



**Introduction to Heidelberg University - PhD Studies and Research Opportunities
(April 27, 2023)**

About Heidelberg University



UNIVERSITÄT
HEIDELBERG
ZUKUNFT
SEIT 1386

Oldest university in today's Germany
(founded in 1386)

Research university of international
reputation, particularly in law, medicine
and the humanities & social sciences;
natural sciences

About 29,000 students and 8,500 staff
members

11 Nobel Prize laureates

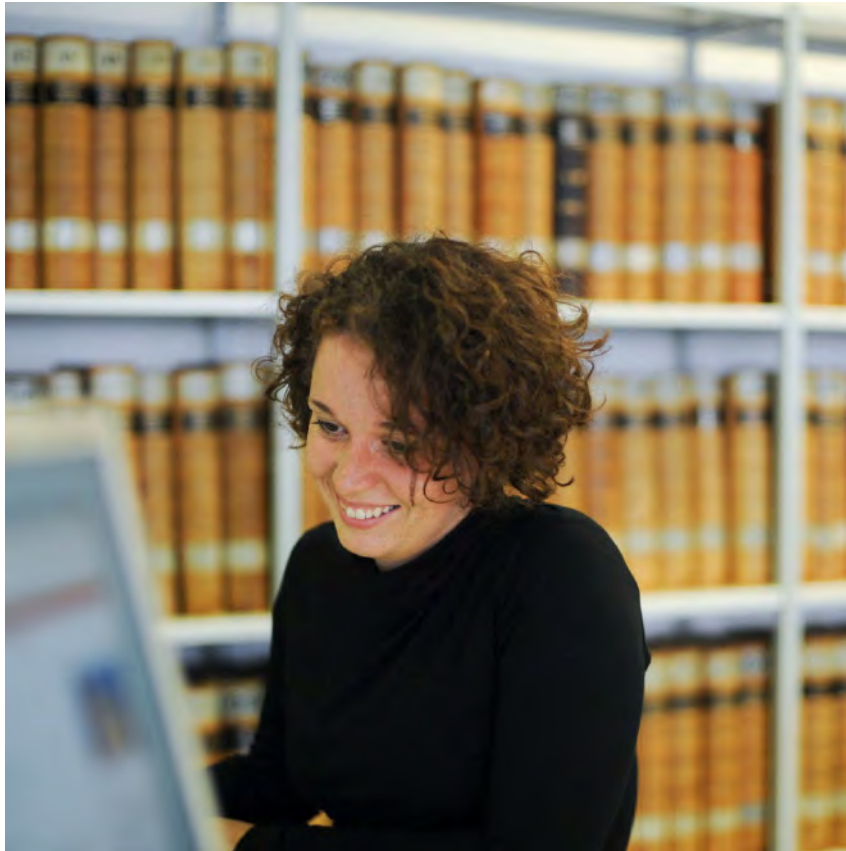
Top university in Germany



International Rankings



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Shanghai Ranking of World Universities (2023)

No. 3 in Germany
No. 22 in Europe
No. 70 worldwide

QS World University Ranking (2023)

No. 3 in Germany
No. 20 in Europe
No. 65 worldwide

Times Higher Education Ranking (2022/2023)

No. 3 in Germany
No. 13 in Europe
No. 43 worldwide

Thirteen Faculties



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Faculty of Theology

Faculty of Law

Medical Faculty Heidelberg

Medical Faculty Mannheim

Faculty of Philosophy

Faculty of Modern Languages

Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences

Faculty of Behavioural and Cultural Studies

Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science

Faculty of Chemistry and Earth Sciences

Faculty of Physics and Astronomy

Faculty of Biosciences

Faculty of Engineering Sciences



Introduction to Heidelberg University



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Where is Heidelberg?



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Heidelberg University – Campus Areas



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Old Town Campus
humanities and
social sciences



**Neuenheimer Feld
Campus**
natural sciences
and medicine



Bergheim Campus
sociology, political
science, economics
and area studies
(e.g. CATS)



Mannheim Campus
Medical Faculty
Mannheim with
Central Institute for
Mental Health,
technical Informatics

University Library



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Historic collections (e.g. *Bibliotheca Palatina* and the *Codex Manesse*)

Digital library with innovative in-house projects

Focus on digitisation and publishing services

National specialist information services for egyptology, archaeology, art history and the South Asian area



Why Heidelberg University?



