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DEAR READER,

“To research, to teach, to educate and form”—these are the words engraved above the main entrance of Universität Hamburg, and it is precisely these tasks that the University must recall 100 years after its founding. It is our duty to reinterpret them and, above all, perform them.

Our focus is the people we serve, character formation, and the role of the individual in society—their place within the community and how they can shape it. Guided by the concept of sustainability—whether in research, teaching, education, or organization—at Universität Hamburg, we want the young people who study here to learn more than just professional skills.

This brochure provides a first impression of the University’s history, our research projects, our programs, our significance for the City of Hamburg, and our enormous achievements in the Excellence Strategy of the federal and state governments. Enjoy the read!

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Dieter Lenzen
President, Universität Hamburg
UNIVERSITÄT HAMBURG

8 FACULTIES

43,957 STUDENTS
INCLUDING DOCTORAL RESEARCHERS AND STUDENTS ON ACADEMIC LEAVE

WOMEN 57 %
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 13 %

88 MASTER’S DEGREE PROGRAMS
71 BACHELOR’S DEGREE PROGRAMS
12 CONTINUING EDUCATION, GRADUATE, AND SUPPLEMENTARY DEGREE PROGRAMS
8 DEGREE PROGRAMS CONCLUDING WITH STATE AND OTHER EXAMINATIONS

13,525 EMPLOYEES (INCL. THE UKE)
INCLUDING 5,767 RESEARCHERS

925 DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS (2019)
59 POSTDOCTORAL THeses (2019)

261 MILLION IN EXTERNAL FUNDING (2019)

ALL INFORMATION LAST UPDATED IN 2019
Universität Hamburg is one of Germany’s strongest research universities. It has been a University of Excellence since its success in the Excellence Strategy, the federal and state funding competition initiated to foster top-level university research in Germany. The initiative also funds four clusters of excellence—interdisciplinary research alliances—in the natural sciences and humanities in Hamburg.
Roughly 44,000 students currently benefit from our excellent research and extensive curriculum. Almost 200 degree programs reflect the diversity of this research university. Around 700 professors and more than 5,500 academic staff carry out research and teach at Universität Hamburg.

The University has eight faculties:

- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Sciences
- Faculty of Medicine
- Faculty of Education
- Faculty of Humanities
- Faculty of Mathematics, Informatics and Natural Sciences
- Faculty of Psychology and Human Movement
- Faculty of Business Administration (Hamburg Business School)

Since 2010, Universität Hamburg has numbered among those universities in Germany that focus on sustainability in all of its facets and strive to combine excellence with contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals passed by the UN in 2015.

Since its founding in 1889, the UKE has been one of Europe’s leading hospitals. It takes care of more than 500,000 patients annually. The Faculty of Medicine trains doctors and dentists and also carries out top medical research.

In its innovative iMED and iMED DENT programs, students of medicine and dentistry gain practical experience at the patient’s bedside while focusing on the science of medicine. In the Medical Skills Training Center, students have access to models and modern computer-controlled simulators. The UKE’s major research areas are the nanosciences, cardiovascular research, treatment research, oncology, and infections and inflammation.
The University in the City

Universität Hamburg has five large campuses and several other locations throughout Hamburg. These include the central Von-Melle-Park campus, the climate and geosciences campus on Bundesstrasse, the Eppendorf campus dedicated to medical training, and the Klein Flottbek campus with the Institute of Plant Science and Microbiology and the Loki Schmidt Garden.

Science City Bahrenfeld, a promising urban development project for students and researchers from all over the world, is also in planning. The DESY research center, which is part of Universität Hamburg, and other major scientific institutions in the Bahrenfeld district of Hamburg already enjoy international renown.

