

# International from the Very Beginning

International Network University



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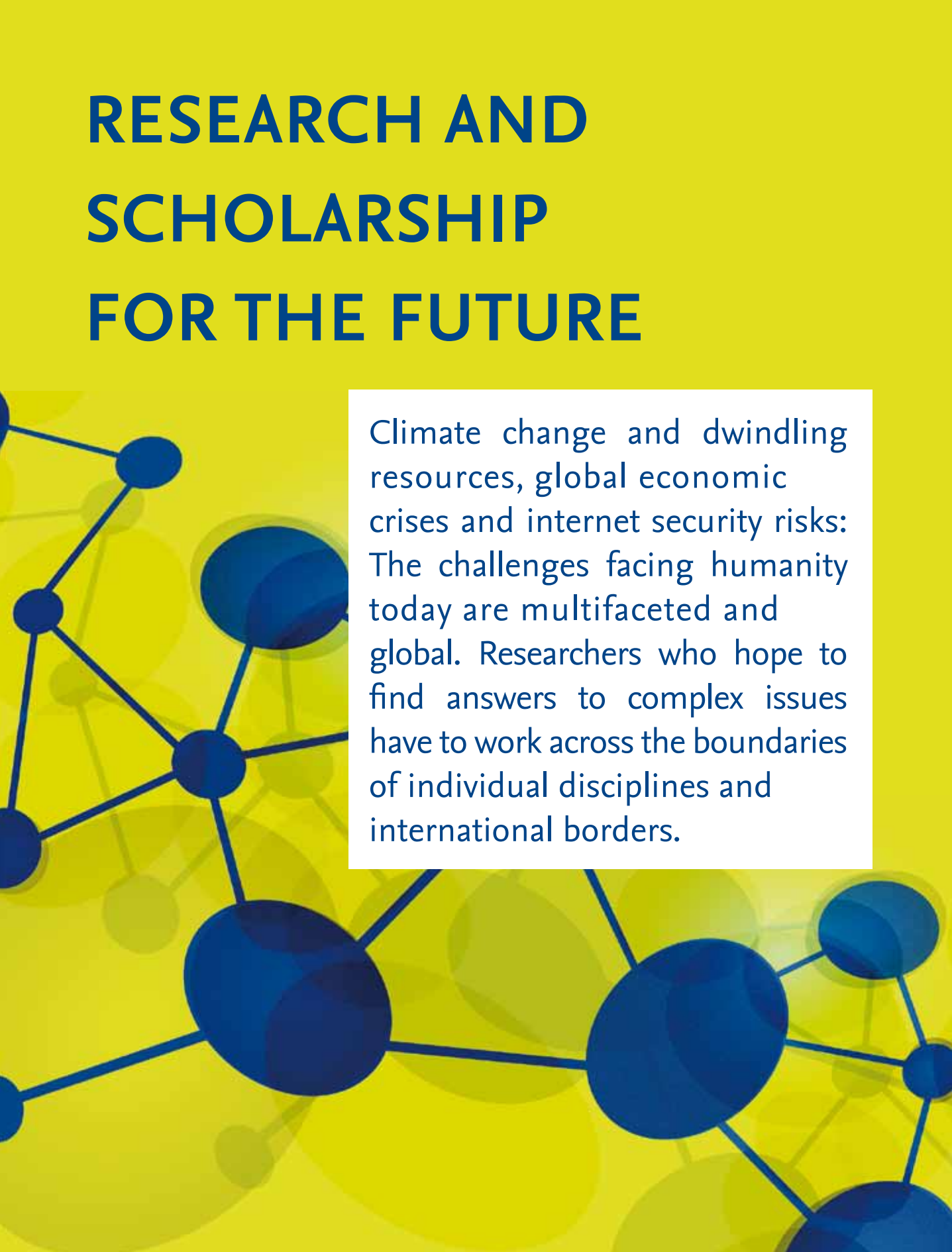
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# RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP FOR THE FUTURE



Climate change and dwindling resources, global economic crises and internet security risks: The challenges facing humanity today are multifaceted and global. Researchers who hope to find answers to complex issues have to work across the boundaries of individual disciplines and international borders.



## INTERNATIONALITY AS INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE

At Freie Universität Berlin, we believe that internationality and interdisciplinarity are essential to successful research and scholarship activities, and we have been committed to them right from the start. Internationality is part of the history behind the university's founding – and a key element of our understanding of who we are, and our work toward the future. With its strategic concept of an International Network University, Freie Universität was successful in the Excellence Initiative, a research competition among all German universities, in 2007.

The idea behind that concept encompasses the entire university. It forms the basis for Freie Universität's efforts to form global ties and deepen existing cooperative relationships with selected partner universities. The university fosters the open exchange of ideas and develops new study programs with international profiles in order to ensure that its students succeed in the global labor market. And it acts on principles of global responsibility – by performing research on issues of pressing importance to the future, providing academic assistance with development in other countries, and championing the cause of freedom in research and teaching.





