



Bielefeld University

Welcome to Bielefeld University



← W,V,N ⊕ N,E,F →

Dear International Students,

Bielefeld University is one of the best higher education institutes in Germany. Much of this reputation is due to its truly interdisciplinary approach to research and teaching. With roughly 18,000 students, our university is not only modern and vibrant but also offers a broad range of subjects and excellent work and study facilities. Its unique feature is the campus: All departments, services, seminar rooms, and lecture theaters are located under one roof linked together by a lively central hall - fine for meeting people and making friends. This is also what makes this architectural feature a decisive advantage for our many international guests: It facilitates contacts with other students and scientists. Young people come to study at Bielefeld University from Africa, the Americas, Asia, and the rest of Europe. Not only does excellent research and teaching await them, but also a comprehensive support program making it easier for them to settle in and start working with us. In addition, Bielefeld itself is one of the 20 largest cities in Germany, offering everything that makes big-city life so attractive from culture to sport.

Studying and carrying out research together with people from all over the world is an exciting and valuable experience, and Bielefeld University is just the right place to benefit from this. I cordially invite you to come and find out for yourself.



Professor Dr. Dieter Timmermann
Rector of Bielefeld University



Bielefeld University – Renowned, Interdisciplinary, International

Interdisciplinary research, cutting-edge study courses, and cooperations with other universities throughout the world - Bielefeld University combines the classic traditions of higher education with innovative structures in research and teaching. Excellent research profiles and unique study courses, technology transfer and further education programs make it one of the best universities in Germany with a reputation going far beyond national borders.

Bielefeld University has 18,000 students (including 1,700 with an international background) attending 73 study courses in 13 departments. It provides jobs to 1,300 scientific and nonscientific staff. A unique feature is the architectural design of the university building: Everything here takes place under one roof.

The university - situated in the heart of the Teutoburg Forest - cooperates with 260 higher education institutes throughout the world. Many students and scientists from all continents come here every year to learn and carry out research with their colleagues at Bielefeld.

The outstanding feature of the university is its interdisciplinary focus: Scientists at Bielefeld work together across disciplinary

borders - in both research and teaching. It is also the home of the renowned Center for Interdisciplinary Research with projects and workshops that bring together international experts from all different scientific fields.

Bielefeld University was founded in 1969. Its research and teaching disciplines range from the natural sciences across the humanities to the social sciences. The departments place great emphasis on embedding teaching in research, and they offer a large number of attractive and modern study courses leading to Bachelor's and Master's degrees as well as doctorates (PhD). Many of these have a strong interdisciplinary focus, and they often take an international orientation.

The dynamic university not only offers excellent conditions for studying and working, but is also well known for its multifaceted cultural and sports program: From literature, art, dance, or music to ballet, soccer, judo, or swimming - there is something for every taste!



Bielefeld – A Vibrant and Varied City

Bielefeld is a many-sided and colorful city. Lovers of the arts, culture, and sports will find lots to do here: independent theaters, cabaret, and club concerts just as much as various venues for major international culture events and also premier division soccer.

With roughly 330,000 inhabitants living in an area of 258 square kilometers, Bielefeld is one of the 20 largest cities in Germany. It is the economic and cultural center of Eastern Westphalia, a bustling region halfway between Cologne and Berlin that is home to about 2 million people. Buildings from the industrial past shape the city skyline just as much as modern architecture and generously laid out parks. Bielefeld is also known as the "big city in the countryside" - more than 60 percent of the city is made up of green areas, parks, and woods. The rolling hills of the Teutoburg Forest pass right through the city and offer endless leisure-time possibilities: 580 kilometers of nature trails invite you for day trips and walks.

The imposing hallmark of the city and also a favorite leisure-time

destination is the castle - the Sparrenburg built in 1240. It offers a wonderful panoramic view of the city and its surroundings. Numerous further sights cast light on almost 800 years of history.

Bielefeld is the most important shopping center in the region. The pedestrian precincts between the main train station and the old city are perfect for shopping or just window-shopping. Gastronomically, the city has something for every taste: ranging from comfortable pubs to fashionable and specialty restaurants up to top international cuisine. In summer, the people of Bielefeld relax in atmospheric beer gardens; and, at the weekends, they turn night into day in numerous music bars and discotheques.

