



UNIVERSITÄT BIELEFELD

It is about working on the great themes of our time.

It is about people embarking on their journey.

We open up horizons, foster academic talent
and inspire students.

We create space for bold ideas.

We continue to develop the concept of educational reform.

We successfully implement gender mainstreaming
and see ourselves as a university without prejudice.



Our Mission

Bielefeld University

As a university internationally regarded for its top-level research and innovative teaching concepts, Bielefeld University makes a significant contribution to a progressive and participatory knowledge society. It is an attractive, family-friendly place to work and study and is characterised by an open communication culture, lived interdisciplinarity, diversity and freedom for personal development.

Bielefeld University was founded in 1969 with an explicit research assignment and a mission to provide high-quality research-oriented teaching. Today, it has around 24,000 students, 14 faculties that cover a broad range of disciplines in the humanities, natural sciences, social sciences, technology and medicine, over 300 professors and 3,200 employees.



Faculty of Biology



Faculty of Chemistry



Faculty of Educational Science



Faculty of History and Philosophy and Theology



School of Public Health



Faculty of Linguistics and Literary Studies



Faculty of Mathematics



Medical School OWL



Faculty of Physics



Faculty of Psychology and Sports Science



Faculty of Law



Faculty of Sociology



Faculty of Technology



Faculty of Business Administration and Economics



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Research

At Bielefeld University, research means transcending boundaries – between disciplines, between people and between science and society. *Transcending boundaries* reflects the University's guiding principle of a lived and comprehensive interdisciplinarity. For our researchers, it provides impetus for top-level basic research at an international level. Four thematic strategic research areas define the University's profile. These focus on the major questions of our time and have their applications in society and the economy. Linked by the principle of *Transcending Boundaries*, all strategic research areas or 'worlds' bring together different faculties and academic institutions to realise interdisciplinary cutting-edge research in collaborative research projects as well as through individual third-party funded cutting-edge research.

Strategic Research Areas



Fostering academic careers

The performance of Bielefeld University is largely determined by its researchers at all career levels. For this reason, the University regards the support of academic careers as a strategically important, future-oriented and long-term task. This includes providing a stimulating environment with an optimal infrastructure for the core tasks of research and teaching.

Access to comprehensive advice, information and support helps navigate the challenges associated with each particular career stage as well as financing and employment possibilities. This enables our researchers to adopt an informed and strategic approach to their career development options not only within the academic system, but also in business and society.



Study and Teaching

At Bielefeld University, good teaching means activating the student's sense of personal responsibility. It also means taking each student seriously and treating them respectfully, irrespective of background, origin and interests, and acting in a fair and transparent manner. Teachers are role models, and convey values such as civil courage, respect, accountability and commitment.

Bielefeld University prepares students for careers in various professions on national and international job markets. In addition to specialist knowledge and methodological competence, research-oriented teaching develops critical and analytical thinking. It increases the ability to reflect upon and solve problems.

The Bielefeld study model is characterised by its exceptional transparency and permeability: With a large number of subject combinations and a uniform module size at Bachelor level, a broadly-based catalogue of elective courses and an interdisciplinary Master's programme, Bielefeld University facilitates interdisciplinary teaching and learning.

At Bielefeld University, however, study and teaching do not only take place in the lecture theatre. With uncomplicated communication between lecturers and students, good study conditions and comprehensive counselling services, Bielefeld University supports independent learning and successful study: students are expected to be hard-working and committed, in return for which they are given the freedom to make their own decisions and determine their own study focus.





Internationalisation

Bielefeld University is an internationally successful institution with networks across the globe. Its hallmark is that the experience of internationalisation is firmly anchored in all areas of the University. Bielefeld University sees itself as a social space for reflection, characterised by international exchange and cultural openness.

In many research areas, Bielefeld University is a leading research institution which attracts researchers from abroad with its strong profile and relevance. Each year it welcomes to Bielefeld several hundred visiting scholars as well as students from the whole world. These include at-risk and refugee scholars, which the University supports as a member of the Scholars at Risk Network, as well as refugees who are wishing to study. Study programmes in English, Double Degree Programmes as well as study programmes with an international track prepare students from Germany and abroad for the international job market. Students thus acquire intercultural competence in an environment characterised by diversity.