The newly founded university was supported by individuals and universities at home and abroad. Shown here are staff members sorting book donations from the U.S. in 1951.

Right: The Philological Library was opened in 2005. Its holdings comprise some 750,000 volumes.



### **Free, International, Excellent**

Commitment to freedom forms the bedrock of the university. Freie Universität was founded in 1948 based on a student initiative, with support from the U.S. allies, in response to the political pressure mounting on what was then Universität Unter den Linden, now Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, located in East Berlin. The goal in creating Freie Universität was to preserve the Humboldt ideal of scholarship in the divided city. Students and professors wanted to be able to study, teach, and do research free from political and ideological influences.

With strong support from abroad, Freie Universität was able to establish a large international network right away, a network that the university has expanded considerably over the ensuing decades. Today, Freie Universität is one of the top academic destinations in Germany for students and junior scholars from other countries. This is evident from the numbers of international students and recipients of scholarships and grants who come to Freie Universität for undergraduate or graduate studies or for research, through programs operated by the European Union, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the Fulbright Commission, and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. The same is also true in reverse, as many students from Freie Universität gather experience abroad. Nearly one-third of the student body enrolled here spends some part of their time in another country, and the university plans to increase that number in the future.

International cooperation is also an essential success factor in the research performed at Freie Universität, whose quality is documented by outstanding placements in national and international rankings. In the rankings published in the Times Higher Education magazine in 2011, Freie Universität is among the strongest universities in the humanities,



The building for the humanities and social sciences is a popular meeting place.

both within Germany and internationally. Ranked 29<sup>th</sup> overall in this field, it is ahead of the other eight German universities identified in the Excellence Initiative and ranks seventh Europe-wide. The QS World University Ranking 2011 lists Freie Universität in 66<sup>th</sup> place worldwide and in the top four universities in Germany.

### **Internationalization as a Strategy**

Freie Universität has been intensifying its efforts toward internationalization for some years now by pursuing a central strategy, a strategy that is laid out in the university's future concept and institutionally anchored in the Center for International Cooperation, in collaboration with the Division of International Affairs. One key element of these activities is the university's seven liaison offices, located in Beijing, Brussels, Cairo, Moscow, New Delhi, New York, and São Paulo. These offices assist scholars and scientists in building international research networks, help recruit excellent junior researchers, and keep in touch with alumni of Freie Universität in their regions.

In the future, the university plans to add focused, strategically motivated partnerships with selected universities abroad to its existing partnerships and exchange agreements. These extensive, highly active primary partnerships will allow the participating higher education institutions to use synergies and combine their strengths. The goal is to include every aspect of academic life: research and teaching, student exchanges, joint doctoral programs, and programs for visiting scholars. Within primary partnerships, scholars from both institutions will form working groups, develop visiting instructor programs and study programs culminating in joint degrees, prepare applications for externally funded joint research projects, and organize shared conferences, meetings, and lecture series.



***As Professor of Egyptology, Joanne Rowland moved from the Musées royaux d'Art et d'Histoire in Brussels to Freie Universität Berlin. She had previously held a position at University of Oxford.***

*For me, the junior professorship at Freie Universität Berlin offers great opportunities. I teach both theoretical courses and those concerned with methodology, dealing with time periods ranging throughout Egyptian prehistory and history. Contacts with colleagues at the Neues Museum as well as the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut have become important both for my research, and also for teaching, including artefact classes in the Museum. There is a lively series of events across the university, including the program of the Excellence Cluster TOPOI. Events provide the opportunity for a lively exchange with colleagues from abroad, and I have been able to invite colleagues to present lectures, and to organise a research day on the Nile Delta, as well as to organize a summer school in Egypt to train Egyptian and German students in archaeological field methods.*

The first primary partnerships are already in place, with Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Peking University, Saint Petersburg State University, and a network of Korean universities (Seoul National, Sogang, Yonsei, Korea, and Ewha Womans). Preparations for further primary partnerships are under way. One thing holds true for all of these efforts: International activities can only be truly successful if they reflect the interests of researchers and meet students' expectations with regard to study programs and

preparation for future careers. At Freie Universität, our aim is to prepare students for a labor market that is increasingly global in scope. Freie Universität offers degree programs that provide students with cultural experiences and professional qualifications that transcend national borders. The university also fosters international exchange and language skills and helps students connect with opportunities for internships abroad.

Competition for the best and the brightest students and researchers takes place on a global scale. With this in mind, Freie Universität Berlin offers talented students and junior scholars from other countries outstanding conditions for doctoral programs, extensive services, and specific scholarship and grant programs. Highly qualified German academics working abroad are offered fellowships as an incentive to return.

It is already the case that one in ten researchers and one in seven students at Freie Universität come from other countries. Since 2005, the number of international junior scholars and scientists has more than doubled – today, there are 1,140 international doctoral candidates at Freie Universität, the most of any institution in Germany. On campus, 125 different countries come together – a microcosm of the globe itself, offering opportunities to get to know other cultures right here in Berlin's Dahlem district.

