completed in six semesters.

Students may earn 100 per cent of their credits in one subject or distribute the credits across two subjects at a ratio of 50/50 or 75/25. To complete a bachelor's program, students must earn 180 credit points, 20 of them in the 'General Competencies' module. At the end of the program, students are required to write a bachelor's thesis and may also have to pass an oral examination. The law, medical, pharmaceutical and dental medicine programs end with a state examination. These programs have a standard duration of eight (pharmacy), ten (law, dentistry) and twelve (medicine) semesters.

» Overview

MATHEMATICS, ENGINEERING AND NATURAL SCIENCES

Molecular life sciences at the Faculty of Biosciences, applied mathematics and scientific computing at the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, and physical chemistry at the Faculty of Chemistry and Earth Sciences are among the internationally visible areas in research and teaching. The Faculty of Physics and Astronomy conducts research in three main areas: fundamental particles and their interactions, astrophysics and cosmology, and complex quantum systems. The newly established Heidelberg Faculty of Engineering Sciences covers molecular biotechnology, the engineering of molecular systems, computer engineering and medical technology.

Bachelor of Science

			Ⓑ	Biochemistry
	Ⓑ			Biology
			Ⓑ	Biosciences
	Ⓑ		Ⓑ	Chemistry
	Ⓑ		Ⓑ	Computer Science
			Ⓑ	Earth Sciences
Ⓑ	Ⓑ		Ⓑ	Geography
	Ⓑ		Ⓑ	Mathematics
			Ⓑ	Molecular Biotechnology
	Ⓑ		Ⓑ	Physics

State examination

Ⓢ Pharmacy

» Overview

HUMANITIES AND THEOLOGY

The special thematic focus of the humanities at Heidelberg University – the Faculty of Modern Languages, the Faculty of Philosophy and the Faculty of Theology – is on the fields of transcultural studies, area studies and cultural heritage studies. The area studies concentrate mainly on South and East Asia, North America and Ibero-America. Other strengths of the Heidelberg humanities lie in the development of text editing principles and digital humanities.

Bachelor of Arts

			Ⓑ	American Studies
Ⓑ	Ⓑ			Ancient History *
Ⓑ	Ⓑ	Ⓑ		Assyriology
Ⓑ	Ⓑ			Byzantine Archaeology and Art History *
Ⓑ				Chinese Studies *
Ⓑ	Ⓑ			Christianity and Culture *
Ⓑ	Ⓑ	Ⓑ		Classical Archaeology *
Ⓑ	Ⓑ	Ⓑ		Comparative German Studies *
Ⓑ	Ⓑ	Ⓑ	Ⓑ	Computational Linguistics *
Ⓑ				East Asian Art History *
Ⓑ	Ⓑ	Ⓑ		East Asian Studies
Ⓑ	Ⓑ	Ⓑ	Ⓑ	Eastern European and East Central European Studies *
Ⓑ	Ⓑ			Egyptology
Ⓑ	Ⓑ	Ⓑ		English Studies *
Ⓑ	Ⓑ	Ⓑ		European Art History
Ⓑ	Ⓑ			French/Romance Studies *
Ⓑ	Ⓑ			German Studies *
Ⓑ	Ⓑ			Greek / Classical Philology *
Ⓑ				Historical Methodology *
Ⓑ	Ⓑ	Ⓑ		History *

Ⓑ	Ⓑ	Ⓑ		Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies
Ⓑ	Ⓑ			Italian/Romance Studies *
Ⓑ				Japanese Studies *
Ⓑ	Ⓑ	Ⓑ		Jewish Studies
Ⓑ	Ⓑ			Latin/Classical Philology *
Ⓑ	Ⓑ	Ⓑ		Musicology *
Ⓑ	Ⓑ	Ⓑ		Near Eastern Archaeology *
Ⓑ	Ⓑ	Ⓑ		Philosophy
Ⓑ				Portuguese / Romance Studies *
Ⓑ	Ⓑ			Prehistory and Protohistory *
Ⓑ	Ⓑ			Protestant Theology *
Ⓑ	Ⓑ	Ⓑ		Religious Studies *
Ⓑ	Ⓑ			Semitic Studies
Ⓑ	Ⓑ	Ⓑ		Slavic Studies *
Ⓑ	Ⓑ	Ⓑ	Ⓑ	South Asian Studies
Ⓑ	Ⓑ			Spanish/Romance Studies
			Ⓑ	Translation Studies
			Ⓑ	Translation Studies for Information Technologies

Magister Theologiae

Ⓢ Protestant Theology *

» Overview

LAW, ECONOMICS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

A central objective of the subjects at the Faculty of Behavioural and Cultural Studies, the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Law is understanding regulation processes at the level of individuals and societies. In addition to decision-making and legislative processes in complex systems, the researchers investigate how social groups regulate their interaction and how resources are distributed from a political and economic standpoint.