Science City Bahrenfeld will offer the brightest minds from all over the world creative, attractive, and sustainable conditions for learning, teaching, researching, living, and working. In addition to the academic institutions and labs, there are plans to create spaces for start-ups and innovative enterprises as well as a suburb with around 2,500 apartments and recreational precincts for students, researchers, and creatives. The goal is to foster exchange among the academic, business, and civil sectors. First architectural competitions start in 2020.
During the Weimar Republic, the young university soon gained an excellent international reputation by attracting renowned scholars in several fields of study. The National Socialists destroyed these short-lived achievements, above all by forcing roughly 50 researchers out of their positions, including some of the University’s most renowned scientists and scholars. Today, there are busts and plaques commemorating some of them—including the psychologist William Stern, the philosopher Ernst Cassirer, and the physicist and chemist Otto Stern—as well as student members of the White Rose, who paid for their resistance to the Nazis with their lives.

In 1945, shortly after the First World War ended, the University reopened. More and more students enrolled, and the student body grew from 3,000 in 1949 to 17,000 in 1964. On 25 April 1969, Hamburg Parliament passed new university legislation that ensured the expansion of academic self-governance, the participation of all members of the University, and the creation of an ongoing central authority—namely, the president. On 1 January 1979, a Hamburg higher education act replaced the 1969 legislation, bringing state law in line with higher education laws. Professors now enjoyed an absolute majority in all self-governance committees responsible for teaching, research, or academic searches.

Since the beginning of the 1980s, Universität Hamburg has been reckoning with its own past in various ways. There have been several publications by its members. These efforts are concentrated in the Center for the History of Universität Hamburg and the Hamburg Library of University History in the Department of History.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO, THE UNIVERSITY WAS THE FIRST IN GERMANY TO BE FOUNDED BY AN ACT OF PARLIAMENT.

Universität Hamburg, which celebrated its centennial in 2019, is a child of Germany’s democratic awakening. On 28 March 1919, the new Hamburg Parliament passed a resolution to establish a university. It was the first parliament chosen by the citizens of Hamburg in a free and fair election. This makes Universität Hamburg the first democratically founded university following the First World War and the German Revolution of 1918–1919. On 10 May 1919, the University officially opened with festivities in Hamburg’s concert hall.

The University’s roots, however, date back to 1613, the year the Academic Gymnasium was founded in Hamburg. The General Lecture Series (1895) and the Colonial Institute (1908) were further forerunners of Universität Hamburg.
Strength through diversity and internationality

The PIASTA Team during Welcome Week 2019: PIASTA stands for the internationalization of the campus, intercultural exchange, and cooperative learning and aims to make university life eventful, international, and successful for all students.

Universität Hamburg sees itself as an integral part of the harbor city of Hamburg, which in turn sees itself as the gateway to the world. In line with Hamburg’s traditional values, the University is committed to openness, tolerance, international cooperation, and the universality of scientific pursuit.

This is why the University fosters cooperation with universities around the globe and invites international students and researchers to come to Hamburg.

Universität Hamburg’s international outlook is reflected in the courses it offers. There are a total of 26 programs taught in English and 10 master’s programs, such as Health Economics and Health Care Management; British and American Cultures: Text and Media; Integrated Climate System Sciences; and Peace and Security Studies, taught in both German and English. Universität Hamburg’s international network further enables students to study abroad at one of over 300 universities located in more than 50 countries.

Students can take courses in several languages to prepare for study abroad, and there is support for international students who wish to improve their German skills. Universität Hamburg is popular worldwide: every semester, almost 6,000 students from roughly 140 countries enroll. This means that roughly 13 percent of the student body hails from all over the world—from Argentina to Zambia.
Universität Hamburg has achieved extraordinary success in the Excellence Strategy of the federal and state governments, a funding competition for top-level university research in Germany. In July 2019, and thus 100 years following its founding, the University was named a University of Excellence for its concept “A Flagship University: Innovating and Cooperating for a Sustainable Future.”

As a flagship university, Universität Hamburg has a broad mandate and central role in the Hamburg region as well as in the national higher education system. This manifests itself, for example, in its many contacts to academic and nonacademic partners in Hamburg.