Bielefeld is a vibrant city, and its 25,000 students attending eight state and private higher education institutes give it a strong student culture. The residents have opened their hearts to "their" students and have a friendly welcome for every guest.

www.bielefeld.de



Bachelor's Degrees, Master's Degrees, and PhDs at Bielefeld University

Nearly all study courses offered at Bielefeld University provide the internationally recognized Bachelor's and Master's degrees. The modern study courses are put together in a modular form with a transparent structure. Not only do they enable you to train for the usual academic careers, but they also open up opportunities to enter new research and career fields. Study contents are in line with the cutting edge of research while geared to prepare students for future career challenges. The range of 73 study courses in the natural sciences, humanities, and social sciences extends from German studies, German as a foreign language, biological information science, or history, through nanophysics or public health, up to education science, psychology, or mathematical economics (see chart).

Successful completion of a Bachelor's degree offers two alternatives: entering a career track directly or continuing scientific training toward a Master's degree - with no problem in transferring to another university. A Master's degree can also lead to a PhD. A Bachelor's study course is easy to organize through a flexible combination of different modules based on choosing one major

subject and one minor subject. Examinations are carried out parallel to studies throughout the course.

Bielefeld Master's study courses are frequently specialized, interdisciplinary in design, and of the highest scientific standard. The university also offers the best conditions for working toward a doctorate (PhD): A total of 11 Graduate Schools offer the possibility of completing a structured postgraduate course while enjoying an atmosphere of mutual support and social cohesion among fellow postgraduates. These schools offer comprehensive further training in theory, methods, and experimentation. In addition to this, of course, it is also possible to work toward an individually structured doctorate in internationally renowned research fields.

Bielefeld University is fully aware of the strong need to impart interdisciplinary and work-oriented qualifications and competencies - from presentation techniques, across project management, to scientific writing. This entire spectrum of extra services is provided free of charge.



Study, Research, Sport, and Culture – All Under a Single Roof

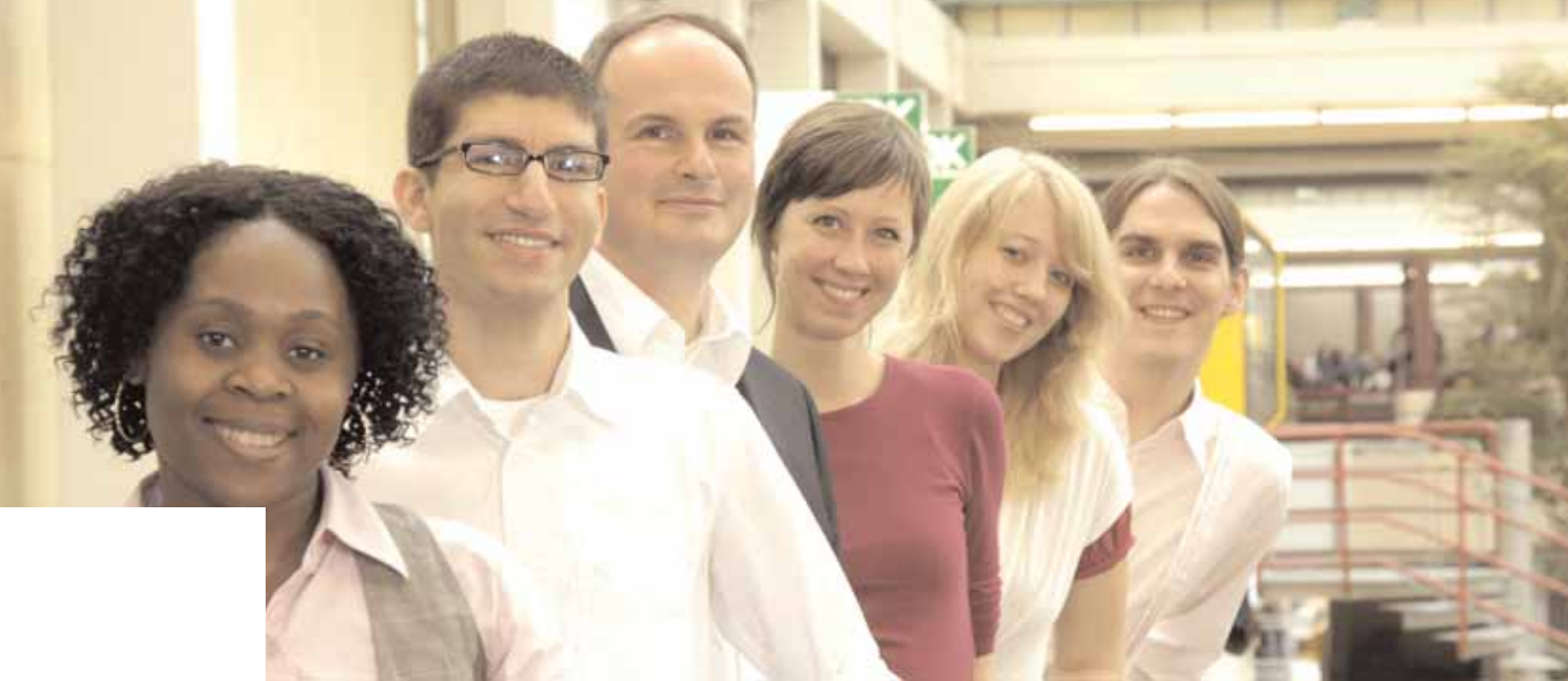
All departments, services, seminar rooms, and lecture halls at Bielefeld University are located under one single roof. The central university hall is a lively meeting point and communication space for students, scientists, and staff - a dynamic and colorful market place right in the middle of the university. This is where people meet to go for lunch in the dining hall or drink a coffee after a seminar. All round the university hall, there is a wide range of shops and services - from the central dining hall (the Mensa) feeding 3,500 guests per day to comfortable restaurants and cafés as well as a post office, bank, bookshop, newsagent and stationers, baker, mini-supermarket, and a job center.

