

# Mission Statement

GUTENBERG SPIRIT –  
MOVING MINDS  
CROSSING BOUNDARIES

JOHANNES GUTENBERG  
UNIVERSITÄT MAINZ



## MISSION STATEMENT OF JOHANNES GUTENBERG UNIVERSITY MAINZ

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# INTRODUCTION

In its mission statement, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (JGU) sets out its goals, responsibilities, and guiding values. This future-oriented image of Mainz University is the result of a process of dialog. Its implementation is the joint responsibility of all members of our University.

Being a university, it is our overriding goal for Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz to achieve excellence both in research and teaching as well as in the realm of continuing education and the arts. This goal has already been achieved in many instances; in other areas this mission statement will provide yet another motivation to achieve excellence. The JGU mission statement describes the spheres and areas in which Mainz University will reinforce its commitment, in which direction it intends to develop, and its guiding principles in research, teaching, and the administration. The mission statement provides a common framework of orientation to which all members of the University are committed. It aims to support the University in its further development so that it may continue to achieve excellence in science and the arts.

Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz offers attractive working conditions for its students, researchers, and its teaching staff as well as for its employees in the administration. Mainz University is a competent, advisory, and trustworthy partner in the fields of science and research as well as in the realms of society, politics, industry, and culture.

For a university to be successful, all its members – be they researchers, students, teachers, or employees – must be committed to the goals set out in its mission statement and collaborate closely with one another. Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz declares its adherence to the principles of tolerance, openness, and the equality of men and women.

## GOALS, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND GUIDING VALUES

JOHANNES GUTENBERG UNIVERSITY MAINZ IS A PLACE  
OF LEARNING IN THE UNITY OF RESEARCH AND  
TEACHING. IT IS CHARACTERIZED BY A DIVERSITY OF  
SUBJECT DISCIPLINES, SPECIFIC FIELDS OF EXCELLENCE,  
AND COSMOPOLITANISM.

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In their research, the academic staff of Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz continuously seek to extend the frontiers of knowledge. In their teaching, they pass on their knowledge and are committed to the responsible application of scientific knowledge in the service of man, society, and nature.

Johannes Gutenberg, the eponym of Mainz University founded in 1477, stands for innovative ideas and technologies, the crossing of national boundaries, and the provision of broad access to knowledge.

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In keeping with its motto "ut omnes unum sint," which JGU formulated on the occasion of its reopening in 1946, the University endeavors to integrate the natural sciences, the humanities, law, the social sciences, theology, the arts, sports science, and medicine as well as the Faculty of Translation Studies, Linguistics, and Cultural Studies at its Germersheim location. This diversity of its subject disciplines enables students, teachers, and researchers alike to engage in a broad range of academic and artistic work, in interdisciplinary projects, and in an intensive dialog between art and the sciences.

All members of Mainz University and its faculties contribute to the achievement of high overall standards and the continuous development of the University in research and teaching as well as in the administration. They pursue the goal of JGU occupying a leading position in the quality competition among universities. While preserving its diversity of subject disciplines, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz systematically develops core areas which attain outstanding achievements in research, teaching, and in the arts, and in which interesting and sustainable development opportunities are available for researchers and students alike.

# RESEARCH



EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH  
IS ONE OF THE KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF  
JOHANNES GUTENBERG UNIVERSITY MAINZ.

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Research and teaching are mutually dependent and enriching. The unity of research and teaching is thus the guiding principle of Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz. JGU engages in research which is based on fundamental principles and related to practical application. In order to be able to maintain its critical function in science and research as well as in the realm of society, JGU makes use of the areas of freedom in research and teaching granted by the Basic Constitutional Law of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Mainz University endeavors to solve complex and highly demanding tasks. Its researchers strive for knowledge and the discovery of new insights; this requires an ongoing critical evaluation of their activities. The development, communication, and preservation of knowledge by means of methodologically verifiable and critically debatable approaches unites all fields of academic study at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz. Experienced academics work in research and teaching in direct contact with young people. Learning through research not only offers opportunities for a later career in the academic field but also enriches the lives of all students.

Researchers and teachers at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz are committed to good academic and artistic practice. They seek to support students and young academics and actively contribute to a study and research environment in which knowledge, expertise, and experience are exchanged in an open dialog. They regard advising and support for students as an important responsibility within the context of research and teaching.

