The German Higher Education System and the Internationalisation of Universities

SPHERE
Study Visit,
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Thomas Böhm
The HRK is a voluntary association of state and state-recognized universities and other higher education institutions in Germany.

The HRK currently has 268 member institutions which account for 94 per cent of students in Germany.
The German Rectors’ Conference

Mission

- Promotes cooperation between universities
- Informs member institutions of policy developments and problem areas
- Advises and supports member universities in the performance of their tasks and responsibilities
- Formulates positions and statements on higher education and research policy questions
- Represents the interests of the member universities vis-à-vis the public and in political decision-making processes
- Fosters international relations.

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International Department

- Represent the interests of the German universities at strategically important locations around the world
- Gain international universities and partner organisations as strong partners
- Improve the mobility and interculturality of students, academics and researchers
- Promote the benefits of doing studies, doctorates and research at German universities
- Provide professional support and advice services for international students, doctoral candidates and researchers
The German Higher Education and Research System — Some Basic Facts and Figures
German Higher Education System
Higher Education Institutions

By Type of Institution

Universities 110
Universities of Applied Sciences 231
Schools of Art and Music 58
Total 399

By Control

State 60%
Private 30%
Church 10%
Higher Education Institutions in Germany according to Student Numbers

2.7 mio students in total (as per WS 2014/2015)
90 % of students are enrolled in state universities

Source: Federal Statistical Office
Legal Framework:

Federal government and State governments
Funding for Higher Education

- Core Public Funding: 26.7 bn €
  - 21.8 bn € Federal states (Länder)
  - 4.9 bn € Federal government
- Core Funding per Student: 7,300 €
- Third Party Funding: 6.4 bn €
  (private sponsoring, industry, tuition fee, EU programs etc.)
- Increasing student numbers expected for the coming years → some additional funding through the „Higher Education Pact I + II“ of federal and state governments (2011-2015: ca. 7 bn €, 2011-2018: additional 1.2-1.5 bn €)
- „Quality Initiative in Teaching“: 2011-2020 2 bn €
On the Way to Autonomous Higher Education Institutions
Changing Legal Framework Increases Autonomy

Management by objectives between state and university and within universities – between university leadership and faculties – with regard to

- introduction and/or abolishment of degree programmes
- admission of students (number of students)
- appointment of professors
- salary of professors and academic staff
- management of university property
- organisational processes within the institution
Changing Funding Structures Increase Accountability

- Introduction of **lump-sum** (yearly) **budgets**
- Introduction of **performance-based** allocation mechanisms
  - between ministries and universities
  - within universities, between faculties
- Introduction of **performance criteria** for the salary of professors
- Increase of **private contributions** to higher education funding, e.g. private third-party funding for research, contribution of foundations, etc.
The European Dimension: From Bologna to Bucharest
The European Higher Education and Research Area

The Bologna Declaration

- A system of easily readable and comparable degrees
- A system with two main cycles
- A system of credits
- Promotion of mobility
- Promotion of European co-operation in quality assurance
- Promotion of the European dimension in higher education

→ currently 47 Signatories
The Reform of Undergraduate Education
Traditional Degree Structure: Magister and Diplom

Fachhochschule
Diplom (FH)
4 years (average)

University
Diplom/Magister
4.5 years (average)

Doctorate
2-3 years
The Reform of Undergraduate Education

New Degree Structure: Bachelor and Master

Postgraduates

Bachelor University of Applied Sciences (Fachhochschulen) 3, 3.5 or 4 years

Master 1, 1.5 or 2 years

Doctorate 2-3 years

Master 1, 1.5 or 2 years

Bachelor University 3, 3.5 or 4 years

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Universities and Fachhochschulen