Everything being so close together at Bielefeld University encourages a high level of cooperation between the disciplines and promotes the interdisciplinary approach for which researchers at Bielefeld have gained such a strong international reputation.

The main services are all close together and easy to reach - from the student counseling center to the famous library. The library extends over almost the entire first floor of the university building - an area of more than 23,000 square meters. Approximately 2.1 million books, a modern cataloguing and lending system,

databanks, and electronic journals, as well as long, user-friendly opening hours extending well into the night - a great aid to study. The reading desks in the library provide a calm and relaxed working atmosphere - with views of the forest and the surrounding countryside.

Throughout the university, students can use more than 1,000 computer workstations and have free-of-charge WLAN access. The campus offers a variety of facilities for sports and relaxation - in the swimming pool, in the sport halls, on the tennis or beach volleyball courts, on the soccer field, or in the nearby Teutoburg Forest.



Feeling at Home in Bielefeld – The International Office Is There to Help and Advise You

Young people coming from more than 100 different nations are studying at Bielefeld University. The university actively supports this international exchange - partner universities, exchange programs, leisure-time programs, or assistance in finding accommodation are important cornerstones of our internationally open community. To make our guests feel welcome right from the start, the university's International Office serves as a competent and friendly partner.

Its "Brother-Sister" Program, for example, is a personal tutoring arrangement for international first-semester students: Before and during the first semester, more advanced student colleagues from the same department help guests from throughout the world to cope with organizational difficulties and with settling down in the city.

A further example is the "PunktUm" Project. This offers international students general support in acquiring the basic academic skills needed to study at Bielefeld. The project is made up of individual counseling, workshops, and courses on a variety of topics. It should help students complete their specific study

courses even more efficiently and successfully. German language courses are also available throughout the academic year.

In addition, the International Office organizes an attractive leisure-time program enabling students to get to know the city of Bielefeld, the surrounding district, and Germany as a whole. These also provide a perfect opportunity to make contacts with other students.

Eleven modern halls of residence meet the accommodation needs of students at Bielefeld University. Several of these are located directly on campus; the others are easy to reach from the university either by foot or local public transport. The International Office helps to organize rooms in the halls of residence - well before students travel to Bielefeld and start their studies.



It's Easy to Apply to Study at Bielefeld University

You are interested in studying at Bielefeld University? You have some questions? Would you like some advice?

If you want to know more, then get in touch with the young and friendly team at the International Office. You can contact them by telephone, by e-mail, or by coming to the office in person. They will be pleased to give you quick and uncomplicated advice not only on questions regarding the organization of studies but also on personal issues like looking for accommodation.

