



UNIVERSITÄT
HEIDELBERG
ZUKUNFT
SEIT 1386

GENERAL INFORMATION

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

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- Research-based and interdisciplinary
- Program structure
- Mathematics, Engineering and Natural Sciences
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- Medicine
- Ten reasons for studying at Heidelberg University

DOCTORAL STUDIES AT HEIDELBERG UNIVERSITY

- Ways to earn a doctorate
- Graduate Academy of Heidelberg University
- heiDOCS: Best conditions for early-career researchers
- Graduate Schools
- Further structured doctoral programmes

GENERAL INFORMATION

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.

» Overview

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 a 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 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 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

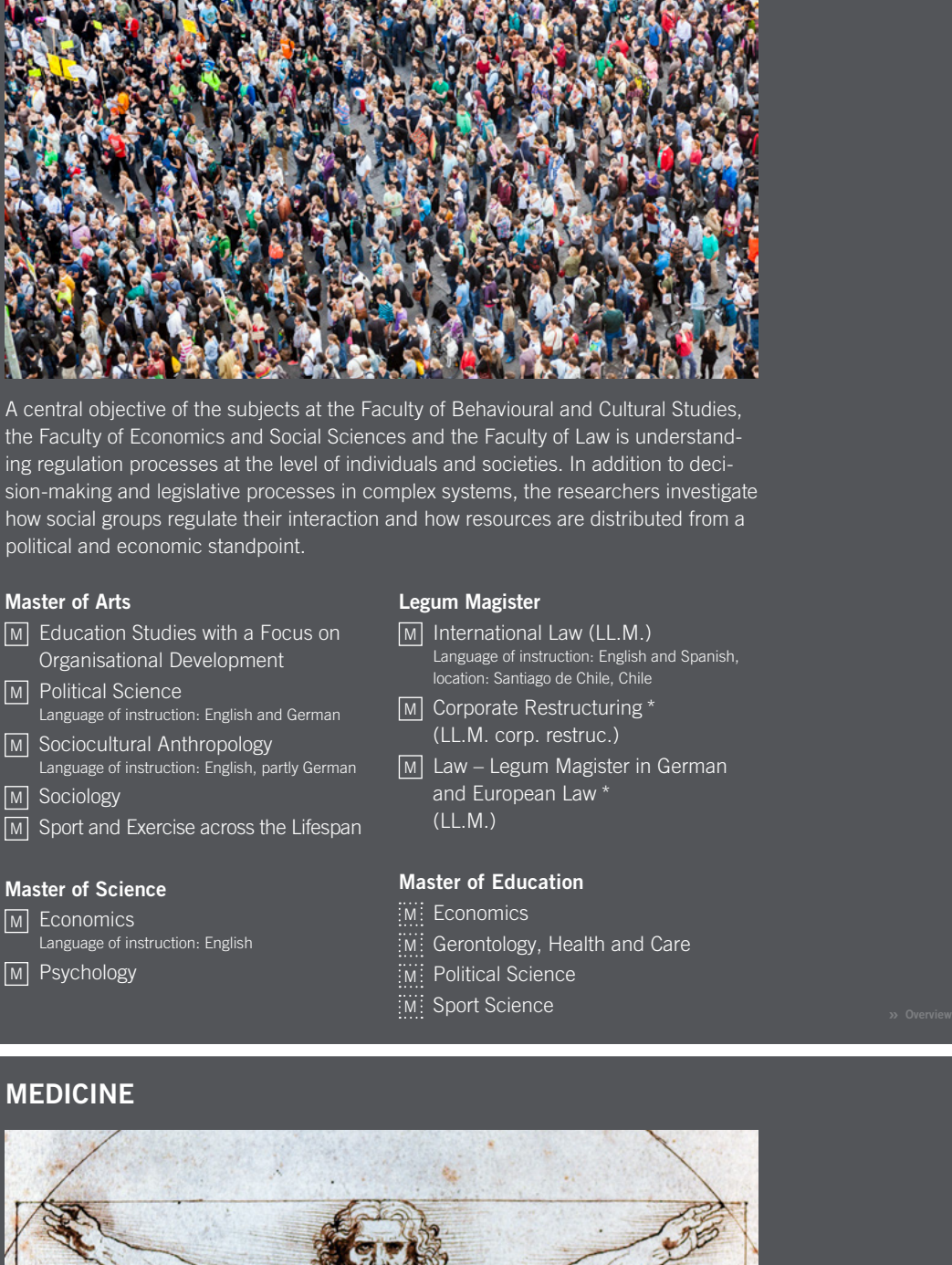
- League of European Research Universities (LERU)
- 4EU+ European University Alliance (Heidelberg, Prague, Paris-Saclay-Assas, Sorbonne/Paris, Copenhagen, Geneva, Milan and Warsaw)
- HeKKSaGOn: German-Japanese University Consortium
- Coimbra Group

FACTS AND FIGURES – MOBILITY

International students:	International doctoral candidates:
6,633 (20.6%)	2,617 (28.0%)
International doctorates completed:	International visiting researchers:
330 (29.1%)	approx. 250 per year

» Overview

Centers abroad and related institutes of Heidelberg University



» Overview

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 Student 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 centre 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.