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Multidisciplinary approach: Heidelberg University encourages research across traditional research boundaries

Strong network of local research facilities, e.g. Max-Planck-Institute, DKFZ (cancer research)

International atmosphere and communication in English in many fields of research

Historic setting of beautiful Heidelberg

Pleasant and secure environment

Reasonable living costs



PhD Studies and Research in English?



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Programs on the BA level:
German language knowledge
required, even if a number of
classes are taught in English

Programs from the MA that
require German language
knowledge (e.g. German
studies, law)



Programs on the MA level
taught entirely in English

PhD research (depending on
program or supervisor)

Research stays/PostDoc
Positions (depending on the
field)



First Steps in Research – Pursuing a PhD



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Forms of PhD studies



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Options (depending on the research field):

- Structured Program: Application at desired research facility (may include scholarship opportunities/research positions)
- Paid PhD positions: Job application (mainly in the natural sciences)
- Individual doctoral studies: Supervision by a professor (funding will be the candidate's responsibility)

Language requirements depend on the supervisor and the area of research

It is basically possible to earn a PhD in any of the fields that are taught at Heidelberg University

Personal contacts and one's own initiative are crucial!



Doctoral Programs in Heidelberg



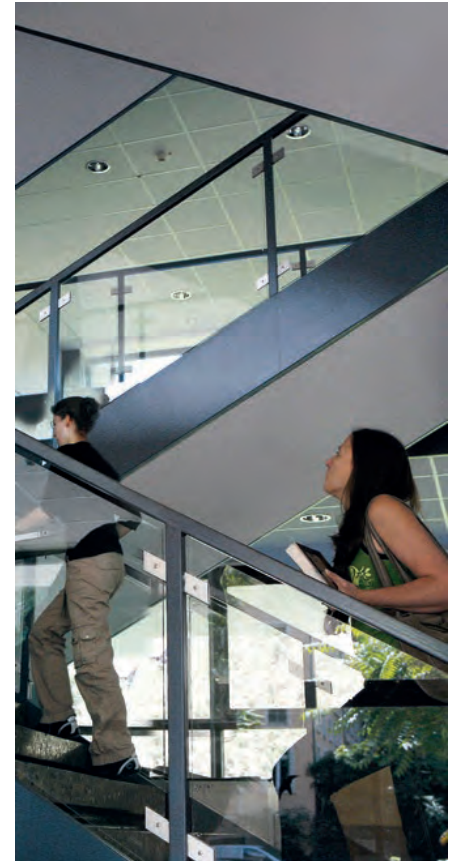
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In Heidelberg, there are three different forms of structured doctoral programs:

Graduate Schools (Graduiertenschulen) – large facilities with 150–300 doctoral candidates covering a wide range of research fields.

Research Training Groups (Graduiertenkollegs) – medium-sized groups with 15–50 doctoral candidates. The individual dissertation topics often come from a variety of research fields and faculties but are all focused within a defined topic area.

Research Training Groups (Promotionskollegs) – small groups with five to seven doctoral candidates covering very specific research questions.



Graduate Academy

Information and Support



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- General advice about PhD studies
- Overview of structured programs
- Support for professional and academic development
- Information about funding sources
- Courses for PhD candidates offered by the Graduate Academy

Q : “ How can I contact a supervisor?”