Bachelor of Arts

Ⓑ	Ⓑ	Ⓑ		Anthropology
Ⓑ		Ⓑ		Education Studies
Ⓑ		Ⓑ		Gerontology, Health and Care
Ⓑ	Ⓑ	Ⓑ		Political Science
Ⓑ				Public Law
Ⓑ			Ⓑ	Sociology

Bachelor of Science

Ⓑ	Ⓑ		Ⓑ	Economics
Ⓑ			Ⓑ	Psychology
Ⓑ	Ⓑ	Ⓑ		Sports Science

State examination

Ⓢ Law

» Overview

MEDICINE

The medical faculties in Heidelberg and Mannheim specialise in the research of infectious diseases such as AIDS, hepatitis and malaria, cardiovascular issues, cancer, transplantation therapy and immunotherapy, and medical technology and neurosciences. Both faculties and the associated university hospitals maintain close ties to a large number of local research partners. The master's degree programs qualify students for various professions in medicine-related specialist fields.

Bachelor of Science

State examination

- Ⓑ Interprofessional Healthcare
- Ⓑ Medical Informatics
- Ⓑ Physiotherapy Science
- Ⓢ Medicine (location: Heidelberg)
- Ⓢ Medicine (location: Mannheim)
- Ⓢ Dentistry

» Overview

ABBREVIATIONS AND NOTES

Ⓑ	Bachelor 25%
Ⓑ	Bachelor 50%
Ⓑ	Bachelor 50% with teaching degree option
Ⓑ	Bachelor 75%
Ⓑ	Bachelor 100%
Ⓢ	State examination
B.A.	Bachelor of Arts
B.Sc.	Bachelor of Science
*	Program starts in the winter and the summer semester

GENERAL INFORMATION

EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

Academic dialogue across disciplinary boundaries
As a research university with an international presence, Heidelberg University considers the extensive theoretical and methodological expertise of its subjects and subject cultures to be an essential characteristic of its scientific work. At the same time, it recognizes its unique potential to investigate important issues affecting the future of humankind, and thus take on social responsibility, by encouraging cooperation across disciplinary boundaries.

The core of Heidelberg's research strategy is formed by four interactive research fields, on which research collaboration is concentrated across institutional and disciplinary boundaries. The Flagship Initiatives provide funding for research areas with outstanding scientific potential and high relevance over a maximum period of seven years, enabling them to develop into key research areas at Heidelberg University.

Interactive "Fields of Focus"

- FoF 1 in the Life Sciences and Medicine
- FoF 2 in the Natural and Engineering Sciences
- FoF 3 in the Humanities and Cultural Studies
- FoF 4 in the Social Sciences and Law

Flagship Initiatives (2019–2026)

- Engineering Molecular Systems
- Transforming Cultural Heritage

Heidelberg University has been successful in all funding lines in previous rounds of the Excellence Competition and has been funded as a University of Excellence since 2007. In the first round of the Excellence Strategy (2019–2025/2026), Heidelberg University prevailed with its concept "The Comprehensive Research University – Heidelberg: The Future since 1386" and two Clusters of Excellence, and is currently one of ten universities of excellence and one excellence network in Germany. With the approval of three Cluster of Excellence applications announced in May 2025, Heidelberg University has laid the foundation to once again compete for the status of University of Excellence in the Excellence Strategy II (2026/2027–2032/2033). In March 2026, it was again awarded the title of University of Excellence, based on its self-assessment report entitled "SEMPER APERTUS – Heidelberg: The Comprehensive Research University". Funding will begin on 1 January 2027.

University of Excellence

- The Comprehensive Research University Heidelberg: The Future since 1386

Clusters of Excellence

- STRUCTURES (2019–2027)
- 3D Matter Made to Order, with KIT (2019–2032)
- SynthImmune (granted in 2025)
- GreenRobust, with Tübingen and Hohenheim (granted in 2025)

FACTS AND FIGURES – RESEARCH

11
Nobel Laureates

168
ERC Grants (in total, incl. bridge professorships)

23
Leibniz Award Laureates

54
ERC Grants (running)

38
DFG Collaborative Research Centres

22
Emmy Noether Junior Research Groups (running)

9
DFG Research Training Groups

9,343
doctoral candidates

» Overview

INTERNATIONAL PROFILE

Collaborations and exchanges
Heidelberg University is tied into a worldwide network of cooperation arrangements on research and teaching. Exchange programs with universities all over the world, as well as numerous institutional partnerships, document the strong international connections of Ruperto Carola. Furthermore, the university has foreign centers abroad in Latin America, North America, South and East Asia.