» 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

MASTER'S PROGRAMS AT HEIDELBERG UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH-BASED AND INTERDISCIPLINARY

As an advanced course of studies, a master's program usually follows a bachelor's or other undergraduate program. With a number of more than 100 master's programs at 13 faculties, Heidelberg University offers a variety of subjects that is virtually unparalleled in Germany. Some master's programs are taught partially or completely in English. A master's degree is a solid foundation for entry into professional life or a career in academia.

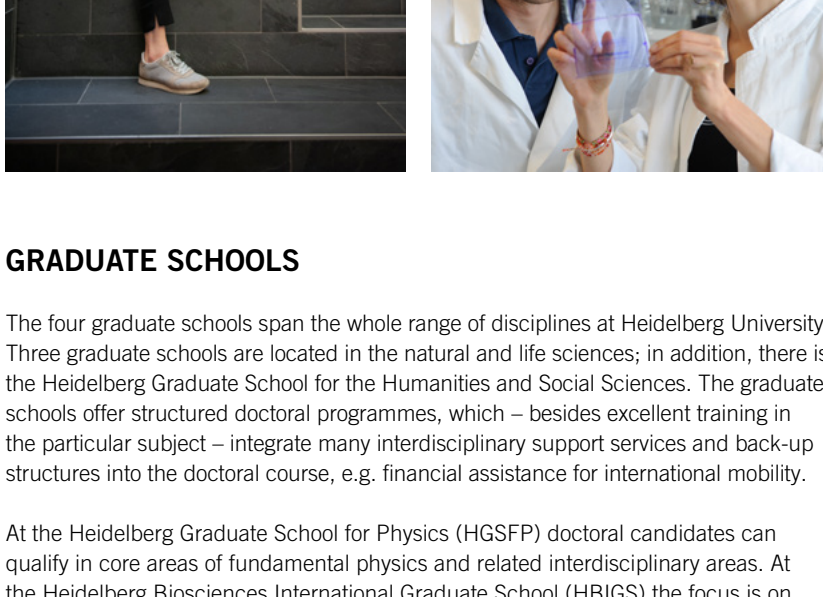
» Overview

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

A master's program is usually completed in four semesters – in some cases two or three semesters – and awards graduates the academic degree of Master of Science (M.Sc.), Master of Arts (M.A.) or Master of Education (M.Ed.). A four-semester master's program usually requires 120 credit points, of which 30 are awarded for the master's thesis.

» 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.

Master of Science

Biochemistry Language of instruction: English and German	Physics Language of instruction: English, partly German
Chemistry Language of instruction: English	Physics fast track One-year programme, language of instruction: English
Computer Engineering Language of instruction: English	Scientific Computing Language of instruction: English, partly German
Data and Computer Science Language of instruction: English	
Earth Sciences	
Geochronology	
Geography	
Governance of Risk and Resources* Language of instruction: English and Spanish, location: Santiago de Chile, Chile	
Mathematics	
Matter to Life Language of instruction: English	
Molecular Biosciences Language of instruction: English	
Molecular Biotechnology Language of instruction: English and German	
Molecular Systems Science and Engineering Language of instruction: English	

Master of Education

Astronomy
Biology
Chemistry
Computer Science
Geography
Geology
Mathematics
Physics

» 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 the digital humanities.

