A Campus for Inquiring Minds

WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ERFURT
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WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ERFURT!

Founded in 1994, the University of Erfurt is one of Germany’s youngest state universities. It is an interdisciplinary university with a focus on the cultural and social sciences and has embraced the bachelor-master system since its foundation. Endowed with a certification for its family-friendly facilities, the University of Erfurt is committed to tackling the major social challenges of our time. It believes in international academic collaboration and global participation in the pursuit of knowledge and academic excellence.

Here’s a paradox for you: the University of Erfurt is simultaneously one of the oldest and one of the youngest German universities. This somewhat confusing fact is due to the long, eventful history of the former “Hohe Schule” (lit.: “high school”) in Erfurt. Its first foundation charter dates back to 1379, earlier even than Heidelberg (1385) and Cologne (1388). But the late medieval “Hierana”, where the young Martin Luther pursued his studies of the “free arts”, closed down in 1816. While the university’s heritage always remained a vivid presence in the historical city, a long time passed before it was founded anew in 1994. Today, 25 years after its reopening, the University of Erfurt has established itself as an important part of the national and international academic landscape. It is a centrally located teaching and research institution with a strong focus on religious studies, the social and cultural sciences, the humanities, and teacher training. Around 6,000 students, 100 professors, 280 academic staff and 240 administrative employees keep the university abuzz.

We hope this brochure will help you get to know our University of Erfurt a little better and perhaps even inspire you to study, research or work here.
THE UNIVERSITY OF ERFURT – AN ACADEMIC PHOENIX

“My mother, to whom I owe everything I am and have.” Has any other university ever been honoured with simpler and, simultaneously, more reverential words than those spoken about Erfurt by Martin Luther, one of the most exceptional characters in European history? The young Luther clearly knew of the benefits of the old university. The achievements of its theological and legal faculties, in particular, helped pave Erfurt’s path to domestic and international fame during the Middle Ages.

Financial crisis and the division of Christendom brought its heyday to an end. In the early nineteenth century, many German universities closed down during the Napoleonic Wars; the University of Erfurt, then a part of Prussia, shut down in 1816.

Shortly before the fall of the German Democratic Republic, on the 600th anniversary of the old university’s foundation, a citizen’s initiative campaigned for the reopening of the school. The German reunification increased the likelihood of this happening, as it made Erfurt the state capital of Thuringia. In 1994, the new University of Erfurt was finally founded. It followed the bachelor/master system from the very start, establishing itself as an innovative and progressive institution of higher education. Today, around 6,000 young people study here.

GREEN CAMPUS, SHORT ROUTES
The premises of the University of Erfurt adhere to the Anglo-Saxon campus concept: academic and residential facilities are located close to each other, giving students ideal conditions for a productive life of the mind. Situated on a leafy campus, the University of Erfurt utilises older buildings and institutions alongside new, modern facilities. Its striking library, an excellent environment for teaching and research, is visible from afar. It contains the famous Bibliotheca Amploniana, a precious collection of hand-written manuscripts by the medieval scholar Amplonius Rating de Berka.
The high-rise complex at the main entrance of the University of Erfurt houses the Erfurt School of Education and the offices of various professors from the Faculty of Philosophy. The modern, three-storey Communication and Information Centre (KIZ) is a multi-purpose building on the university campus. Besides the lecture halls 1 and 2 with 420 and 160 seats, respectively, the KIZ contains the university computer and media centre, which offers four additional PC rooms with 25 workspaces each.

A new research centre will be built soon to house the Max Weber Centre and the Willy Brandt School of Public Policy. The new building will provide space for a long-term research programme titled “Attraction, Repulsion, and Indifference – a culture-comparative analysis of world relations”.

Other facilities on campus include the sports complex of the university sports club and “Campus Kinderland”, a daycare centre operated by the student services organisation for the children of students and employees. The flexible “Den of Thieves” also offers childcare by the hour. These services help our university members reconcile their studies or work with their family obligations.

Catering options include a canteen and three cafés: Hörsaal 7, Campus Café Hilgenfeld and Glasbox. Every morning, they are abuzz with visitors and university members starting their day with a snack or coffee.
THE FUTURE IS INTERNATIONAL

Internationalism, openness and diversity are part of the identity of the University of Erfurt. The University maintains bilateral collaborations with more than 100 universities and research institutions worldwide. It offers its students the opportunity to study abroad at its foreign partner schools in order to prepare them for work in an international environment. This offer is aimed especially at students in teacher training programmes. After graduation, they will play an important role in the mobility of future generations of pupils and students and are likely to face new challenges due to the increasing number of migrants in the German education system.