## Research and Teaching with a Sense of Global Responsibility

In its work with partners abroad, the university lives up to its responsibility in today's post-globalization world. Academic freedom underlies all of the university's activities, which are devoted to tackling the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and of the expertise that researchers from Freie Universität contribute as consultants both within Germany and abroad. Freie Universität provides support for the establishment and development of academic and democratic structures in countries experiencing internal upheaval, such as those in the Arab world. It is the first German university to join the international Scholars at Risk Network, which offers temporary refuge to scholars who face political persecution in their home countries. Freie Universität aims to educate students and support junior researchers whose international experiences guide them in acting with responsibility – based on a global perspective, intellectual freedom, and core ethical values.

***Klaus Mühlhahn earned his doctorate at Freie Universität and returned to Berlin after spending several years in Finland and the United States. He is a professor of Chinese Studies.***



*Freie Universität offers outstanding working conditions in area studies, and most especially in Chinese Studies. The university has a long tradition in the field, and the department has a clear profile, with attractive study programs and an outstanding international network. China is an important part of the university's successful internationalization strategy. Initiatives from Chinese Studies have received and continue to receive efficient support from the university. That puts Freie Universität in an excellent position to take advantage of the opportunities arising in China.*



# GLOBAL NETWORKS



## **New York: International Marketing**

The New York office promotes the various study programs of Freie Universität Berlin as well as its research results at fairs and shows as here at the 2011 MIT European Career Fair.



## **Brussels: Platform for Researchers**

The EU liaison office organized a high-level event in the European Parliament addressing the EU Research Commission by outlining key contributions of social science and humanities for Europe.



## **São Paulo: Recruitment of Brazilian scholarship holders**

Germany's Foreign Secretary Guido Westerwelle opens the new German Center of Innovation and Research (DWIH). Freie Universität's office is based here together with other German education and research institutions.



### **Moscow: Developing Joint Study Programs**

Freie Universität Berlin has a good track record in working on joint study programs with Russian universities. Currently the Moscow office is supporting the development of two new joint programs.



### **Beijing: Support for Scientists**

The Beijing office initiates contacts between Freie Universität Berlin researchers and Chinese universities and research institutions, organizes delegation visits, and accompanies university delegations on tailor-made trips to counterparts all over China.



### **Cairo: Global Responsibility**

The Cairo office continues to be involved in facilitating dialogue on transformation in the aftermath of the Egyptian revolution. As a result, Freie Universität Berlin is in the process of establishing joint projects on gender issues, student participation, and international politics with Egyptian partners.



### **New Delhi: Work with Alumni**

Work with the university's alumni is an important part of all the liaison offices. This photo shows a group of Indian alumni in Delhi in November 2011.



## THE SEVEN LIAISON OFFICES AS INTERFACES

Showing a presence, making contacts, spreading information – it's all part of the job of the liaison offices of Freie Universität Berlin. It is the only German higher education institution to maintain a worldwide network of this size, which now extends to seven offices. The office in New York opened in 2005, followed by the offices in Beijing, in 2007, and New Delhi, in 2008; then, in 2009, the office in Brussels opened, with three offices – in Moscow, Cairo, and São Paulo – opening in 2010. Each office's work encompasses the entire region where that office is located. Office managers function as diplomats, networking specialists, marketing experts, consultants, and research strategists, all rolled into one: They advise young people who are thinking about undergraduate or graduate studies at Freie Universität, assist scholars and scientists in laying the groundwork for bilateral cooperative research arrangements, organize conferences, keep in touch with local alumni of Freie Universität, and gather information on developments in science, academia, and higher education policy in the region.

In their role as part of the development concept mapped out by Freie Universität for the future, the liaison offices aim to enhance the quality of the university's research to a particular degree through internationalization. In these efforts, the university can build upon successful work in the past. Ever since it was founded, in 1948, the university has established and maintained ties with universities all over the world. Currently, Freie Universität has more than 100 partner universities and 45 partner institutes worldwide and about 340 agreements on student exchanges through the ERASMUS program operated by the European Union.

# NORTH AMERICA



## The Liaison Office in New York and Its Networks

Freie Universität Berlin has maintained a number of relationships with institutions in the United States right from the start: The university's own founding was supported by the U.S. allies. Numerous donations for books and furnishings went toward the Dahlem campus in the university's early years. Financial support from the U.S. made it possible for Freie Universität to construct a number of key buildings, including the Benjamin Franklin University Hospital and the Henry Ford Building which houses the university's main lecture halls. When the latter opened, in 1954, U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles wrote: "As Berlin is a symbol of political freedom, Freie Universität is seen as a symbol of academic freedom for the world."

