

Bielefeld University

Made for Student Life

As Erasmus+ team of the [Faculty of Educational Science](#) at [Bielefeld University](#) we would like to give you a glimpse of our university, the program of our faculty, and the city itself, and encourage you to spend your Erasmus+ semester here with us at Bielefeld University.



Foto 1: Universität Bielefeld

Faculty of Educational Science

The Faculty of Educational Science has been honored several times as the strongest research faculty in educational science. It hosts a variety of [applied and basic research projects that investigate](#) individual as well as social developments from different perspectives. Beside various major research projects on different topics like, [Health Literacy in childhood and adolescence](#) or application-orientated school research ([BI^{professional}](#)), faculty members are involved in international research projects and projects funded by different national funding agencies.

Research
foci



Foto 2: Universität Bielefeld

The faculty is organized into 12 working groups, each addressing a particular area of research and teaching. There is a strong focus on inclusion, social inequalities, and difference, including four school-focused working groups, as well as working groups that specialize in media and migration. The faculty also conducts renowned teaching and research in the field of social work and child and youth welfare services. Parts of the research activities are coordinated via

theme specific, cross-faculty and interdisciplinary research centers and institutions.

The faculty works closely with the 'Laborschule' and the 'Oberstufenkolleg'. Furthermore, the Faculty offers the opportunity to do internships at the 'Oberstufenkolleg' – an UNESCO Project

School that lies in direct vicinity of the faculty and that has a long history of collaboration with different members of the faculty. Both, the “Oberstufenkolleg” and the “Laborschule” are affiliated with Bielefeld University and implement the newest results of educational research in their everyday learning.

In addition to this two Lab schools, the Faculty of Educational Science is home to two research centers: the Centre for [Research on Childhood and](#)

[Adolescence](#) and the [Centre for Prevention and Intervention in Childhood and Adolescence \(CPI\)](#).

Together with the working groups, these two centers facilitate international research collaborations and host guest lecturers.



Foto 3: Universität Bielefeld

The faculty offers bachelor's and master's courses with multiple possibilities for professional qualification and the development of research skills.

Course
offer



Foto 4: Universität Bielefeld

Students can choose between degree programs in educational science as well as specific [teacher training programmes](#). Additionally, the faculty offers the possibility to follow the course programme [Integrated Teacher Training for Special Education](#) with an explicit focus on inclusion. Teacher training at Bielefeld University features a strong linkage of school practice and [research-based learning](#). The major in educational sciences offers a broad range of different topics that can be deepened in one's own study and research profiles.

Education [bachelor's degree](#): Organization, Quality and Consultation; Difference and Heterogeneity; Education and Didactics

Education [master's degree](#): Social Work and Consultation; Training and Media Education; Migrational Pedagogy, Civic- and International Education

The degree programmes offered by the Faculty of Educational Science provide a broad range of possibilities to study topics in line with one's own interests and priorities. In the master's degree, students may study all profiles in the International Track. The International Track option focuses on international comparative perspectives in international research. The faculty's master's degree pro-

programme has a strong research focus. Students are involved in doing research at an early stage of the programme and develop their own research projects under the supervision of experienced researchers.

The Faculty of Educational Sciences offers an extensive range of courses taught in [English](#) enabling incoming students to attend courses equivalent to at least 30 ECTS credits. These courses are often taught by visiting researchers from different countries which allows students to widen national disciplinary perspectives and provides insight into other research traditions. Bielefeld University offers [special support for international students](#) such as the “Orientation Programme” and the “International Mentoring Programme”, helping them to have a smooth start in Bielefeld and in their studies. [ESN Bielefeld](#) also organises numerous events to integrate incoming students in the international community at Bielefeld University.



Foto 5: Universität Bielefeld

Bielefeld University

[Bielefeld University](#), founded in the year 1969, is a so-called ‘Reformuniversität’ which, since its foundation, realises the guiding-principle of interdisciplinarity. This interdisciplinary approach can be seen in the unique architectural design of the university as well, where all faculties and institutions are combined under one roof. The [research profile](#) of Bielefeld University crosses disciplinary boundaries in the fields of human- and social sciences as well as life sciences and technical sciences. Bielefeld University has a particularly strong research profile in the area of human and social sciences – a profile to which the Faculty of Educational Science contributes substantially.

„Reform-
universität“

One example of Bielefeld University’s interdisciplinary approach is the internationally renowned [‘Institute for Interdisciplinary Conflict and Violence Research’](#) (IKG) directed by Andreas Zick. The IKG provides an important contribution to the increasing understanding of different social phenomena. One of these contributions is the concept of ‘group-focused enmity,’ which is currently part of different scientific publications and legal texts. A key role in the genesis of ‘group-focused enmity’ has been played by sociologist and educationalist Wilhelm Heitmeyer, who was the founding director as well as the director of the IKG until 2013.

Research
institutions



Foto 6: Universität Bielefeld

Another dimension of the interdisciplinary structure of Bielefeld University is the ‘[Center for Interdisciplinary Research](#)’ (ZiF). This Institute for Advanced Study fosters innovative, interdisciplinary research projects. The center, founded in 1968, is the first institute of its kind in Germany, and has become a model for interdisciplinary research institutes in Europe. The ZiF is a thematically unbound research hub and is open to researchers of all nations and disciplines. Detached from their regular academic engagements, researchers at the ZiF can carry out an interdisciplinary projects with international collaborators. The ZiF awards fellowships and scholarships, and offers its guests supportive working conditions while providing professional infrastructure.