Master of Arts

American Studies Language of instruction: English	Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies
Art History	Italian / Italy in Contact – Literature, Arts, Languages, Cultures Language of instruction: Italian, English and German
Art History and Museology Language of instruction: German and French, location: Heidelberg and Paris	Japanese Studies
Assyriology	Jewish Studies
Byzantine Archaeology and Art History	Latin / Classical Philology
Chinese Studies	Management, Ethics and Innovation in the Non-Profit Sector – Diagonal Leadership and Governance*
Christianity and Culture	Medieval Studies
Classical and Modern Literature	Musology
Classical Archaeology	Near Eastern Archaeology Language of instruction: English and German
Communication and Society in Ibero-America Language of instruction: English and Spanish	Near Eastern Studies
Communication, Literature and Media in Modern South Asian Languages	Philosophy
Comparative German Studies	Prehistory and Protohistory
Computational Linguistics Language of instruction: English and German	Religious Studies
Conference Interpreting	Semitic Studies
Cultural Heritage and Protection of Cultural Goods Language of instruction: English and German	Slavic and Eastern European Studies
Development, Environment, Societies, and History in South Asia Language of instruction: English	South Asian Cultural and Religious History (Classical Indology)
East Asian Art History	Theological Studies*
Egyptology	Transcultural Studies Language of instruction: English
English Studies Language of instruction: English	Translation, Communication, Language Technology
European Art History	
French / Transcultural Studies Language of instruction: French, English and German	
German as a Second Language	
German Studies: Literature – Knowledge – Language	
Global History	
History Language of instruction: German and French, location: Heidelberg and Paris	
Ibero-American Studies / Spanish Language of instruction: Spanish, English and German	
Interreligious Studies	

» 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.

Master of Arts

- Education Studies with a Focus on Organisational Development
- Political Science
- Sociocultural Anthropology
- Sociology
- Sport and Exercise across the Lifespan

Legum Magister

- International Law (LL.M.)
- Corporate Restructuring* (LL.M. corp. restructuring*)
- Law – Legum Magister in German and European Law* (LL.M.)

Master of Science

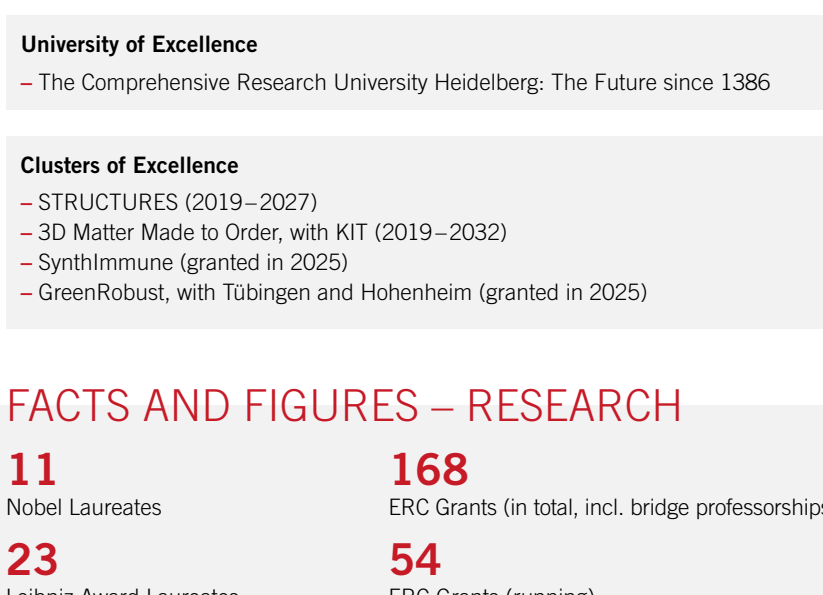
- Economics
- Psychology

Master of Education

- Economics
- Gerontology, Health and Care
- Political Science
- Sport Science

» 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 programmes qualify students for various professions in medicine-related specialist fields.

Master of Science

- Biomedical Engineering
- Health Services Research and Implementation Science in Health Systems
- International Health*
- Medical Biometry / Biostatistics*

Medical Education*

- Medical Education*
- Medical Informatics
- Translational Medical Research

» Overview

ABBREVIATIONS AND NOTES

LL.M.	Legum Magister / Master of Laws
LL.M. corp. restruc.	Legum Magister in Corporate Restructuring
M.A.	Master of Arts
M.Sc.	Master of Science
M.Ed.	Master of Education
*	Advanced master's programme, subject to a tuition fee