The close ties between Freie Universität and the United States are also reflected in the university's research work. Not long after the university's founding, in 1963, political scientist Ernst Fraenkel founded what would become today's John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies, with the aim of allowing scholars to specialize in the United States and Canada. At present, almost 50 years later, more than 700 students are



**After New York, Tokyo, and London Gregory Jackson came to Freie Universität Berlin as Professor of Management.**

*Both its historical legacy and contemporary political and cultural importance make Berlin a uniquely exciting place to do work in the social sciences. Coming from the USA, I appreciate the opportunities to work in this dynamic environment that is so well connected with the wider international community. At Freie Universität Berlin, I have been able to organize some very exciting collaborations by hosting international visiting scholars or organizing the kind of small scale workshops that allow for genuine dialogue on topics at the cutting edge of research. Many of our projects also bring together different disciplines such as business with area studies, political science, or sociology. These sorts of collaborations that draw on networks across different countries and disciplines are an excellent foundation for advancing internationally comparative social sciences that are very much needed in the face of current challenges of global governance.*



U.S. President John F. Kennedy's visit at Freie Universität Berlin in June 1963 drew thousands. In front of the Henry Ford Building he was welcomed by Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and the Governing Mayor of Berlin Willy Brandt.

*The graduate schools at Freie Universität maintain **close ties with North American graduate programs**, for example those operated by Columbia University. For the past 25 years the **Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies** has been awarding fellowships for doctoral and postdoctoral research to North American scholars dealing with Germany and Europe. There are also a number of exchange and short-term programs for students, including the **Berlin Consortium for German Studies**, the **University of California Education Abroad Program** and the **Duke University Study Abroad Program** (see p. 36/37). Freie Universität maintains institutional partnerships with about 40 U.S. universities in all. These cooperative arrangements have been a major factor driving the steady rise in the number of American students and researchers at Freie Universität.*



enrolled at the institute. Covering six disciplines – history, culture, literature, political science, sociology, and economics – the institute also offers numerous scholarship, grant, and exchange programs and the largest research library in Europe to focus on North America in its collections, opening the door to studies that combine advanced academics and a broad range of disciplines. In the winter semester of 2007/2008, the Graduate School of North American Studies, which was awarded excellence status in the German government's Excellence Initiative, began offering ten doctoral fellowships per year to excellent candidates from all over the world. The graduate school's cooperation partners include American universities such as Stanford, Harvard, and Yale.

Freie Universität opened its first international liaison office in New York in 2005, in partnership with Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU Munich). The German University Alliance is located within the German Center for Research and Innovation New York, which was founded in 2010 to promote the visibility of outstanding German research.



[www.fu-berlin.org.cn](http://www.fu-berlin.org.cn)

### **The Liaison Office in Beijing and Its Networks**

Freie Universität Berlin has been successfully cooperating with partners in China for 30 years. The university has cooperation agreements in place with ten universities and research institutes in China: Peking University, Lanzhou University, Fudan University, Sun Yat-sen University, Nanjing University, Nanjing Agricultural University, Nanjing Institute of Geography and Limnology (Chinese Academy of Sciences), Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Wuhan University, and Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Freie Universität has a particularly close, and at the same time long-standing, cooperative relationship with Peking University, where the interdisciplinary Center for German Studies was founded in 2005. After 30 years of successful cooperation, the two universities signed a primary partnership agreement in 2011. The university also operates the joint Graduate School of Global Politics with Fudan University and other partners. Freie Universität partnered with Nanjing University in November 2009 to establish the Sino-German Nanjing Integrated Center for Earth Sciences, which helps maintain extensive exchange of students and faculty between the two universities.

Freie Universität was also the first German university to become home to a Confucius Institute, in 2006. The Institute's goal is to promote understanding of Chinese culture and teaching of the Chinese language. It is affiliated with the Institute of Chinese Studies, itself among the largest departments of Chinese studies in Germany.