A: “ Please feel free to contact professors directly. Make sure that their research fits your proposed project. Take care to communicate efficiently and send a clear proposal with your first contact email. Follow up politely after about two weeks. ”

Research at Heidelberg University



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Research Excellence



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Research beyond traditional disciplinary boundaries

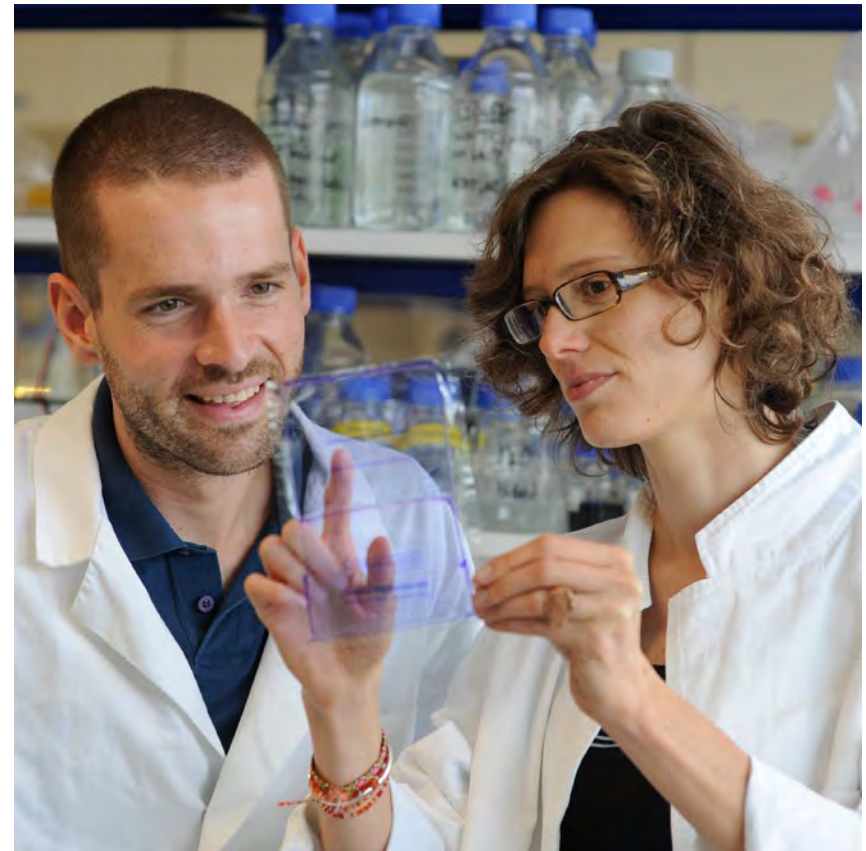
Interactive research areas: “Fields of Focus” (FoF)

FoF 1: Molecular Foundations of Life, Health, and Disease

FoF 2: Patterns and Structures in Mathematics, Data and the Material World

FoF 3: Cultural Dynamics in Globalised Worlds

FoF 4: Self-Regulation and Regulation: Individuals and Societies



Research Environment



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- 20 Leibniz Award Laureates
- 28 Collaborative Research Centres (DFG)
- 15 Research Training Groups (DFG)
- 2 Clusters of Excellence:
“STRUCTRES” and “3D Matter
Made to Order”
- 36 ERC Grants (currently running)

Source: www.uni-heidelberg.de/en/university/facts-and-figures/research-performance-indicators



Research Opportunities



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Research position

- Apply for a paid research position (e.g. PostDoc, Junior Research Group Leader)

Research stay

- Heidelberg University has several teaching or research partnerships (e.g. HeKKSaGOn alliance) with universities or faculties in Japan (some with funding opportunities)
- Inquire with senior researchers about their network
- Secure external funding or make a financial plan (self-funded)
- Find a host researcher (hosting agreement)



Welcome Centre for International Scholars



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- Central information and service institution for international scholars **after PhD**
- Information, advice and customized support on all topics relevant for preparing a stay and everyday life in Heidelberg
- Close cooperation with other service institutions of Heidelberg University and the administration in Heidelberg
- Events and excursions for visiting researchers and their families

Q: "I successfully applied for a research position at Heidelberg University. Can I bring my family?"

A: "Of course! Please contact the Welcome Center. They will make sure that you receive all the information for a smooth start in Heidelberg."