In 2018, Universität Hamburg was already able to celebrate an enormous achievement in the Excellence Strategy: funding was awarded to all four of its clusters of excellence. These interdisciplinary research alliances were able to start their work at the beginning of 2019.
EXCELLENCE STRATEGY
OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES

Universität Hamburg is implementing its Excellence Strategy goals in five thematic areas. These are based on the performance areas set forth by the German Council of Science and Humanities: research, research-oriented teaching, transfer, research infrastructure, and—specific to Universität Hamburg’s application in the Excellence Strategy—internationalization. Each performance area contains 24 measures for which Universität Hamburg was granted funding in the Excellence Strategy. We will use the funds to implement these measures in the upcoming seven years.

Six measures are planned to secure the brightest minds at all career stages for top-level research and support the research projects conducted by researchers at the University. A fast-track program should enable outstanding students a quicker path to doctoral studies. Postdoctoral fellowships give early career researchers an opportunity to lead their own research projects and gain further qualifications. Nucleus professorships involve the appointing of prominent researchers, while open-topic professorships can be offered in any subject area. The Ideas and Venture Fund has been set up to support research projects without red tape; furthermore, we plan to strengthen regional research cooperation by drawing on Excellence Strategy funds.

In the area of teaching, we will establish a liberal arts degree program, among other measures. This involves setting up two liberal arts professorships, recruiting outstanding scholars in the humanities, and providing resources for program coordination. Additionally, we intend to support student research groups and attract visiting scholars for the Studium Generale.

In the area of transfer, we plan to establish a professorship for innovation research. Moreover, the Public Understanding of Science and Humanities Team is scheduled to further develop existing academic events to foster communication with the public at large and to propose new activities with partners in Hamburg. The Transfer Agency should facilitate close and systematic cooperation with regional transfer partners and provide funding for transfer projects.

To fortify the research infrastructure, we will set up core facility platforms as well as an IT and digitalization platform.

Measures in the internationalization performance area include establishing advanced fellowships for excellent visiting scholars at the Hamburg Institute for Advanced Study. Resources should thus be made available to strengthen and expand our strategic partnership network, specifically to identify and build up thematically specific multilateral cooperation. Funding should be earmarked to enlarge international strategy conferences, set up new conference formats, and make pilot formats permanent. Finally, scholarships for exchange students should also support doctoral researchers who wish to go abroad.

Researchers in the CLICCS cluster of excellence investigate the natural science principles of climate change. It spans a large thematic arc from basic research to climate system dynamics, and from social dynamics to the transdisciplinary investigation of the reciprocal effects of environment and human activity. Their central research question is, which climate futures are possible and which are plausible? The researchers are developing future climate scenarios and preparing information to facilitate a sustainable future.

Roughly 200 scientists from Universität Hamburg, the Max Planck Institute for Meteorology, the Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht, the German Climate Computing Center, and other partners are taking part.

Atoms, molecules, and electrons are in constant motion, joining and separating at extraordinary speed. The structures that they create determine the properties and functions of matter. Researchers in CUI: Advanced Imaging of Matter observe particle motion in real time and investigate the hows and whys of particle behavior. Their goal is to one day influence this behavior at the atomic and microscopic levels. If this proves successful, they will be able to create matter with new properties and functions.

Roughly 170 researchers from Universität Hamburg, DESY, and the Max Planck Institute for the Structure and Dynamics of Matter are taking part.
CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE
QUANTUM UNIVERSE

Quantum Universe looks at the origins, history, and composition of the universe. The participating researchers are working at the junction of quantum physics and cosmology. Their research foci include the development of theoretical mathematical models, the physics of the Higgs boson, and gravitational waves as a window into the early universe. They are also looking for dark matter, which is estimated to account for 80 percent of all matter in the universe, and trying to understand its properties.

Roughly 300 researchers from Universität Hamburg and DESY are involved.

CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE
UNDERSTANDING WRITTEN ARTEFACTS

How does writing affect human beings and what do humans do with the written word? These are the questions at the heart of Understanding Written Artefacts. The participating researchers study the development and functions of written artifacts in manuscripts all over the world, from their origins in ancient Mesopotamia to the digital era. They always take the written artifact itself as their starting point: the material it is made of as well as the traces of its creation, use, and archiving. Their findings contribute to the preservation of written artifacts as cultural goods.

Around 180 researchers from Universität Hamburg, the Bundesanstalt für Materialforschung und -prüfung, DESY, Helmut-Schmidt-Universität / Universität der Bundeswehr, the State and University Library Carl von Ossietzky, the Hamburg University of Technology, and Universität zu Lübeck are taking part.
Universität Hamburg is northern Germany’s largest and most diverse center of research. Research at the University encompasses basic research as well as applied research projects and transfer projects. Its research profile is characterized by core research areas, emerging fields, and profile initiatives.

TO RESEARCH

Volcano research on the Italian Mediterranean isle of Stromboli
Outstanding research

The University’s core research areas are alliances among research projects of varying sizes focusing on a particular topic. With the exception of infection research, our core research areas are also clusters of excellence. They demonstrate high-quality research over longer periods of time, take interdisciplinary approaches, and enjoy consistent funding acquisition for major research alliances.

Our current core research areas are:

- Climate, Earth and Environment
- Photon and Nanosciences
- Manuscript Cultures
- Particle, Astro- and Mathematical Physics
- Infection Research.

Emerging fields are fields of research that have the potential to develop into core research areas of the University. They usually consist of collaborative projects, such as collaborative research centers, research units, or research training groups. They are generally interdisciplinary in nature.

Our current emerging fields are:

- Health Economics
- The Early Modern World
- Law in Global Contexts
- Grounds, Causes, Reasons
- Neurosciences and Cognitive Systems.

Additionally, several profile initiatives lay the groundwork for new research alliances, meaning they can also develop into emerging fields. Most profile initiatives receive some form of collaborative funding (e.g., state research funding programs or Federal Ministry of Education and Research clusters). They can be highly flexible in their development and allow for involvement of researchers from various disciplines.
THE UNIVERSITY — A GATEWAY TO GLOBAL RESEARCH

Whether exploring volcanoes in South America, studying coral reefs in the Indian Ocean, taking photos for a music ethnology database in Iran, analyzing historical manuscripts in Ethiopia, or excavating in the Mediterranean, researchers and students at Universität Hamburg are active the world over in the name of scientific pursuit.

One special feature of Universität Hamburg is the German Research Fleet Coordination Centre. It currently oversees the METEOR, MARIA S. MERIAN, and SONNE; all three research vessels are deployed throughout the world.

The staff of the German Research Fleet Coordination Centre are responsible for preparing, handling, and supervising the vessels’ scientific technology and logistical and financial needs. They work closely with the expedition leadership and the shipping companies and regularly report to their contractors, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the German Research Foundation.
In 2014, Universität Hamburg passed its Guidelines for University Teaching in line with the motto “education through scholarship.” It also created a quality assurance system for teaching with participants from all areas of studies and teaching.

TO TEACH

In 2014, Universität Hamburg passed its Guidelines for University Teaching in line with the motto “education through scholarship.” It also created a quality assurance system for teaching with participants from all areas of studies and teaching.
EDUCATION THROUGH SCHOLARSHIP: GUIDELINES FOR UNIVERSITY TEACHING

The Guidelines for University Teaching see the task of teaching as facilitating education through scholarship and creating the conditions for students to gain excellent academic skills, to cultivate their ability to reflect and judge, to develop into mature members of society, and to take responsibility for society’s future.