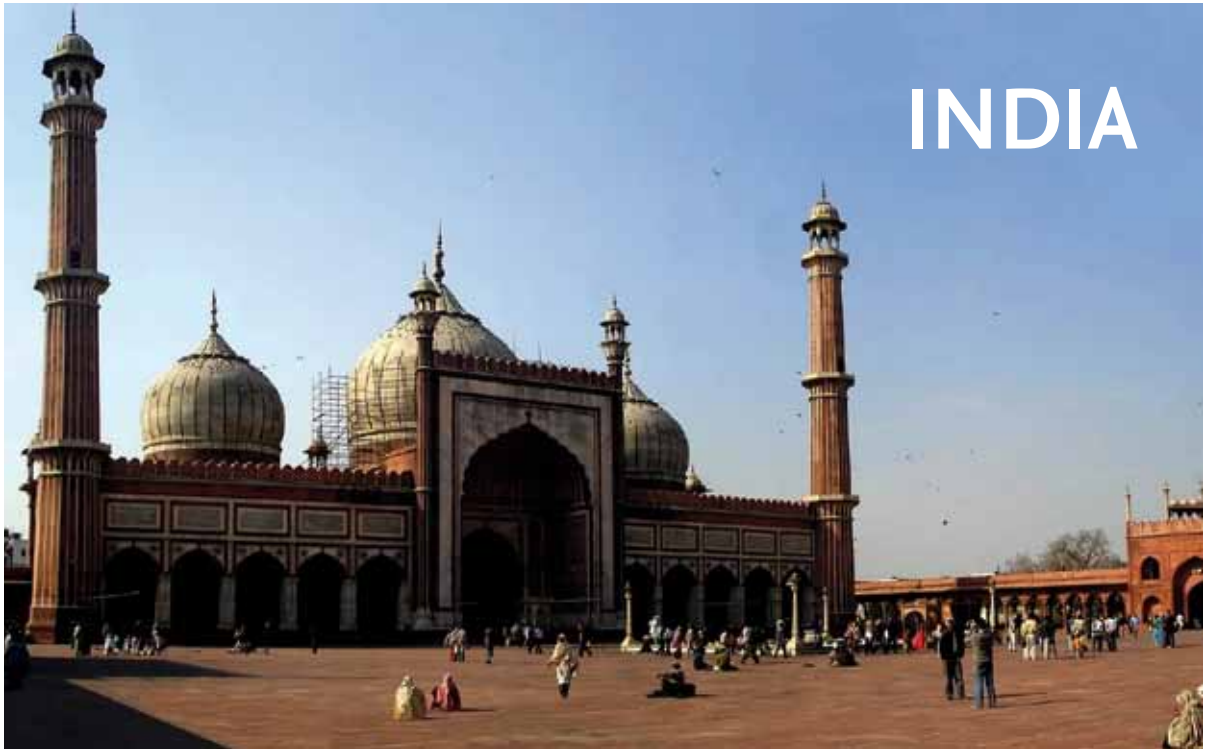


**Tobias Großmann is a graduate of Freie Universität. During his study program, he spent a semester at Renmin University of China, in Beijing.**

*In the Master of Science in Management & Marketing degree program, it is customary for students to spend their third semester at a partner university abroad. I decided to go to Beijing. I was immediately thrilled by the Chinese megacity and enjoyed every moment of the daily “struggle to survive” amid about 15 million people and wall-to-wall cars, taxis, and buses. My classes were all in English, but I was committed to learning Chinese, so I spent three hours a day in a language course. My stay there was financed by a government scholarship provided by the China Scholarship Council. I am both happy and proud to have had the opportunity to make contacts in China and deepen my understanding of Chinese culture and the Chinese economy.*

*Experts on China and Chinese language and culture are in increasing demand, not only within Europe, but all over the globe. As the world's largest growth market, China's role in international politics is changing. The **Graduate School of Global Politics** operates a three-year program for doctoral candidates who are studying relations between the European Union and China. The program is based on extensive cultural exchange between the two countries. It is the first joint German-Chinese doctoral program in social sciences. During the first two years, the doctoral candidates attend courses, do research on their topics, and develop a dissertation plan; then, in the third year, they write their dissertations, in English. Throughout the program, participants receive extensive support from specialists in the relevant disciplines.*

Since 2008, Freie Universität has been working closely with the China Scholarship Council (CSC), offering recipients of CSC scholarships and grants a number of different ways to spend part or all of their period of doctoral studies in Berlin. More than 150 CSC doctoral candidates have come to Berlin to do research at Freie Universität since the agreement was first put in place, making the university the most important host institution for CSC doctoral candidates in Germany and one of the CSC's closest partner universities around the world. The liaison office in Beijing plays a central role in all these activities by informing and preparing these young Chinese researchers for their stay in Berlin.



[www.fu-berlin.de/india](http://www.fu-berlin.de/india)

### **The Liaison Office in New Delhi and Its Networks**

The liaison office of Freie Universität Berlin in the Indian capital opened in 2008 and since then has been the primary point of contact for students and scholars from all over India who are interested in Freie Universität. As an institution, Freie Universität Berlin concentrates its cooperative efforts on five Indian partner universities: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee, University of Hyderabad, University of Delhi, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), in New Delhi, TERI (The Energy and Resource Institute), in New Delhi.

The university's cooperative relationships with the two large universities in Delhi encompass German language and literature as well as political and cultural studies. The German-Indian Sustainability and Climate Change Dialogue, which is run via the TERI, brings specialists from academia, politics, and NGOs together. Freie Universität Berlin and the University of Hyderabad together sponsor a German-Indian research training group – the second of its kind in both countries. The group is named BRIDGE (Berlin-Hyderabad Research Training School on Infectious Diseases and Genetic-functional Epidemiology), and it deals with global infectious diseases.