Sustainability

As an academic and educational organisation, Bielefeld University holds a particular responsibility for the sustainable development of our society. The University is committed to social cultural change by conducting interdisciplinary research to find solutions to economic, ecological and social challenges, and to support this endeavour through ensuring a responsible teaching practice. As an organisation with considerable transport and resource requirements, it is aware of its own accountability and strives to act as a role model in this regard.

In its organisational structure, the University pursues a multidimensional approach to sustainability, which takes into account ecological, economic and social aspects in the areas of research, teaching and learning, and operations.





Diversity

Diversity, heterogeneity and difference form the bedrock of innovative research at Bielefeld University and are at the basis of academic life. Having a positive attitude towards diversity is a hallmark of Bielefeld University: in doing so, it pursues the goal of valuing the diversity of the people who work, study, teach and research here and of promoting their different skills, talents and competences.

One of its central tasks is to improve the learning and teaching environment so as to meet the needs of current and prospective University members. In this way, it aims to break down barriers, open up opportunities and even out disadvantage. Every member of Bielefeld University should be able to develop their potential as fully as possible. Along the way, support should be provided to all those who need it.

Gender and equal opportunity

Gender equality is a strategic goal of Bielefeld University. The University has established structures that have been recognised for their excellence in establishing a gender-equitable academic and University culture. Gender equality is fully anchored in the structures and processes at Bielefeld University.

The University has implemented over 400 centralised and decentralised measures and instruments to drive change on the level of its organisational and personnel structures, which also extend to all qualification stages on the academic career path. With its ongoing commitment to gender equality, the University has made a name for itself. The German Research Foundation (DFG) has repeatedly ranked Bielefeld University as 'particularly successful' in the implementation of its 'Research-Oriented Standards on Gender Equality'. Since 2008, It has received the TOTAL E-QUALITY award for successfully implementing gender equality in its personnel and organisational policies, most recently in 2017 with the additional category of 'diversity'.

Civil Society, business and politics

Bielefeld University maintains close network ties with civil society, business and politics. Findings generated from its basic research endeavours are disseminated to society: through collaborations with commercial enterprises, charitable organisations and foundations as well as through policy advice or through spin-off companies. The University engages in current debates on topics such as equality, prejudice and violence, migration or health care development. In this way, the University aims to participate actively in the further development of society.

The University maintains close relations with the city and region and facilitates the exchange of expertise. It develops cross-institutional initiatives to approach locally and regionally relevant topics. The University makes another important contribution to the development of a progressive and participative knowledge society through its communication of science-related topics and by reporting on its research. It shares its activities and research with the general public and thus increases the acceptance of scientific approaches and findings.



Building for the future

The science location of Bielefeld is expanding. New venues for state-of-the-art teaching and research, the modernisation of the main university building and new buildings constructed in the course of the establishment of the Medical School OWL create optimum conditions for research, teaching, study and work. The state of North Rhine-Westphalia is thus sending a clear signal of its commitment to the future of Bielefeld University and the science location of Bielefeld.

Visualisation: modernisation of the main university building



Life on campus and in Bielefeld

A culture of openness and individual freedom is inherent in the special architecture and compact campus of Bielefeld University. Beyond the lecture halls and workplace, a wide range of cultural and sporting activities is on offer. Researchers, lecturers, doctoral candidates and students from all over the world are an integral part of the campus, which is currently being developed to become one of the most modern university locations in Germany.

The university town of Bielefeld with more than 340,000 inhabitants is among the 20 largest cities in Germany. Bielefeld is greener than almost any other major city - thanks to its location in the Teutoburg Forest and its numerous parks and green routes. The city is renowned for its cultural highlights and the wide range of leisure activities on offer. Bielefeld is located in a young and economically vibrant region with excellent work prospects. It is home to many leading international companies.



Site plan



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