- Ca. 800 ERASMUS arrangements with approx. 300 European universities
- Exchange programs with roughly 180 additional universities worldwide
- 30 partnerships with universities abroad
- A large number of international cooperation agreements at faculty, institute and subject levels

Memberships in university networks

- 4EU+ European University Alliance (Heidelberg, Prague, Paris-Panthéon-Assas, Sorbonne/Paris, Copenhagen, Geneva, Milan and Warsaw)
- League of European Research Universities (LERU)
- HeKKSaGOn: German-Japanese University Consortium
- Coimbra Group

FACTS AND FIGURES – MOBILITY

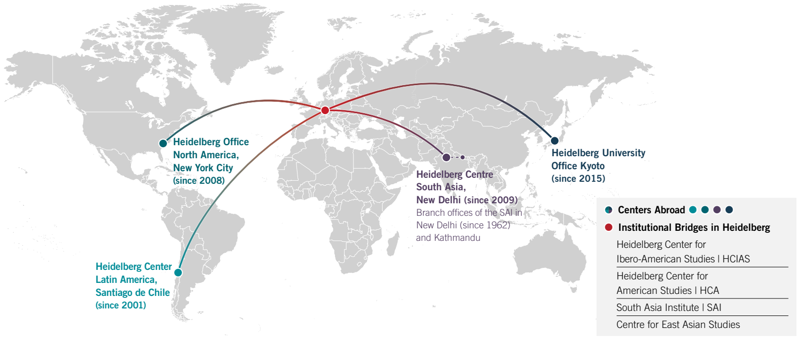
International students:
6,633 (20.6%)

International doctoral candidates:
2,617 (28.0%)

International doctorates completed:
330 (29.1%)

International visiting researchers:
approx. 250 per year

Centers abroad and related institutes of Heidelberg University


Heidelberg Office North America, New York City (since 2008)
Heidelberg Center Latin America, Santiago de Chile (since 2001)
Heidelberg Centre South Asia, New Delhi (since 2009)
Branch offices of the SAI in New Delhi (since 1962) and Kathmandu
Heidelberg University Office Kyoto (since 2015)
Centers Abroad ● ● ● ●
● Institutional Bridges in Heidelberg
Heidelberg Center for Ibero-American Studies | HCIAS
Heidelberg Center for American Studies | HCA
South Asia Institute | SAI
Centre for East Asian Studies

» Overview

INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED RESEARCH LOCATION

The university forms the focus of an excellent and internationally competitive research network in Heidelberg and in the region. The cooperation of the university with its local research partners particularly includes conducting research projects, building up joint infrastructures, cooperative early-career training, and developing innovative study programs.

Local and regional research institutions

- German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ)
- European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL)
- Max Planck Institute for Medical Research
- Max Planck Institute for Astronomy
- Max Planck Institute for Nuclear Physics
- Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law
- Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities
- Heidelberg Institute for Theoretical Studies (HITS)
- Central Institute of Mental Health (ZI)

Furthermore, Heidelberg University cooperates in a variety of ways with companies from industry and business. Ruperto Carola links up its basic research with applied research on the side of the industrial partners.

» Overview

LIVING IN HEIDELBERG

Heidelberg's cosmopolitan and student-friendly atmosphere is one of the city's distinguishing features. Situated in a region with a high quality of life, the university offers a varied program of events alongside studies and work. Both the city and the university offer sports and leisure activities as well as numerous theaters, renowned film and music festivals and a large number of museums, creating a stimulating and diverse cultural atmosphere. Popular local tourist destinations include the world-famous Heidelberg Castle, the historic streets and alleys in the old town and the Philosophers' Walk, one of the most spectacular hillside promenades in Europe, as well as many fine restaurants.

» Overview

FURTHER INFORMATION

Studying at Heidelberg University

- Study
- All subjects
- Orientation for students
- Information on applying
- Information for international students
- Advisory services
- heiSKILLS Competence and Language Centre
- Heidelberg School of Education (German)
- Download center

General information

- About the University
- Research
- Fields of Focus
- Excellence Strategy
- International affairs
- Transfer
- Research city

Centers abroad and related institutes in Heidelberg

- Heidelberg Center Latin America (HCLA)
- Heidelberg Center for Ibero-American Studies (HCIAS)
- Heidelberg Office North America, New York
- Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA)
- Heidelberg Centre South Asia (HCSA)
- South Asia Institute (SAI)
- Heidelberg Office East Asia, Kyoto
- Centre for East Asian Studies

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