Regular internal and external evaluations indicate areas of improvement in research and teaching and provide a basis for measures of quality assurance.

Qualified support of young academics is based on high-quality research-oriented teaching. The process of further specialist qualification in the form of independent research activity is enhanced by means of professionalization programs in the areas of education and academic management.

# LEARNING AND TEACHING

JOHANNES GUTENBERG UNIVERSITY MAINZ  
IS COMMITTED TO ITS STUDENTS.

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All members of the University seek to ensure that students not only enjoy a high-quality teaching program, but also a sound social and cultural learning environment as well as transparent structures geared towards learning success. Mainz University takes account of the living conditions of working students and studying parents and also provides an optimum environment for handicapped students. By eliminating constructional, social, and linguistic barriers, JGU ensures that everyone can make use of the right to access knowledge.

Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz provides prospective and current students with an extensive range of information and advising services. Being a campus university, JGU offers its students a personal atmosphere and a lively academic culture.

Mainz University sees academic or artistic education, the capacity to embark on a professional career, and the development of personality as educational goals of equal validity and a necessary condition for taking on social responsibility. Consequently, in addition to providing students with high academic or artistic qualification, a course of study at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz also attaches importance to social skills, value orientation, methodological abilities, and extensive information skills.

Our teaching program promotes communicative and critical skills as well as interdisciplinary thinking. Teachers and researchers see themselves as role models for the development of a tolerant and cosmopolitan attitude of mind. They cultivate and promote a culture of collaboration in day-to-day situations in teaching and research as well as within the general academic environment.

Researchers, teachers, and students are committed to ensuring that course structures, contents, requirements, and duration are appropriate and they take part in the future development of course offerings.

JGU students fulfill their responsibility towards society and the academic community by showing dedication, a lively interest in academic issues as well as perseverance and commitment both to their studies and to the administrative bodies of academic and student self-administration. In their day-to-day dealings with one another they show mutual respect and tolerance so as to contribute to the integration of all members of Mainz University.

Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz supports the entry of its graduates into professional life, integrates career-related internships into courses of study, and establishes contacts with external partners. By means of the ongoing internationalization of learning and teaching, Mainz University prepares students for taking on professional responsibilities within an international context.

# CONTINUING EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING

JOHANNES GUTENBERG UNIVERSITY MAINZ  
PERCEIVES CONTINUING EDUCATION AS ONE OF ITS CORE  
TASKS ALONGSIDE RESEARCH AND TEACHING.

Mainz University makes its knowledge, expertise, and contacts available to those who have already gained initial qualifications and experience or who have dedicated a period of time to raising a family. They shall be enabled to renew, expand, and supplement their previously acquired knowledge.

Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz is committed to offering university graduates in particular the opportunity for further academic and artistic training after they have embarked on a career. At the same time, the University benefits from the professional and personal experience of the participants. Continuing education serves the purpose of dialog between the University and the public sphere and promotes knowledge and technology transfer. It helps create successful transitions between education, professional training, and career.

Further education is increasingly important for those who wish to pursue academic issues and take advantage of university programs after retiring from active professional life. With its integrated University of the Third Stage of Life, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz offers perspectives for this growing segment of society.

# INTRA-UNIVERSITY COOPERATION

THE MEMBERS OF  
JOHANNES GUTENBERG UNIVERSITY MAINZ COLLABORATE  
IN RESEARCH, TEACHING, AND ACADEMIC MANAGEMENT.

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Mainz University subscribes to the principles of the group university. Consultations and decisions are subject to democratic principles. A lively university management based on committed structures enables constructive debates and integrative decisions. All JGU members are committed to responsible and active involvement in self-administration. The latter is characterized by subsidiarity, participation, and transparency as well as a clear allocation and acceptance of responsibilities.

Qualification, commitment, well-developed personal and social skills, and professionalism in academic and arts-related management are the characteristics of the management staff of Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz. They regard the opportunities offered by their management function as a positive challenge and act decisively and responsibly. When appointing individuals to management positions, the University ensures that persons are selected who have the necessary qualifications and expertise and who are prepared to continuously develop their skills and knowledge. Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz requires its management staff to allow for gender mainstreaming in their decisions. The University offers women equal access to leadership and management positions, both in the academic and administrative field.