TEN REASONS FOR STUDYING AT HEIDELBERG UNIVERSITY

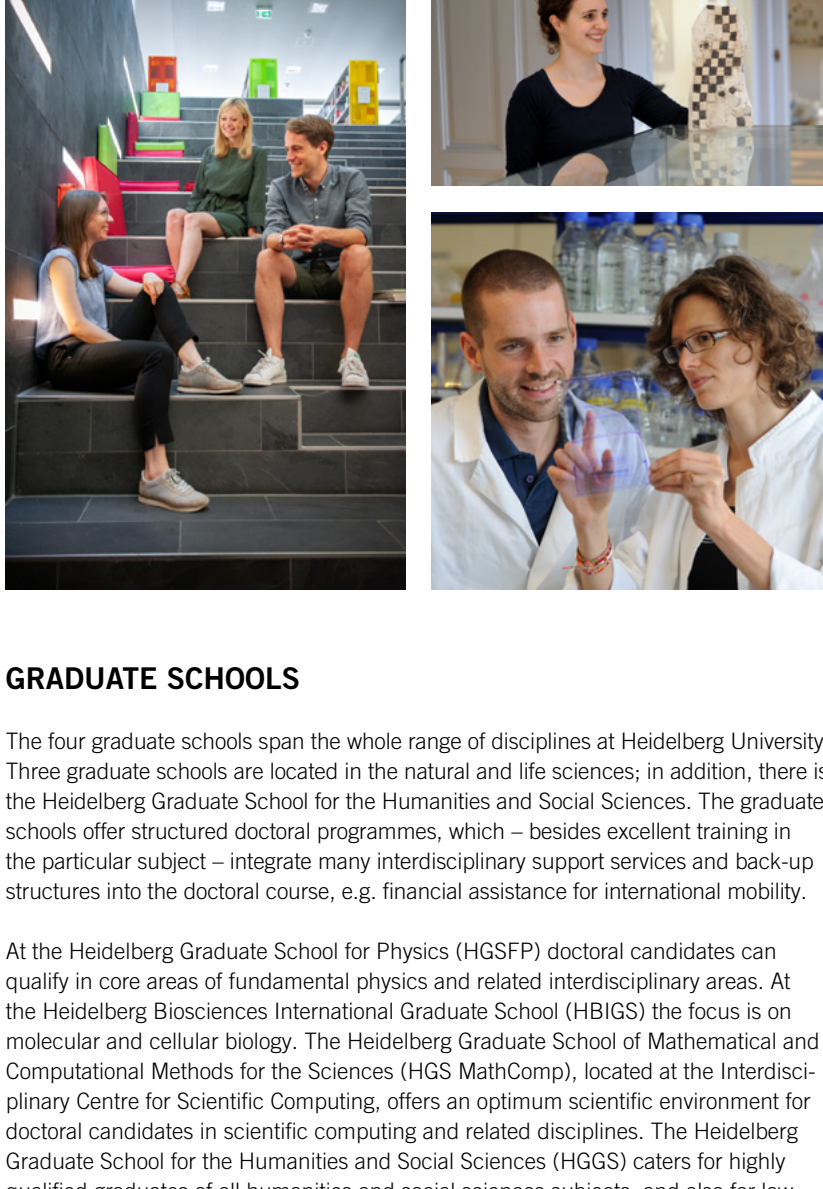
- 1 Excellent reputation.** Consistently among the top three German universities in the most important rankings, Heidelberg University stands for excellent study and doctoral conditions and outstanding research.
- 2 Long tradition.** The Future. Since 1386: Heidelberg University is the oldest university in present-day Germany.
- 3 Range of subjects.** More than 100 master's programmes: the subject areas on offer cover the wide range typical of a comprehensive university, 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 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 programmes 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

DOCTORAL STUDIES AT HEIDELBERG UNIVERSITY

WAYS TO EARN A DOCTORATE

Earning a doctorate is fundamentally possible in all subjects offered at the university. It can be achieved as an individual doctorate or in a structured doctoral programme. Besides four graduate schools, there are another roughly 40 structured doctoral programmes, including research training groups and a host of cooperation arrangements with non-university partners.



