



GENERAL INFORMATION

- Heidelberg University
- Excellence in research
- International profile
- Outstanding support for students and doctoral candidates
- Internationally renowned research location
- Living in Heidelberg

HEIDELBERG UNIVERSITY: THE FUTURE. SINCE 1386.

Founded in 1386, Heidelberg University – also known as Ruperto Carola – is the oldest university in present-day Germany and one of Europe’s most research-intensive institutions. Its success in all the funding rounds of the Excellence Competitions and in internationally recognized rankings are evidence of Heidelberg University’s leading role and excellent reputation in the academic 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.

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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: 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 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
- 23** Leibniz Award Laureates
- 38** DFG Collaborative Research Centres
- 9** DFG Research Training Groups
- 168** ERC Grants (in total, incl. bridge professorships)
- 54** ERC Grants (running)
- 22** Emmy Noether Junior Research Groups (running)
- 9,343** doctoral candidates

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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 branch offices 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

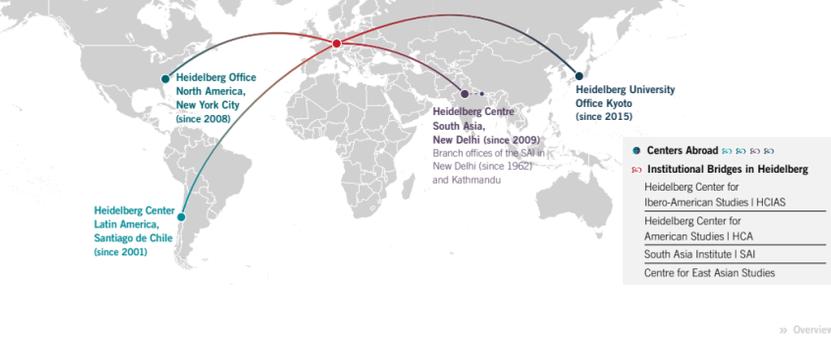
Memberships in university networks

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

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**

Foreign branch offices and related institutes of Heidelberg University



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OUTSTANDING SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND DOCTORAL CANDIDATES

With a large number of advisory and supervisory opportunities, as well as specific professional development programs, Heidelberg University accompanies its more than 30,000 students and its over 9,000 doctoral candidates 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. In the doctoral phase, the Graduate Academy is the coordination center for all interdisciplinary continuing education and further training opportunities. The broad range of programs offered by the Career Service contributes especially to a successful start in working life.

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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.

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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.

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FURTHER INFORMATION

General information

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

Foreign offices 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