Heidelberg University – International Profile



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International Affairs

Facts and Figures (2019/2020)



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International students
5,336 (18.6%)

International doctorates
331 (28.4 %)

International habilitations
7 (7.9 %)

International visiting scholars
about 250 every year



Centers Abroad

Networks across boundaries



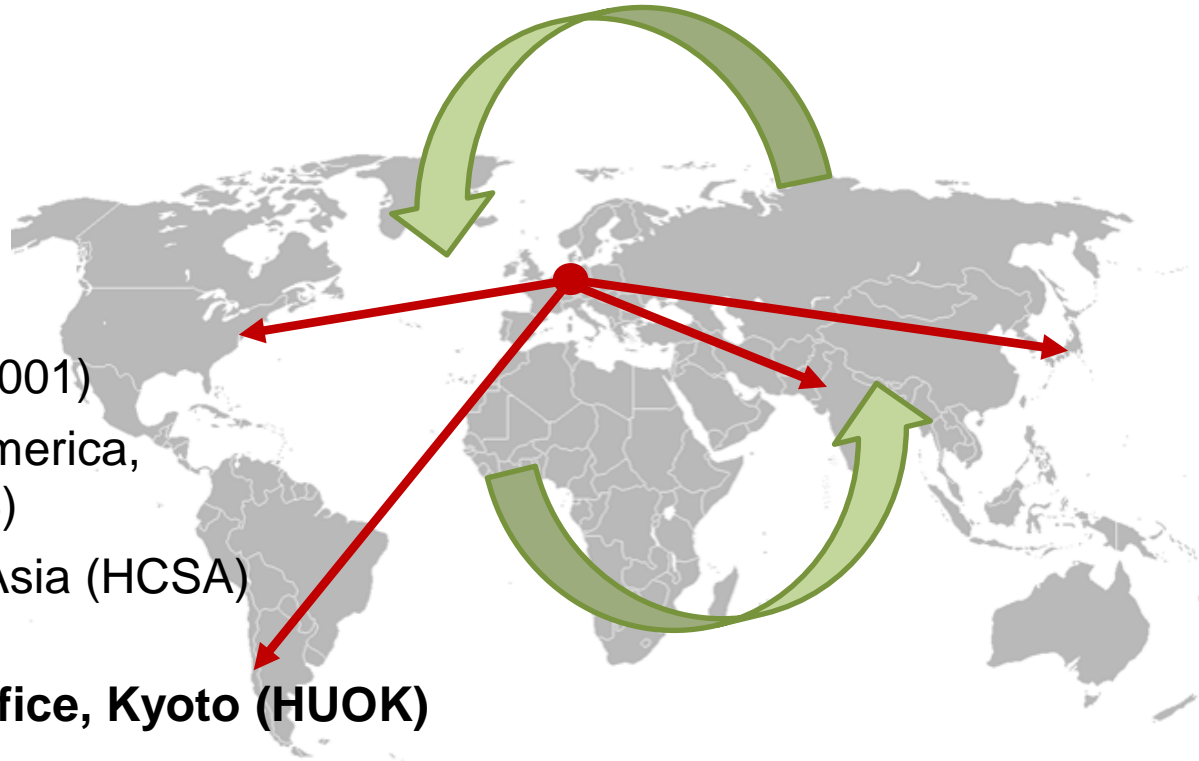
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Heidelberg Center for
Latin America (HCLA),
Santiago de Chile (since 2001)

Heidelberg Office North America,
New York City (since 2008)

Heidelberg Centre South Asia (HCSA)
(since 2009)

Heidelberg University Office, Kyoto (HUOK)
(since 2015)



Liaison Office for Japan and East Asia



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HUOK HEIDELBERG
UNIVERSITY
OFFICE KYOTO

HUOK Info-Center

for students & researchers



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Information for Japanese and international students of all levels interested in studying

Information for researchers planning to conduct research at Heidelberg University

Inquiries/consultation via phone, email, video-chat or on-site in Kyoto

Contact:

Kyoto University, Yoshida International House (Ground Floor)
64 Yoshida Nihonmatsu-cho, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto

Office hours:

Mo – Fr 10:30 – 16:30



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Heidelberg University's motto:
SEMPER APERTUS

Thank you!

We are looking forward to chatting with you!



www.huok.uni-heidelberg.de