In the guidelines, the University commits to Humboldt’s educational ideal of the unity of research and teaching, to which teachers and students feel an equal obligation. To meet the challenge of shaping research-based teaching and study, Universität Hamburg has established its own center for higher education teaching. This not only lends teachers professional support by offering further qualifications and consultation but also fosters the further development of teaching and learning by closely linking the research and practice of higher education teaching.
Universität Hamburg's program range covers the natural sciences, mathematics, informatics, law, economics, the social sciences, teaching training, and sundry language, cultural study, and humanities programs. The roughly 200 degree programs include special programs and subject combinations, such as sign language and politics, economics and philosophy. In cooperation with the faculties of Universität Hamburg, partner universities, professional associations, and industry, the Center for Continuing Education is a central provider of opportunities for life-long learning. In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, the University has extensively expanded digital learning.

Universität Hamburg provides a professional platform for managing academic affairs. At the Campus Center, prospective students, applicants, and current students can find important information and guidance from the Service for Students, the Center for Academic Advising, and the Office for Students with Disabilities and Chronic Illnesses. Further advising opportunities are available in the academic offices located within the faculties. Students who wish to improve their academic performance can take advantage of an interfaculty writing center. For those students yearning to go abroad, the Outgoing Students Team has plenty of advice. With its Family Office, Universität Hamburg strengthens the compatibility of study or work with family life.

The Career Center provides guidance on the phase following your studies. For early career researchers, there is a comprehensive program of academic qualification as well as the cross-university Hamburg Research Academy.
The University understands itself as a place of life-long learning and offers, partly in cooperation with partner institutions, a number of opportunities for people of all ages to gain a first degree and experience campus life.
A UNIVERSITY FOR YOUNG AND OLD

Youngsters between 8 and 12 years old can experience science and research firsthand during the six exciting lectures given each autumn at the Children’s University Lectures. Since 2017, school students with a particular interest in math, informatics, or the natural sciences have been able to pursue their own projects at northern Germany’s first STEM Junior Research Center.

Older adults and auditing students can attend Universität Hamburg by taking advantage of our Open Study Program, which lets them choose from a range of seminars and lectures in all faculties. Additionally, the Center for Continuing Education offers a comprehensive range of courses for advanced training in various disciplines. The University also opens a number of its lectures to the public and is a regional contact for students of the United Kingdom’s Open University.

Every two years, as part of the Night of Knowledge, the University opens its doors and invites the Hamburg public to participate in experiments, hands-on activities, lectures, and workshops.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, many of the events were offered digitally or postponed. However, as soon as it is possible to do so, they will once again take place regularly and in a suitable manner.

CULTURE AND SPORTS

The University is not only a place for academic pursuit; it also enriches Hamburg with attractive cultural and leisure activities, many of which we have offered for years and continued to expand upon. One of these is Science on Tap, where researchers turn the Hanseatic city’s bars and cafes into spaces where the public can quench its thirst for knowledge. The University also maintains strong ties to the Hamburg cultural scene. Three times a year, the Thalia Theater’s Nachtsaal bar hosts the talk show Wahnsinn trifft Methode (Madness meets method), which focuses in every episode on a different topic in the arts, culture, and everyday life. Further joint events with the Ernst Deutsch Theater, the Deutsches Schauspielhaus, and the Staatsoper Hamburg pepper the University’s cultural calendar. These events and activities also had to be canceled due to coronavirus restrictions.

University Music’s chamber choir, symphony orchestra, oratorio choir, and jazz big band represent the University far beyond Hamburg. The Monteverdi Choir has been touring for more than 50 years and is often guest artist at international festivals in Germany and abroad. The choir and orchestra perform each semester in the Laeiszhalle, while the jazz big band Skyliner makes its mark on Hamburg’s jazz scene. And on stage, the University Players delight audiences twice a year with English-language theater. For those with athletic ambitions, University Sports offers three fitness studios, water sports, sports trips, and competitive sports. Many of these offers also had to be put on hold in 2020, but they will be made available again in a suitable manner as soon as possible.
Whether in medicine, business administration, the natural sciences, or humanities, Universität Hamburg’s 40 scientific collections are a veritable treasure trove, housing millions of specimens and objects originating from many periods of the Earth’s natural and human history. Over 10 million of these belong to the Center of Natural History (CeNak).