The two countries are also connected by a large number of other partnerships between scientists at Freie Universität and Indian institutions. For example, there are joint projects in water management with the Indian





**Jagriti Juneja from New Delhi, India, is working toward the European Master in Intercultural Education.**

*I like the international nature of Freie Universität and the city of Berlin. I have gotten to know almost the whole world at the university and in Berlin. While I was studying at Freie Universität, I had an opportunity to learn theory and also gain practical experience. For four weeks I successfully organized an intercultural project with fifth graders in a Berlin school and provided intercultural training.*



Freie Universität's liaison office in New Delhi was opened in 2008. It promotes academic exchange between scholars and students of Freie Universität Berlin and its partners in India.

Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi and the IIT Madras, in chemistry with the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, in computer science with the International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Bangalore, and regarding cultural links between India and South America with Jadavpur University in Kolkata.

Freie Universität currently maintains partnerships with eight higher education institutions via the EU's Erasmus Mundus program: Anand Agricultural University, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, Jadavpur University, Pravara Institute of Medical Sciences (Deemed University), Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), University of Delhi, University of Kerala, and University of Pune.

*Infectious diseases such as tuberculosis are a threat to public health not only in India, but all over the world. In many countries, the number of sufferers is rising dramatically even as drug-resistant strains of the disease emerge, making effective treatment more difficult. With all of these factors in play, understanding how pathogens adapt to their environments and interact with their hosts requires an interdisciplinary approach. The **BRIDGE research training group**, which is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG), studies various unresolved issues in the biology of infectious diseases and important types of infections, with the goal of mapping out new treatment paths for diseases such as tuberculosis, pneumonia, and neonatal meningitis.*



[www.fu-berlin.de/brussels](http://www.fu-berlin.de/brussels)

### **The Liaison Office in Brussels and Its Networks**

From its location in the heart of Europe, Freie Universität maintains many ties with other universities on its home continent. The European research landscape and European institutions are extremely important to the university, so in 2009 a liaison office was opened in Brussels, the de facto capital of the European Union. The particular tasks of the Brussels office include supporting the involvement of scholars and scientists from Freie Universität Berlin in EU research projects and representing the university's interests in dealings with EU institutions.

Freie Universität is traditionally highly active in the various European exchange programs. With regard to both Erasmus student mobility and internships abroad, Freie Universität offers outstanding services for German and international program participants. Erasmus teaching fellowships at Freie Universität are also in high demand, and regular visiting instructor positions at the respective partner institutions open up a wide range of possibilities for collaboration in research. Freie Universität is also very successful in raising EU funds to support research: For example, the university won approval for a large number of projects in the European Commission's Seventh Framework Programme for Research, including in the fields of Romance languages and literatures, mathematics, computer science, and biology.

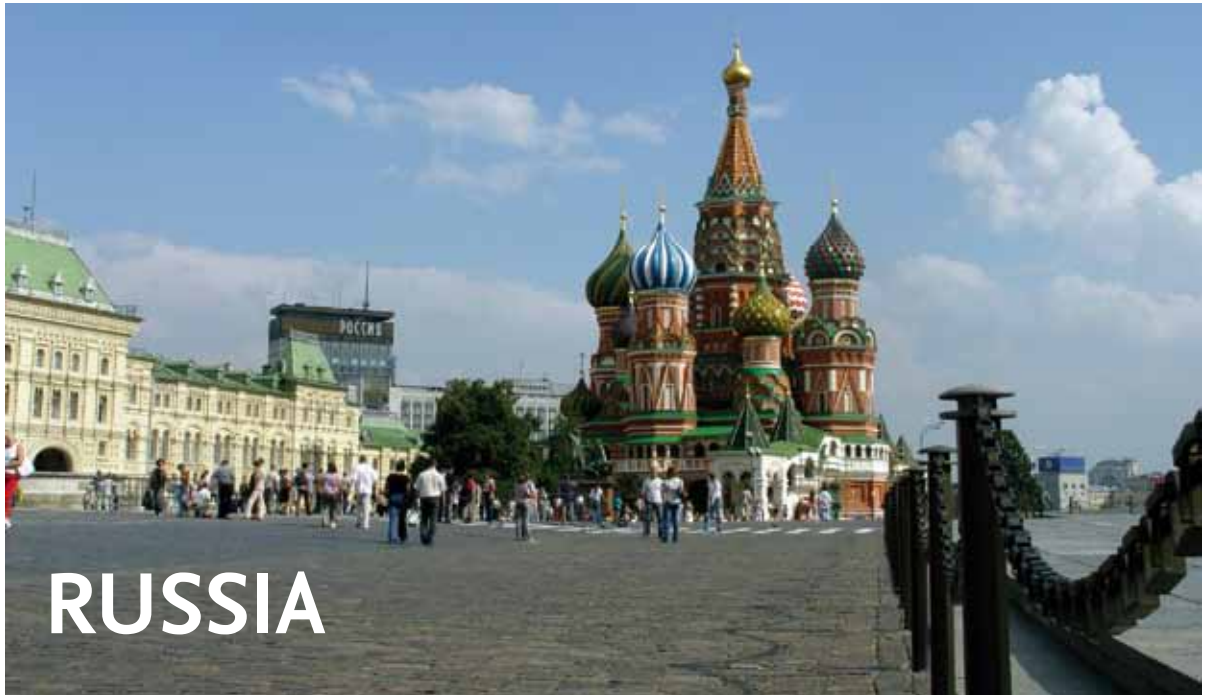


**Yücel Akdemir graduated from Freie Universität Berlin and completed an internship at the liaison office in Brussels.**

One field that plays a special role at Freie Universität is research on Europe itself, which is a particular focus of the Otto Suhr Institute of Political Science; the university also has institutes dedicated to individual European countries. Scholars from Freie Universität also participate in the European Language Council, in which the university's Language Center plays an especially important role.