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Universities</th>
<th>Fachhochschulen (FH)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Professors’ Qualification:</strong> Doctorate/PhD, Habilitation</td>
<td>Excellent Doctorate/PhD + five years experience in R&amp;D</td>
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<td><strong>Average number of teaching lessons per week:</strong> 8-10</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theory oriented</td>
<td>Application oriented</td>
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<tr>
<td>Integration of research and teaching</td>
<td>Applied research to solve practical problems</td>
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<tr>
<td>Right to award Doctorate/PhD</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Study programmes:</strong> Medicine, Law, Natural Sciences, Engineering, Humanities, Social Sciences, Business</td>
<td>Engineering (75 % of German engineers are educated at FH) Business, Social and Health Sciences</td>
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Internationalising Higher Education Institutions
A More Strategic Approach to Internationalisation

- Internationalisation of universities is highly supported by the Federal Ministry
- Internationalisation strategy for each university
- Increasing mobility of students (incoming/outgoing) and researchers:
  - 319,000 international students at German universities (11.8)
  - 138,000 German students at international universities
- Increasing international collaboration in research and technology transfer
  - Joint scientific publications, publications in English peer reviewed magazines

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A More Strategic Approach to Internationalisation

- Shift from *traditional* to *more structured* forms of international collaboration

Double and Joint Degree Programmes:
- 208 Bachelor Programmes
- 290 Master’ Programmes
- Erasmus +

- **Non German** taught Degree Programmes

English taught Degree Programmes:
- 171 Bachelor Programmes
- 884 Masters’ Programmes
A More Strategic Approach to Internationalisation

- Increase in the establishment of German-backed universities and off-shore campuses (BMBF funded German partner universities):
  - German University in Cairo (GUC), German Jordanian University (GJU), German Vietnamese University,
  - last foundation: Turkish-German University
  - About 25,000 students

- National and international strategic alliances

Strategic partnerships, partners in selected countries

- Enhance recognition procedures (e.g. HRK Framework Agreements, Lisbon Recognition Convention)
Job Possibilities and Legal Status

At least 5% of study places are guaranteed for third country students.

Implementation of the EU Directive on highly qualified employment (2009/50/EC) in Germany in August 2012:

- 120 days a year during study
- 18 month search for an appropriate job after graduation
- Unlimited access to the labour market during this period
- Settlement permit after a period of only two years
The Internationalisation of German Universities

Challenges

- Preparing of international students for their studies in Germany
- Creating international classroom
- Increasing the number of successfully graduating international students
- Supporting international graduates in their professional career
- Increasing the numbers of international lectures and researchers at German universities
- Intercultural know how
- "Willkommenskultur"/Internationalisation of the administration
- Language policy
- Brain Drain versus Brain Circulation

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HRK-Audit
Internationalisation of Universities
Internationalisation of Universities

- **HRK-Project** funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)
- **66** participating universities since 2010

The Audit offers the following benefits:

- an assessment of the university’s current state of internationality
- the identification or definition of the university’s internationalisation goals
- the (further) development of an institutional internationalisation strategy
- recommendations for specific measures in defined areas of internationalisation

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What is the Audit “Internationalisation of Universities”?

- **Service** to HRK member institutions
- **Peer review** process
- **Quality** review tool
- Helps universities to **assess and develop** their **internationality**
- “Audit” is **not an accreditation** method

CONCEPT

German Rectors’ Conference

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What do we mean by “Audit”?  

- **self-improvement:**  
  - self-reflection & peer-review  
  - no ranking, no accreditation  

- **individualised fit:**  
  - based on the actual needs and given capacities  
  - suitable for all types of universities  
  - suitable at all levels of internationalisation  

- **holistic perspective:**  
  - comprising the entire university & all fields of international activity
Audit “Internationalisation of Universities”

Four major areas

- **Planning & Steering** focuses on the management and organisation of internationalisation from the central administration department through to the academic departments.

- **Study & Teaching** includes the internationalisation of study programmes as well as the teaching and learning environment.

- **Research & Technology Transfer** concerns the internationalisation of research and the application of research results.

- **Advice & Support** encompasses the internationalisation of administrative structure across the institution.
Thank you for your attention!

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