Aside from its academic strengths, Bielefeld University offers many other facilities. Since the opening of the X-building in 2014, the campus is in a state of transition and expansion. The changes offer improvements to study conditions, such as the inauguration of an additional cafeteria, [new lecture theatres](#) and seminar rooms as well as the “[Co-Learning Spaces](#)”.



Foto 7: Universität Bielefeld

The main building is the second biggest building in Europe and offers a pleasant view of Bielefeld from its upper floors. The university is directly connected to Bielefeld’s tram system and surrounded by free parking lots.



Foto 8: Universität Bielefeld

Bielefeld University not only offers a wide range of academic opportunities, but it is also a nice place to socialize and relax. In the main building and X-building there are numerous sitting areas which invite students to take a short break, just like the outdoor space that is equipped with futuristic sun loungers. As Bielefeld University is a campus-based university, it offers a variety of shops and facilities in its buildings as well. There are restaurants, cafés, bakeries, supermarkets, and ATMs across the entire campus.

Once a year, the campus turns into a vibrant festival when the [Campus Festival](#) brings nearly 20.000 people together to dance to national and international artists of different musical genres. People who prefer quieter activities benefit from the extensive [cultural offer on campus](#), such as the university cinema, the ‘Hörsaalslam’ – a poetry slam which takes place a couple of times each year in the main auditorium and is a meeting point for Germany’s poetry slam scene— or the Night of Sounds.

Bielefeld as a city

Bielefeld, with its 340.000 inhabitants, is the economic, cultural and research center of the region Eastern Westphalia and one of the 20 biggest cities in Germany. The city center offers a selection of shopping facilities from big department stores to well-known chains and small boutiques. If you are looking for a short shopping break there are excellent restaurants as well.



Foto 9: Flickr-Nutzer "orkomedix", CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

Location and
region

Bielefeld is the greenest major city in Germany, a fact that you can see every time you take a short detour "into the green". That means that it will take you no longer than ten minutes by foot from any part of the city to find some of the numerous green spaces. The most well-known green space is the Teutoburg Forest which covers wide parts of the city. Especially the good inner city infrastructure with a closely timed [tram and bus network](#) brings you quickly from A to B.

Bielefeld's landmark, the Sparrenburg Castle, is located next to one of the nicest German trails ridgeways, the 156 kilometer long [Hermannsweg](#) that winds through hills and forests. From its 37-meter high tower you have a gorgeous view of the city and the surrounding countryside or you can take a guided tour to explore the underground tunnel system below the castle. Once a year, the Hermannsweg is used for the annual '[Hermannslauf](#)' – a community run that starts at the monu-



Foto 10: Wikipedia-Author " Fabian Wilske ", CC BY-SA 3.0

ment of Hermann the Cheruscan and ends after more than 30 kilometers at the Sparrenburg Castle.

Quite regularly, you can attend football matches at the 'SchücoArena' - the home stadium of [Arminia Bielefeld](#), a team that plays in the German Bundesliga. The traditional football stadium fits 26.515 supporters and is located just 15 minutes by foot from the main station in the west of Bielefeld.

Sporty high-
lights

Right next to Bielefeld in Halle/Westfalen is another city that is famous for its sport events. Once a year, it hosts the [Terra Wortmann Open](#), a tennis tournament on grass courts and part of the ATP 500 series.

With over 700 gastronomic businesses all over the city, Bielefeld offers a wide range of culinary options. The possibilities range from cozy cafes to hip restaurants, quaint pubs, and snack stalls to authentic student pubs, exclusive cuisines, and modern clubs. The historic old city of Bielefeld is particularly inviting for strolling and relaxing. Aside from the old town, the 'Siegfriedplatz' lovingly called 'Siggie,' is one of the most important and well-known squares in Bielefeld, and is frequented

Cultural
scene

by lots of people in the summer when it turns into a hotspot of the city.

Aside from the inviting café and pub scene, Bielefeld offers other cultural opportunities. The theatre of Bielefeld is the largest theatre of the region and hosts more than 600 events each year, which are attended by more than 200.000 visitors annually. The '[Kunsthalle](#)' exhibits contemporary & modern art and is the most beautiful museum in the world – at least according to Yoko Ono. Besides the '[Kunsthalle](#)', 15 different museums are located in Bielefeld. One of them is the '[Dr. Oetker World](#),' which shows how the business developed from the first producer of individual sachets of baking powder to a global brand.



Foto 12: Flickr-Nutzer "velox", CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

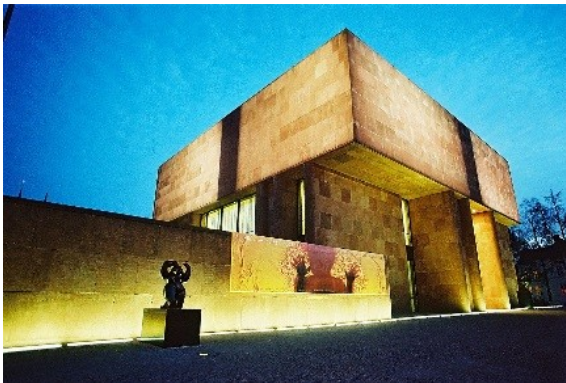


Foto 11: Wikipedia-Author "Fieser.hund", CC BY-SA 3.0

Beside the many residential cultural possibilities, there are also annual cultural events within the city. One example is the '[Nachtansichten](#)', when museums, churches and galleries are open until late at night. Aside from a broad spectrum of exhibitions, installations and performances, the event concludes with various light installations, which are projected on striking buildings of the city such as the old city hall.