*With its International Network University concept, Freie Universität has taken on a pioneering role among German universities. I decided to do an internship at the liaison office in Brussels because the office was just being developed, so I knew I would have an opportunity to help build networks and really get involved. I attended events at various venues, such as the European Parliament, in Brussels, to communicate the attractiveness of Freie Universität as a center of research, teaching, and studies. The internship in Belgium was a challenge and an opportunity to put the skills and abilities I had developed during my studies and in practice to the test in a foreign country. My work-study program at the Brussels liaison office expanded my horizons and was a good opportunity to improve my English skills while also getting to know a foreign business culture and mindset in depth.*

*For a long time, the various fields of study of the arts – music, literature, theatre and film studies, and art history – were clearly defined and sharply delineated according to their specific subjects of research. Since the 1960s, however, those lines have been blurred, both because the boundaries between the individual arts themselves have become less important and due to the aestheticization of everyday life, a trend that erases the lines dividing art from non-art – such as in new media or sports. This situation is the point of departure for the **International Research Training Group InterArt**, which covers all of the fields of study related to the arts. The group's scholars take an interdisciplinary perspective, not only focusing on the present day but also opening up new avenues of access to works of art from the past. The university's partners in the project, which is funded by the German Research Foundation, are the University of Copenhagen and Goldsmiths College, in London. Doctoral candidates within the group have the opportunity to spend a semester in Copenhagen with bilateral support.*



[www.fu-berlin.de/moscow](http://www.fu-berlin.de/moscow)

### **The Liaison Office in Moscow and Its Networks**

Alongside its close relationships with the United States, Freie Universität developed an academic focus on its neighboring countries to the east early on. The Institute for East European Studies was founded in 1951 as an interdisciplinary regional institute. Ever since then, scholars at the institute have studied the various processes of transformation taking place throughout Eastern and Southeastern Europe. The university maintains longstanding partnerships with leading universities in central Eastern Europe, particularly Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary.

Even during the Cold War era, Freie Universität was also establishing contact with higher education institutions in the Soviet Union: In the late 1960s, Soviet diplomats from East Berlin asked whether Freie Universität was interested in cooperating with Leningrad State University, now Saint Petersburg State University. Negotiations regarding a regular exchange of scholars in the subjects of physics, chemistry, and mathematics followed, and since then, researchers from Saint Petersburg have come to Freie Universität each year as visiting scientists. Freie Universität Berlin and Saint Petersburg State University jointly founded the German-Russian Interdisciplinary Science Center, an interdisciplinary center of excellence focusing on the natural sciences. Based on a very fruitful tradition of cooperation across various academic fields, Freie Universität and Saint Petersburg State University have agreed to enter a primary partnership and have signed an agreement on strategic cooperation in May 2012.



Freie Universität is a partner in a double degree Master's program in political science and is also working on developing further double degree programs in media studies and law. Cooperative academic initiatives and joint educational offerings exist in the fields of history, area studies, business and economics, geology, and veterinary medicine. That means that even beyond the Institute for East European Studies at Freie Universität – nearly all departments at the university are active in Russia.

The liaison office of Freie Universität Berlin in Moscow is based at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO). It also keeps in touch with the Russian universities with which Freie Universität maintains cooperative research initiatives and joint study and exchange programs. At present, these include: Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow State Institute of International Relations, Saint Petersburg State University, and Kazan (Volga Region) Federal University. The liaison office provides support and coordination services for Freie Universität's participation in the German-Russian Year of Education, Science and Innovation, in 2011/2012, in which the university is involved with one of the largest series of events, across a large number of schools, institutes, and chairs.