Basically, all international study applicants with a recognized secondary school-leaving certificate granting them the right to enter university in their home country can assume that they will be allowed to study at Bielefeld University. However, applicants from countries whose secondary school-leaving qualifications are on a lower level than the German Abitur must either have studied successfully in their home country for 1 or 2 years or have completed a course at a Studienkolleg in the Federal Republic of Germany.

You have decided to study at Bielefeld University? For a Bachelor's study course, please apply through the organization "Uni-Assist" - an association of German universities that coordinates application procedures for international students. You can find all the necessary information in the Internet under www.uni-assist.de

Applicants for a Master's or PhD study course or for a guest study placement (ERASMUS, etc.) are handled directly by Bielefeld University.

One necessary precondition when applying to study for a degree at Bielefeld University is proof of your knowledge of German. If necessary, this can be obtained on location as part of a German course.

You can find further information in the Internet under:
www.uni-bielefeld.de/students



Studying and Living in Bielefeld - What it Costs and Funding

Both the city of Bielefeld and Bielefeld University have a lot to offer - and at a moderate as well as competitive price.

A room in one of the halls of residence costs between 180 and 250 Euro a month; a room in private accommodation, between 200 and 300 Euro. A trip to the movies will set you back about 5 Euro; a beer in a pub, about 3 Euro. A three-course lunch in the university Mensa costs about 2.30 Euro. In all, studying in Bielefeld will cost about 580 Euro a month (including accommodation).

Like most German higher education institutes, Bielefeld University also charges study fees. These are currently set at 350 Euro per semester (i.e., 700 Euro a year). This is lower than many other German universities that charge much more. In addition, students have to pay about 150 Euro per semester for a student card granting them numerous concessions and privileges such as free travel on all public transport within a 100-kilometer radius.

Compared with many other university cities, the costs of studying in Bielefeld generally remain within predictable limits - nonetheless, students will have to pay their own way privately,

because German higher education institutes are not able to offer much financial support. Some funding is available from the German Academic Exchange Service (Deutsche Akademische Auslandsdienst, DAAD), scholarship trusts, or similar institutions.

If good international students find themselves in financial difficulties, the University of Bielefeld may agree to a loan to cover study fees - but expects repayment after students successfully complete their studies and enter their careers.

The team at the International Office can inform you about your eligibility for any grants or other financial support.



Why Bielefeld? International Students Tell Us the Reasons for Their Choice

The Canadian **Peter Lenco** is very enthusiastic about the library at Bielefeld University. He is studying political science: "I do my work in English, French, and German - I can always find the literature I need in the library, and it's even in the original language!" The 34-year-old is living together with his family in the middle of the city. He enjoys jogging in the Teutoburg Forest. However, it was the study course that convinced Peter: "There are a lot of very good and exciting seminars, my colleagues are kind and helpful, and the professors grant us a lot of their time. In addition, we international students can acquire the necessary scientific skills in the PunktUm Program."

Jie Fang comes from Shanghai and feels very comfortable in Bielefeld. "Bielefeld is a peaceful city - not too large, and not too small." The 27-year-old is studying molecular biotechnology and finds the university campus to be highly practical: "Everything is under one roof. For example, you don't lose any time traveling to the library." The International Office had been very helpful, and her "Brother" in the "Brother-Sister" program had already found her an apartment before she arrived in Bielefeld. "The lecturers really take care of their students, and they also make allow-

ances for language difficulties. You can even present your papers in English."

Katarzyna Podolska from Poland is studying German as a foreign language, and she is enjoying life at Bielefeld University. "There are shops in the university, a post office and a bank - you can get everything done here. What's really good is the wide range of super sports facilities." The 22-year-old is also very satisfied with her study conditions: "The lecture theatres are very well equipped. The people are very helpful wherever you are - either in the computing center or the library." The young Polish student also likes the fact that the halls of residence are so close to the university. She has never felt frightened on the campus or in the city; "This is a place where women can feel safe - even at night." **Christian Vouffo** is 22 years old, comes from Cameroon, and is studying molecular biotechnology: "I got a really warm welcome," recalls the young man when asked about his arrival in Bielefeld. "The 'Brother-Sister' program really took me in hand." He has now decided to become a "Brother" himself and make it easier for international colleagues to settle in while also helping them to deal with any official formalities.

