



best practice - Hochschule
2002

Gaining Autonomy and Ensuring the Best Possible Performance: Best Practice University

Gaining autonomy by achieving the best possible performance was the goal the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz set for itself when it initiated the reform process in 1999. This process was motivated by the fact that in Germany, the relevant governmental bodies increasingly specify only guiding principles and objectives rather than controlling every aspect of a university's administration. For the universities, this opens up considerable scope for autonomous decision-making and policy shaping. The Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz understands this autonomy and self-determination in a double sense: as the freedom to make decisions and as the capability to make them. In order to be able to apply its policy-making authority in a responsible manner, the University has had to streamline its organization and management, but also acquire new competences.

The measures undertaken within the reform process therefore aim, on the one hand, at an extensive reorganization of the University's administration. This means increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of its operations as well as consistently strengthening the customer orientation of its administrative services. On the other hand, these measures also aim at questions dealing with the University's strategic orientation, its profile, and its reputation. In 2002, the University was awarded the title of Best Practice University by the Centrum für Hochschulentwicklung (center for university development), for its complex and integrative reform approach, for its highly innovative modernization measures, and the professional implementation of those measures.

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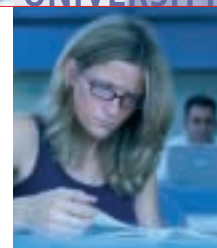
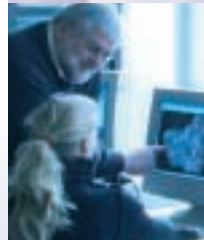
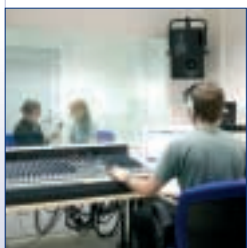
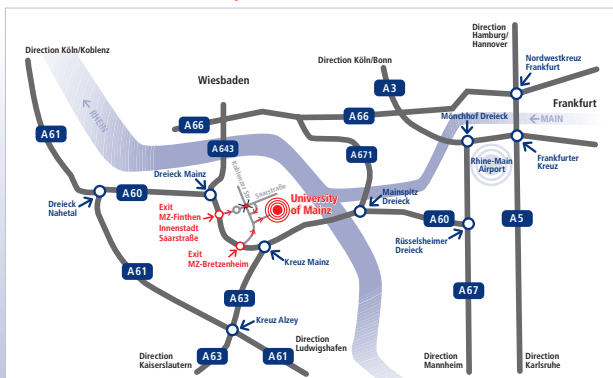
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UNIVERSITY OF MAINZ

At the Cutting Edge
of Research and Education



With roughly 35,000 students from more than 130 different nations, the Johannes Gutenberg University is one of the largest German universities and the center of academic work in Rhineland-Palatinate. A total of 2,800 scholars including 560 professors teach and do research in the University's more than 150 institutes and medical facilities.

A wide range of subjects is offered to the students covering almost every field of higher education, from law and economics to social studies, humanities and natural sciences, medicine and dentistry to an integration of music, fine arts and sports unparalleled among German universities. The School of Applied Linguistics and Cultural Studies, located in Gernersheim, educates translators and interpreters in numerous European and non-European languages. This great variety of subjects ensures interdisciplinary research and teaching, and – as intended by the University's namesake, Johannes Gutenberg – innovative approaches to ideas and technologies.

Science and Research: Excellence and Focal Areas of Research

The University of Mainz is an international research location resolutely pursuing a strategy of promoting excellence in science and research. The University intends to establish itself as a center for scientific competence and excellent research. This is being achieved mainly through the development of both new and existing focal areas of research.

The formation of focal areas of research makes it clear that a key component of the research culture at the University of Mainz is interdisciplinary collaboration. The consistent expansion of interdisciplinary research – from working groups to research partnerships on a high international level – is evidence that the University of Mainz takes advantage of the great variety of fields it covers and the consequent multitude of interdisciplinary opportunities. The attractiveness of the University of Mainz as a site of scientific exchange is further enhanced by the high concentration of research institutes on campus, including the Max Planck Institutes for Chemistry and Polymer Research, which cooperate closely with the University.

Studying and Teaching: Commitment to Our Students

In addition to providing academic training, the University sees it as equally important to foster students' personal development and to provide them with skills they will need in their careers. In more than a hundred courses of study, the Johannes Gutenberg University does not only teach interdisciplinary thinking; its 35,000 students also earn a valuable academic or artistic qualification while acquiring social and methodological competence, communicative and critical abilities, as well as a tolerant and liberal attitude.

Students need different professional qualifications in order to meet the demands of an increasingly international job market. Thus students have higher expectations when it comes to more clearly defined and practice-oriented studies at the university. With this idea in mind, the Johannes Gutenberg University is modifying existing courses of study and is introducing new bachelors and masters degrees to develop a more differentiated and internationally-oriented academic system. It is particularly this consistent internationalization of studying and teaching that helps the University prepare its students to assume responsibilities at home and abroad.

Continuing Education: Partner for Lifelong Learning

The importance of lifelong learning is widely acknowledged. Due to the changing professional world, further education after basic training forms an essential part of professional qualifications. Only students who update and enhance their knowledge and abilities on a regular basis will be able to cope with the new expectations. On the basis of its academic competence, the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz has responded to this development and has compiled a comprehensive program of continuing education. The wide range of courses is focused on the Center for Continuing Education (ZWW), the program of which is constantly expanding.

The Approachable University: Cooperation in Theory and Practice

As one of the universities in the Rhine Main Region, the Johannes Gutenberg University works within the scope of an international network of culture, education and science. We see ourselves as a competent partner for business and the public sector, art, and society as a whole. In our mission statement, we devote a whole section to the 'living cooperation'. One of our major aims is to make the University even more approachable. To achieve this, we have initiated a wide range of new projects and are improving on existing ones.

Internationalization: A University Open to the World

Our cosmopolitan character is the trademark of the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz: students and teachers from every continent come to study and work on our campus. More than 5,000 foreign students contribute to the international flair of our campus. The Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz has more than 100 partnerships and agreements concerning academic cooperation with universities from all five continents. Within Europe, it cooperates with 220 additional universities.