The collections not only provide visitors with insight into science and research through public exhibitions but also serve as a terrific resource for researchers. Using the latest methods, scientists can examine the objects—some of which are millions of years old and have been in the University’s possession for nearly a century—to illuminate a myriad of scientific mysteries.

In addition to housing research collections, several museums hold public exhibitions. Examples include the Geological-Paleontological Museum, home to one of Germany’s most significant collections of amber; the Mineralogical Museum, which archives minerals, precious and semiprecious stones, and ores; and the Zoological Museum, the fourth largest of its kind in Germany. All belong to CeNak at Universität Hamburg.

In September 2019, the upper floor of the Main Building opened an exhibition on Universität Hamburg past and present. It takes an exciting look at 100 years of teaching and research, daily campus life, and university culture.

For many years, Antje the Walrus was the mascot of the NDR broadcasting company. Today, her preserved remains can be seen at the Zoological Museum.

CONSERVE, RESEARCH, EXPLAIN: THE SCIENTIFIC COLLECTIONS

For many years, Antje the Walrus was the mascot of the NDR broadcasting company. Today, her preserved remains can be seen at the Zoological Museum.
Nobel Prize winners such as the physical chemist Otto Stern and the physicists Wolfgang Pauli, Isidor Rabi, and Hans Jensen, as well as the philosopher Ernst Cassirer, the art historian Erwin Panofsky, the legal scholar Magdalene Schoch, and the peace researcher Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker, all worked and researched at the University.

There are many other illustrious alumni of Universität Hamburg. These include the best-selling author Cornelia Funke, who studied teaching in Hamburg and is now an honorary senator, and the former German chancellor Helmut Schmidt, who died in 2015. Schmidt completed his studies in economics at Universität Hamburg in 1949 and was named an honorary senator in 1983.

Further prominent alumni include the politician Wolfgang Schäuble, the philosopher Peter Sloterdijk, and journalist Caren Miosga, who studied history and Slavic studies at the University in the 1990s. The astronaut Alexander Gerst completed his doctorate in Hamburg in 2010 with a dissertation on the eruption dynamics of an Antarctic volcano before embarking on two space flights and taking over the command of the International Space Station (ISS).
UNIVERSITÄT HAMBURG

300,000
Letters and 4,800 packages are sent by university staff each year.

1,230
Courses in 168 different sports and relaxation programs are offered by university sports every year.

800,000
Bees produce roughly 600 kg of honey annually at the Loki Schmidt Garden.

56
Lecture halls can be found at Universität Hamburg. The Audimax is the largest, with 1,674 seats.

4,268,428
Books, journals, magazines, and newspapers are housed at the state and university library Carl von Ossietzky. If you count eBooks, there are 6.4 million items.

IN 2019

27,479 kg of noodles,
34,282 kg of potatoes and
173,840 balls of falafel
were consumed in the university’s cafés and student cafeterias.

424
Kg is how much the heaviest museum meteorite in Germany weighs. It can be found at the mineralogical museum.

REACHING 85 METERS, THE GEOMATIKUM IS THE UNIVERSITY’S TALLEST BUILDING.

THE OBSERVATORY AND ITS MAIN BUILDING IN BERGEDORF WERE COMPLETED IN 1908. THEY ARE THE UNIVERSITY’S OLDEST BUILDINGS.

THE UNIVERSITY’S OLDEST PLANT, A CYCAD, WAS PLANTED IN 1834 IN THE GREENHOUSE NEAR DAMMSTRITZ TRAIN STATION.

2,307
Trees are growing on university premises (excluding the Loki Schmidt Garden).
The reading room in the Warburg Haus is dedicated to top research in the humanities and cultural studies.