Some master’s degree programmes at the University of Erfurt are taught in English—namely, the sought-after course in Public Policy and the degrees in Global Communication and Religious Studies. Individual courses for the bachelor’s degree courses are offered in English for the benefit of exchange students. There are around 480 international students at the University of Erfurt, all of whom have access to a wide range of popular services that help them find their bearings at their new school, from preparatory courses for exchange students to tutoring schemes and the project “Strangers become Friends”. The University of Erfurt aims to establish a welcoming culture to attract excellent students, early-career academics and employees. This effort is about more than just brilliant minds: internationalisation, diversity and interculturality are crucial prerequisites for innovative research and teaching. For new ideas to flourish, it takes an open-minded, tolerant environment that promotes the exchange of knowledge beyond cultural boundaries and even takes it for granted. The University wants its campus to exude internationalism and openness.

www.uni-erfurt.de/en/international/international-office/strategy
I LOVE MY UNI...

“The University of Erfurt is my mother, to whom I owe everything.”

Martin Luther, 1533

“Erfurt is a good place for interdisciplinarity. The Max Weber Centre is a highly international, interdisciplinary institution that combines research in the cultural and social sciences. It is this very interdisciplinarity that goes very well with my own approach to research.”

Professor Ute Tellmann

“Rather than simply educating students, the master’s degree in Literary Studies at Erfurt gives them an opportunity to educate themselves.”

Solomon, student and recipient of the DAAD Prize for excellent international students

“The atmosphere on campus and in the lectures is lovely. There is so much going on; you can achieve incredible things, get involved and be creative.”

Laura, alumna

“What I like best about my degree programme is my combination of subjects. International Relations gives me the analytic tools required to understand a wide range of complex problems, while my minor subject, history, gives me material to analyse. I am also very excited to have access to such a wide range of free language courses.”

Simon, student

“Pursuing my doctoral studies at Erfurt? To me, this means: working together as equals, enjoying a sophisticated combination of financial and moral support and, of course, social-science research at the highest level.”

Benjamin, doctoral candidate

“I love my uni because it is international, research-oriented and interdisciplinary. Come study at Erfurt!”

Sandra, alumna and employee of the International Office
FACULTIES

FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY

The Faculty of Philosophy is an academic teaching and research institution that explores schools of thought in the cultural sciences and humanities. In the University’s spirit of interdisciplinarity, it develops and establishes its own approaches to these fields through research and teaching.

Its core area of expertise constitutes a response to the tensions existing between different world views that derive their legitimacy from historical spaces and claim universalism. It explores the symbolic and material systems underlying them: their ways of life, religious practices, representations of self and others, literary traditions and other forms of imagery, traditions of knowledge etc. Interculturalism both requires and facilitates dialogue-based forms of learning and teaching based on academically well-rounded comparison.

The Faculty of Philosophy covers a wide range of subjects. It ...
- explores relevant aspects of non-European history across Germany through the field of Religious Studies and its various regional research areas;
- follows a comparative approach to investigating languages, visual media and texts and their internal logic in Linguistics, Literary Studies and Media Studies;
- emphasises both interpersonal and intercultural processes of communication in the field of Communication Science;
- regards philosophy as a nucleus which reflects upon its own questions and beliefs;
- represents intracultural and intercultural differences and relationships beyond Europe through its disciplines and their internal distinctions;
- is capable of interdisciplinary collaboration between historical and systematic fields and develops new, transdisciplinary research and teaching areas.

www.uni-erfurt.de/philosophische-fakultat
The Faculty of Economics, Law and Social Sciences combines three pathways into an innovative teaching and research programme. It launched its degree programmes in 2000, becoming the first faculty in the German-speaking region to combine the three fields into an interdisciplinary programme again after their gradual separation during the 19th and 20th centuries. The foundation of the Faculty constituted a response to contemporary social challenges, which require an interdisciplinary approach to increasingly complex problems. Since then, the Economics, Law and Social Sciences teaching and research programme has become an established part of German higher education.

Its research branch intertwines disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives. Besides fundamental theoretical issues in economics, law and the social sciences, its specialisms include contemporary European multi-level governance and its impact on the state and market and on political, economical and legal tools of crisis management.

