

What we do

German U15 represents 15 leading research-intensive universities that are among the most academically distinguished and internationally renowned institutions of the German science system. They are dedicated to outstanding research and excellent teaching and attract bright students as well as early-career and senior scientists from all over the world.

German U15 has been working towards improving the framework for university research, teaching, transfer, academic careers and governance since 2012. We convey the perspectives of our member universities to policymakers – and vice-versa. Exchange with partners in science and industry is also central to our work. In addition, we strive to strengthen our network with research-intensive universities world-wide. For our members, we monitor and analyze science policy issues and trends, nationally and globally, and provide a forum for trustful exchange.

German U15 e.V.

GERMAN **U15**

U15

FACTS & FIGURES

The U15 member universities



- 1 Freie Universität Berlin
- 2 Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
- 3 Universität Bonn
- 4 Goethe Universität Frankfurt
- 5 Universität Freiburg
- 6 Universität of Göttingen
- 7 Universität of Hamburg
- 8 Heidelberg University
- 9 University of Cologne
- 10 Leipzig University
- 11 Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz
- 12 Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München
- 13 University of Münster
- 14 University of Tübingen
- 15 Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg

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REFERENCES

15 of 109 universities: www.destatis.de | **Expertise and leadership: Training tomorrow's workforce:** www.destatis.de | **International reputation:** www.timeshighereducation.com, www.shanghairanking.com, www.humboldt-foundation.de, www.daad.de | **Excellent research:** German Research Foundation (DFG) Funding Atlas 2024, German Research Foundation: Ongoing Clusters of Excellence (EXC) in the first funding period (January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2025) | **Seven Universities of Excellence:** www.dfg.de | **First-class medical care:** www.imppp.de | References as of March 2025

15 of 109 universities

There are 109 universities in Germany – fifteen of them are part of German U15 (13.8%).

13.8 %



Expertise and leadership: Training tomorrow's workforce

U15 universities educate more than half a million students – that is about one third of all students enrolled at German universities. Around 80,000 PhD candidates (about 40%) are obtaining their doctorate at a U15 university.



International reputation

U15 member universities are among the strongest German universities internationally: of the eight German universities among the TOP 100 universities in the Times Higher Education Rankings six belong to German U15. In the Shanghai Ranking, U15 universities account for ten of the eleven top-ranked German universities. 42% of all international doctoral students in Germany conduct their research at a U15 university.



6/8

Times Higher Education Ranking

10/11

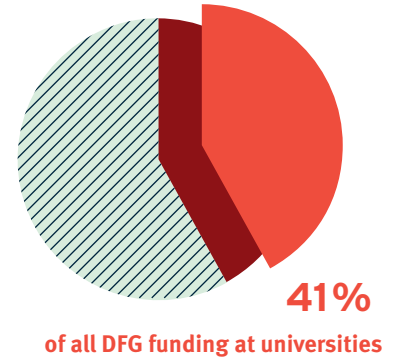
Shanghai Ranking

U15 universities

other German universities

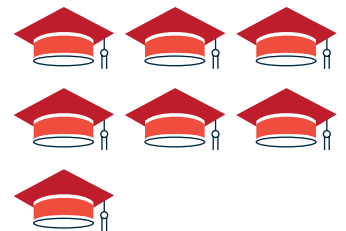
Excellent research

U15 universities are beacons of cutting-edge research. They are involved in 35 of the 57 current Clusters of Excellence (61%). Around 41% of all German Research Foundation (DFG) funding for universities goes to U15 members, totaling more than one billion Euro per year.

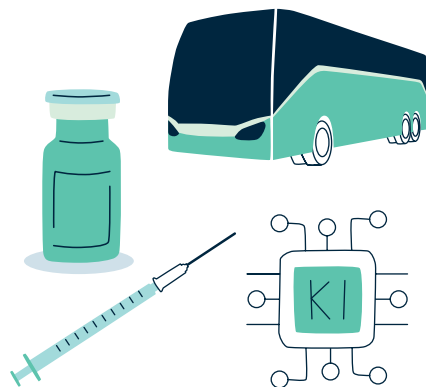


Seven Universities of Excellence

Seven U15 universities have been designated as Universities of Excellence by the Federal Government and the governments of the German states.



GERMAN U15 UNIVERSITIES FACTS & FIGURES



Technologically strong

Knowledge-driven research, startup funding and technological strength at U15 universities play a key role in making Germany a hub for innovation.

First-class medical care

Each U15 university has an affiliated university hospital, including many of the country's most renowned hospitals and medical research institutions. They combine research, clinical education and training and care at the highest level. Almost half of all physicians (49%) complete their state exams at a U15 university.