» Overview

GRADUATE ACADEMY OF HEIDELBERG UNIVERSITY

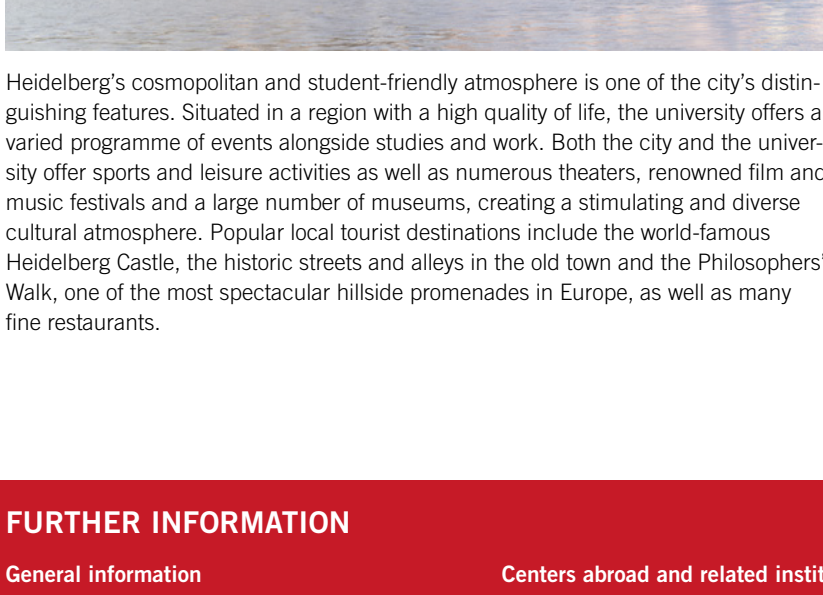
The Graduate Academy is the coordination centre for all cross-disciplinary advice, professional development and funding opportunities for doctoral candidates, thereby guaranteeing the high quality of academic training at Heidelberg University. It supports doctoral candidates with personal advice, e.g. with financing their individual projects and carrying out study abroad during their doctoral studies. In particular, doctoral candidates and early-career researchers from abroad are also welcome to use the services of the Graduate Academy.

» Overview

heiDOCS: BEST CONDITIONS FOR EARLY-CAREER RESEARCHERS

The goal of heiDOCS, the integrated quality programme for supporting doctoral candidates and early-career researchers at Heidelberg University, is to further develop and optimise outstanding conditions for the research activity and career development of young researchers. In order to continually improve the supervision and fostering of early-career researchers, heiDOCS implements specific measures at the level of the whole university and the faculties.

» Overview



GRADUATE SCHOOLS

The four graduate schools span the whole range of disciplines at Heidelberg University. Three graduate schools are located in the natural and life sciences; in addition, there is the Heidelberg Graduate School for the Humanities and Social Sciences. The graduate schools offer structured doctoral programmes, which – besides excellent training in the particular subject – integrate many interdisciplinary support services and back-up structures into the doctoral course, e.g. financial assistance for international mobility.

At the Heidelberg Graduate School for Physics (HGSFP) doctoral candidates can qualify in core areas of fundamental physics and related interdisciplinary areas. At the Heidelberg Biosciences International Graduate School (HBIGS) the focus is on molecular and cellular biology. The Heidelberg Graduate School of Mathematical and Computational Methods for the Sciences (HGS MathComp), located at the Interdisciplinary Centre for Scientific Computing, offers an optimum scientific environment for doctoral candidates in scientific computing and related disciplines. The Heidelberg Graduate School for the Humanities and Social Sciences (HGGS) caters for highly qualified graduates of all humanities and social sciences subjects, and also for law.

4 Graduate Schools

- Heidelberg Graduate School for Physics (HGSFP)
- Heidelberg Biosciences International Graduate School (HBIGS)
- Heidelberg Graduate School of Mathematical and Computational Methods for the Sciences (HGS MathComp)
- Heidelberg Graduate School for the Humanities and Social Sciences (HGGS)

» Overview

FURTHER STRUCTURED DOCTORAL PROGRAMMES

- 4 DFG Research Training Groups coordinated by Heidelberg University**
 - Authority and Trust in American Culture, Society, History and Politics
 - Innate Immune Checkpoints in Cancer and Tissue Damage (InCheck)
 - Ambivalent Enmity: Dynamics of Antagonism in Asia, Europe, and the Middle East
 - Mixed Ionic-Electronic Transport

- 2 structured doctoral programmes with state funding**
 - Communication and Society in Ibero-America
 - Personalized Medicine and Organoid Pharmaceutical Test Models: Advanced Materials, Analytics, and Computing (Perpharmance)

- 1 Max Planck School**
 - Matter to Life

- 4 International Max Planck Research Schools (IMPRS)**
 - Astronomy and Cosmic Physics
 - Precision Tests of Fundamental Symmetries
 - Successful Dispute Resolution in International Law
 - Quantum Dynamics in Physics, Chemistry and Biology

- 3 Helmholtz (International) Graduate Schools (HGS)**
 - Helmholtz International Graduate School of Cancer Research in cooperation with German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ)
 - Helmholtz International Graduate School for Health (HIDSS4Health)
 - In cooperation with Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) and DKFZ
 - BioInterfaces International Graduate School in cooperation with KIT and DKFZ

» 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 programme 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

General information

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

Centers abroad and related institutes in Heidelberg

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

Master's programmes

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- About the master's degree
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- English-language master's programs
- Application and enrolment
- Key dates and deadlines

Doctoral studies

- Supporting young researchers
- Graduate Academy
- heiDOCS
- HGSFP
- HBIGS
- HGS MathComp
- HGGS

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