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Mainz University promotes women's interests in the acquisition of academic and artistic qualifications. JGU encourages women to engage in courses of study in which they have been under-represented to date and offers incentives and other supportive measures. The University seeks out and encourages qualified female academics to take on responsibility as professors at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz. In all such endeavors, Mainz University takes into account the differing life situations of men and women, in particular those factors which affect women in their career planning.

The JGU Central Administration and its central institutions serve researchers, the teaching staff, and students by supporting and promoting them. Researchers, teachers, and students regard the Central Administration and central institutions as partners in a process which aims to achieve common goals.

# LIVING COOPERATION

AS A UNIVERSITY IN THE RHINE-MAIN REGION,  
JOHANNES GUTENBERG UNIVERSITY MAINZ FULFILLS  
ITS RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF  
A NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORK  
OF SCIENCE, EDUCATION, AND CULTURE.

Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz is the largest university in the German federal state of Rhineland-Palatinate. It works in close cooperation with the state as its supporting body. Sustainable solutions for issues relating to education and higher education policy are collaboratively developed and implemented.

Mainz University cooperates with other educational and research institutions and coordinates its program of studies and teaching with the other universities in Rhineland-Palatinate and the Rhine-Main region. Furthermore, JGU maintains intensive work relations with external research bodies and institutions.

As an integral part of its historical and cultural heritage, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz maintains a range of links with the City of Mainz. At the same time, it utilizes and cultivates the outstanding collaboration opportunities offered in the Rhine-Main region with its cultural institutions and business and service companies in the fields of research, learning, and teaching.

Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz regards itself as a European and an international university. This is reflected in its high proportion of foreign students and academics and their successful integration in the University.

Mainz University cultivates a national and worldwide network of cooperation and partnerships. It systematically develops relations with other universities. Partners from the various fields of industry and cultural life are an important pillar of JGU's internationalization measures. Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz engages in an intensive technology transfer with its partners from the field of industry and supports and promotes business start-ups from the University.

# AUTONOMY AND RESPONSIBILITY

JOHANNES GUTENBERG UNIVERSITY MAINZ  
IS AWARE OF ITS RESPONSIBILITIES  
TOWARDS SOCIETY.

Mainz University strives to expand its autonomy. It consistently seeks to extend its freedom of planning and decision-making so as to fulfill its task in optimum fashion and assume responsible self-management.

The implementation of the philosophy and the objectives of this mission statement is central to this self-management. Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz meets its responsibilities by fulfilling its educational and professional training mission in teaching and by promoting excellence in research and teaching. It is actively engaged in academic, artistic, social, and political debate. In this very way, JGU contributes to the development of society.

Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz informs the public of its work in research, teaching, and self-administration. The active exchange between Mainz University and the public and society at large has thus a key part to play in the general development of the University as does the development of contacts and cooperation with industry and the media.

Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz has the responsibility towards society and towards its partners to ensure that the resources made available to it are used in a purposeful and economical manner. The University undertakes to render account of the utilization of these resources and its achievements. An important factor on which to base decisions is that of the services to be provided and their cost. In order to ensure transparency and commitment when making decisions on the allocation of resources, the faculties and institutions of the University set out long-term goals and subgoals which are in keeping with this mission statement, develop suitable implementation strategies, and monitor goal achievement.

# JOHANNES GUTENBERG UNIVERSITY MAINZ

RESEARCH AND TEACHING  
AT THE FRONTIERS  
OF KNOWLEDGE

- Broad range of disciplines with excellent core areas
- Top-class performance in research and teaching
- Partner for lifelong learning
- Knowledge and technology transfer
- Cosmopolitan campus university with a lively academic culture
- Barrier-free and tolerant
- Committed to its students and to those embarking on academic or artistic careers
- Regional, national, and international cooperation in research and teaching
- Expert partner for industry, politics, art, culture, and society
- 4,000 staff in research, teaching, and administration – committed, flexible, jointly responsible
- The University in Gutenberg's city: tradition, the spirit of invention, and the joy of living in Mainz

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THE GUTENBERG SPIRIT:  
MOVING MINDS – CROSSING BOUNDARIES.

Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz remains true to its namesake:  
furthering and implementing innovative ideas, using knowledge to improve  
the living conditions of people and their access to education and science,  
and encouraging people to overcome anticipated as well as  
actual boundaries wherever possible.

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