The Faculty offers three bachelor’s and two master’s degree programmes: the B.A. Economics, Law and Social Sciences, the B.A. International Relations, the B.A. Management, the M.A. Economics, Law and Social Sciences, and the Master of Public Policy, which is taught entirely in English. Every academic year, it furnishes around 800 students with an interdisciplinary perspective on the social challenges of the 21st century. Most students at the Faculty come from other regions of Germany, which is testemony to the great appeal of its degree courses. www.uni-erfurt.de/en/faculty-of-law-social-sciences-economics/faculty
FACULTY OF EDUCATION

The study of education has a long history in Erfurt, from the traditions of humanism and enlightenment celebrated at the old Hierana University to the establishment of an institute for education and a pedagogic university in the city. The Faculty of Education has always been an important pillar of teaching at the University of Erfurt. It autonomously offers a wide range of degree programmes and makes significant contributions to others.

- Subject-specific bachelor’s degrees: Education, Primary and Elementary Education, Teaching, Learning and Training Psychology, Education for Special-Needs Pedagogy, Art, Music Mediation, Physical Education, Protestant Religious Education, Technology (for Secondary Schools);
- Specialist master’s degrees: Education, Special-Needs and Integrational Education, Psychology;
- Master of Education (MEd): for primary school, state schools, vocational schools and special-needs centres;
- subject-specific supplementary and advanced courses.


FACULTY OF CATHOLIC THEOLOGY

The only faculty of catholic theology in the new federal states is located on the cathedral hill in the centre of Erfurt. It introduces its students to theological issues of the present and future from the perspective of biblical, historical, systematic and practical theology. After completing a traditional German magister’s degree, a bachelor’s degree or master’s degree at the Faculty, theology graduates are in an excellent position to embark on a career in the church, in education or in social work. Erfurt has a long tradition of theology: even before the University was first founded in 1379, the city’s monastery schools contributed to its excellent reputation. “If you want a good education, you must go to Erfurt!”—so the saying went. During the first century of its existence, the University of Erfurt bestowed a theological education on no fewer than 55 German bishops. Martin Luther spent at least seven semesters studying theology at the University of Erfurt.
The Faculty of Catholic Theology, which already functioned as an autonomous institute during the time of the German Democratic Republic, rejoined the University of Erfurt in 2003. As the only faculty of its kind in Eastern Germany and the local dioceses, it is dedicated to the study of Christian teachings. Due to its situation in a primarily Protestant region, the Faculty maintains a special interest in ecumenism. Its research and teaching focus on fundamental questions, such as the place of faith in a secular society and the benefit of studying theology in an increasingly pluralistic religious environment.


**STUDYING**

The University of Erfurt offers around 50 bachelor’s and master’s degree programmes (BA/MA). Bachelor’s students choose one major and one minor subject. Nearly all subjects can be combined freely. All BA courses include a foundation stage, during which students attend interdisciplinary lectures to learn methodologies and key skills and gain practical experiences with a career focus. From the very first semester, every new student is assigned a professor as a personal mentor. Examinations take place throughout the year, replacing the traditional finals. After three years, successful students acquire a bachelor’s degree, their first academic qualification. They can then proceed directly to a career in their chosen field. Alternatively, they have the option of embarking on a master’s degree and/or doctorate to deepen their subject expertise or develop a professional specialism. The University also offers a range of other advanced courses and auditing opportunities to promote lifelong learning.

For a detailed overview of available courses, see: www.uni-erfurt.de/en/academics/courses
The University of Erfurt has a unique academic profile with a focus on the cultural and social sciences. This is reflected both in its research activities and its core subject clusters: “Education, School, and Behaviour”, “Religion, Society, and World Relations”, and “Knowledge, Spaces, and Media”.

The University is committed to tackling the major social challenges of our time. It believes in international academic collaboration and global participation in the pursuit of knowledge and science. It sets new standards in basic research and endeavours to share its academic insights with the wider society. Its four faculties, the Max Weber Centre for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies, and the research facilities in Gotha all contribute their diverse structures and purposes to the overall concept to facilitate interdisciplinary, international and collaborative research. The University highly values academic freedom and support for young academics. In 2018, it established the Christoph Martin Wieland Graduates’ Forum as a service structure for early-career researchers.

ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

MAX WEBER CENTRE FOR ADVANCED CULTURAL AND SOCIAL STUDIES

The Max Weber Centre for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies combines the functions of an institute for advanced studies with those of a research training group or early-career development centre. Besides working on projects that reify the core research areas of the Centre, its academic fellows also supervise doctoral and post-doctoral researchers working on aspects that are relevant to the same research programme. This collaboration between fellows and doctoral/post-doctoral candidates adheres to the principles of task-based teamwork and the unification of teaching and research.

www.uni-erfurt.de/en/max-weber-kolleg/max-weber-kolleg-erfurt
ERFURT SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
Since 2006, the Erfurt School of Education has been the central academic institution for teacher training at the University of Erfurt. It develops and organises teacher training programmes and coordinates interfaces and partnerships with the four faculties and other stakeholders on a state and national level. Its other activities include early-career support, research into teacher training, and academic development. The staff of the Erfurt School of Education advise students of teaching, organise and coordinate preparatory, didactic and academic placements as well as the ‘complex school internship’. They work in close partnership with school administrators, vocational-training coordinators, subject teachers, heads of the state teacher training institutions and the professors and academics of the University of Erfurt.

www.uni-erfurt.de/en/ese

GOTHA RESEARCH LIBRARY
The Gotha Research Library focuses on the cultural and intellectual heritage of the modern and early modern eras. It contains nearly 700,000 items including a unique collection of hand-written manuscripts. Embedded in the inspiring research environment of Friedenstein castle in Gotha, it also houses the Perthes collection, a valuable publisher’s archive of nineteenth- and twentieth-century materials relating to cartography. Together with the Gotha Research Centre, the Research Library is an intellectual hub for national and international academics. It is also part of the cultural heritage of Thuringia, making it a cultural institution of European importance. After the libraries of Berlin and Munich and alongside the Herzog August Library in Wolfenbüttel, it holds the most significant collection of historical works from the sixteenth to eighteenth century in Germany.

www.uni-erfurt.de/en/library/
welcome-to-the-gotha-research-library
GOTHA RESEARCH CENTRE

The Gotha Research Centre is another central academic institution of the University of Erfurt. Situated on the castle hill in Gotha, it maintains a close partnership with its neighbouring research library and the museum collections of the Friedenstein Castle Foundation. As a research hub with a focus on the cultural and intellectual history of the modern and early modern era, its purpose is to initiate and support research based on the collection of objects held in Gotha. The institution launches and coordinates individual projects as well as major research collaborations with other institutions. It organises international conferences, workshops and lectures and offers doctoral and short-term scholarships for early-career researchers, international post-docs and senior scholars. These activities make the research centre an important platform for international, interdisciplinary academic exchange.

www.uni-erfurt.de/en/gotha-research-centre

WILLY BRANDT SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

The Willy Brandt School of Public Policy was founded in 2002. Its master’s degree in Public Policy is an academically rigorous course in political analysis and public administration combined with practical training delivered by political executives. Graduates of the programme are excellently prepared for careers in international public policy and non-governmental organisations. This degree course is the first of its kind in Germany. The students of the Willy Brandt School of Public Policy come from all over the world and have a wide range of professional and cultural backgrounds. As well as a teaching organisation, the School is a research institution and participates in an active and international collaborative network in the field of public policy.

www.brandtschool.de/home
ERFURT – A UNIVERSITY TOWN STEEPED IN HISTORY

A whole host of unique characteristics make Erfurt what it is. One of the oldest cities in Central Germany, it looks back on a long history spanning more than 1,250 eventful years. Its fortunate location at the crossroads of many European trading routes allowed the city grow into an economical, political, cultural and intellectual hub at a very early stage. Many important figures helped to write the history of Erfurt: Martin Luther, Ulrich von Hutten, Adam Ries, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Friedrich Schiller and Wilhelm von Humboldt are just a few.

Erfurt is situated at the centre of Germany, conveniently accessible from all corners of the country. It is two hours away from Frankfurt/Main, a little under two hours from Berlin, two and a half hours from Munich and just 40 minutes from Leipzig on a high-speed ICE train. Weimar, Jena, Gotha and Eisenach – cities that are famous far beyond the national borders of Germany – are a mere stone’s throw away. Even the Thuringian Forest, just 30 kilometres from Erfurt, is within easy reach.

With a population of 210,000 people, Erfurt is a student town that boasts a great atmosphere and plenty of character. Students of the University and the University of Applied Sciences get to enjoy a well-preserved mediaeval old town with lovingly restored patrician townhouses, picturesque alleys and cobbled squares. The charm of the student metropolis of the Middle Ages still reverberates in the Andreasiertel district and the university quarter, home to Collegium Maius (the reconstructed main building of the old university), the international guest house on Michaelisstraße and the student dormitories on Kreuzsand.

Cosy cafés, pubs, parks, museums, art galleries and the new, modern opera shape the cultural landscape of the city. Erfurt is also an administrative centre and media hub at the heart of Germany. Over the course of the past years, the city’s old freight yard has been turned into a creative venue that hosts innovative live shows and other events.