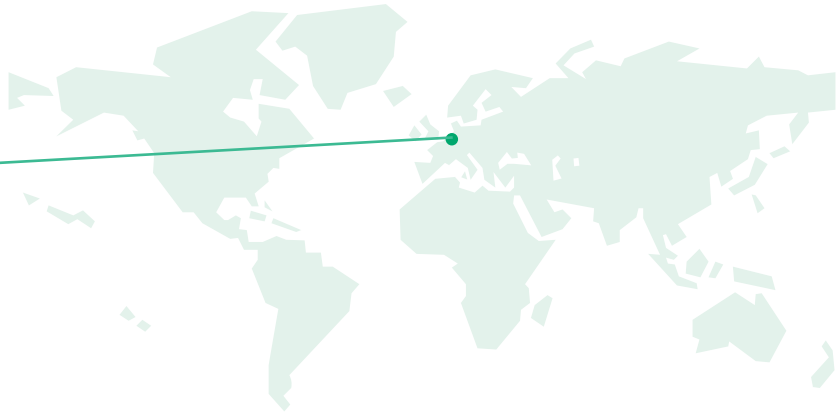
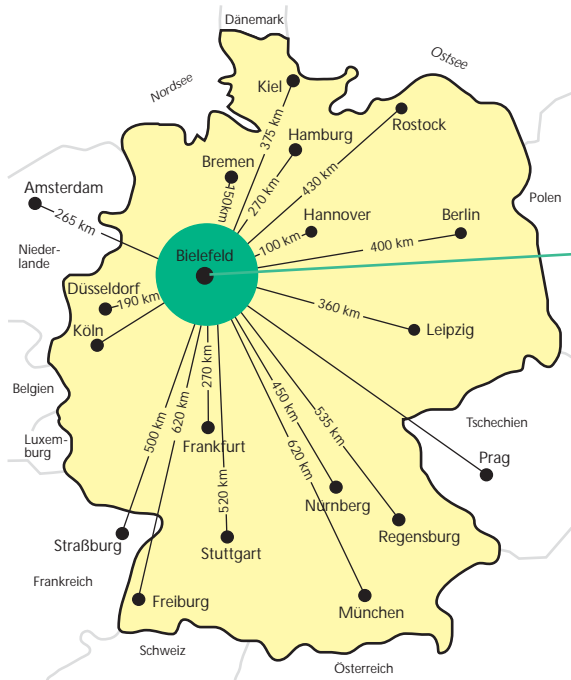
Study Courses at Bielefeld University

Legum Magister (LL.M.) Bielefeld:
A one-year study program specially
for international students with a
diploma in law.

BA Major
BA Minor
Master of Arts / of Science
Diploma

- Biochemistry
- Biology
- Biology: Ecology and Diversity
- Biology: Genome-Based Systems Biology
- Biology: Molecular Cell Biology
- Biology: Systems Biology of Brain and Behaviour
- Biotechnology, Molecular
- British and American Studies
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Computer Science: Applied Informatics in the Natural Sciences
- Computer Science: Bioinformatics and Genome Research
- Computer Science: Cognitive Informatics
- Computer Science: Intelligent Systems
- Economics and Business Studies
- Economics, Mathematical
- Education Science
- Education Science: Special Education
- Environmental Sciences
- Gender Studies

- 
- German as a Foreign Language
 - German Studies
 - History
 - History, Philosophy, and Sociology of Science
 - Inter-American Studies
 - Law
 - Linguistics
 - Linguistics, Clinical
 - Literary Studies
 - Mathematics
 - Media Informatics and Design
 - Media Science, Interdisciplinary
 - Philosophy
 - Physics
 - Physics: Biophysics
 - Physics: Nanoscience
 - Political Science
 - Political Science: Political Communication
 - Psychology
 - Public Health
 - Public Health: Health Communication
 - Sociology
 - Sports Science
 - Sports Science: Organisation Development and Management
 - Text Technology
 - Theology (Protestant)



Contact

Bielefeld University
International Office
Universitätsstraße 25
33316 Bielefeld
Germany

fon: +49 (0) 521 106-4088

fax: +49 (0) 521 106-6439

e-mail: io@uni-bielefeld.de

www.uni-bielefeld.de/students