*The **German-Russian Interdisciplinary Science Center** is a cooperative institution sponsored by DAAD under the leadership of Freie Universität and Saint Petersburg State University. It functions as a platform for research and teaching activities in the natural sciences, with a particular focus on physics, geophysics, physical chemistry, and mathematics. The Center's research also encompasses issues in the nanosciences, intermolecular interactions, and seismic modeling in geophysics. As part of this cooperative initiative, the two institutions maintain a brisk exchange of students and scholars, which also includes joint conferences and workshops.*

**Olga Onokova from Russia is studying Media and Communication and Political Science.**

*I originally came to Berlin to improve my German. I had already completed a degree in Russia. But I liked Berlin and Freie Universität so much that I decided to stay. I enjoy the great freedom students have here when planning their courses. After completing my Bachelor's degree, I envisage working in an international context; for example, in the editorial department of an NGO. I have gained experience in this field at Freie Universität: I was President of the International Club for one year, which has around 500 members from various different countries. We organize intercultural events, excursions, and set up tandem language learning partnerships.*



[www.fu-berlin.de/brazil](http://www.fu-berlin.de/brazil)

### **The Liaison Office in São Paulo and Its Networks**

Latin American studies have been a fixture at Freie Universität since the 1970s. The Institute for Latin American Studies, one of the university's central institutes, pools together a broad range of expertise on the region. In 2010, the interdisciplinary Research Center for Brazilian Studies was inaugurated at the institute.

There are especially close ties between Freie Universität and leading Brazilian universities in São Paulo and Campinas. The longstanding student exchange program with the University of São Paulo is being expanded. The university also plans to strengthen its joint interdisciplinary research activities with Universidade Estadual de Campinas, where Freie Universität is one of four international strategic partners. To that end, the Brazilian university provides scholarships and grants to promote the exchange of professors, doctoral candidates, and postdocs.

The liaison office of Freie Universität in Brazil was founded in 2010, in cooperation with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). The office is based at the German House of Science and Innovation in São Paulo, the central point of contact in Brazil for everything related to research and innovation expertise from Germany. The São Paulo office provides support to researchers and scientists from Freie Universität in building networks in Brazil. A main task currently is the participation of Freie Universität in the new Brazilian government scholarship program "Science without Borders," which provides support for Brazilian students and young researchers to go abroad.



***Iliusi Donaji Vega del Valle from Mexico is doing her PhD at the International Max Planck Research School for Computational Biology and Scientific Computing.***

*I chose Freie Universität because of the excellent doctorate programs. At the International Max Planck Research School, I am able to conduct interdisciplinary research in my particular field. I also love living in Berlin – culturally, one of the most exciting capital cities in the world. What I really appreciate at Freie Universität is the straightforward cooperation with other institutes, the range of sports on offer, the very good libraries and the conferences, at which you have the opportunity to meet some of the best researchers in a relaxed and open atmosphere. The university places great value on actively involving foreign students and familiarizing them with German culture, for example through language courses and other courses at the Dahlem Research School.*

***The Research Network on Interdependent Inequalities in Latin America ([desiguALdades.net](http://desiguALdades.net))*** was founded in 2009 with the mission of studying social inequalities in Latin America and how they are affected by increasing globalization. Discrimination and disadvantages are studied from a socioeconomic, sociopolitical, and socioecological perspective. The project, which aims to advance transatlantic dialogue between researchers from Germany, elsewhere in Europe, and the Americas, is receiving financial support from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research as part of its funding line to strengthen and further develop the fields of area studies; its sponsors are the Institute for Latin American Studies at Freie Universität Berlin and the Ibero-American Institute of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation. The German Development Institute in Bonn and the German Institute of Global and Area Studies in Hamburg are further cooperation partners. The research network awards fellowships for doctoral candidates and postdocs, and it finances research stays for visiting scholars. Conferences, summer academies, seminars, and workshops are also part of its activities, all with the aim of fostering academic exchange. The network's office is located at the Institute for Latin American Studies.



[www.fu-berlin.de/cairo](http://www.fu-berlin.de/cairo)

### **The Liaison Office in Cairo and Its Networks**

Freie Universität maintains a large number of partnerships with countries in the Arab world, including with universities in Egypt: A particularly close cooperation exists between Freie Universität and Cairo University, one of the largest and most important universities in Egypt and the region. The liaison office organizes Arabic courses for students of Middle Eastern studies at Ain-Shams University. The office initiated a direct exchange agreement in place with the American University in Cairo (AUC) since 2010, allowing several students from Freie Universität to study there for up to two semesters.



Top: Cairo University is Egypt's oldest public university. With about 250,000 students, it is also one of the largest. It is considered the model for the modern university system in Egypt and the Middle East.

Right: The American University in Cairo (AUC) was founded in 1919 by Americans devoted to education in the Middle East.



Many view the Middle East as the world's most conflict-prone region. But that was not always the case: Scholars within the project **Rediscovering Theological Rationalism in the Medieval World of Islam**, which is financed by the European Research Council, are working to reexamine rational theology in the Islamic world from the 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, beyond religious boundaries. At the time, Muslims, Christians, and Jews alike spoke Arabic (and, in some cases, Persian), read the same canon of theological, philosophical, and academic texts, and jointly worked to continue those works. The result was a unique kind of cultural and intellectual symbiosis. The project aims to explore and document that symbiosis through various activities, including by reexamining untapped manuscript material and preparing a detailed monograph. Researchers from Europe and North America as well as Dubai, Israel, Iran, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Uzbekistan are involved in the project.

The office in Cairo took the political upheaval in the region as a reason to organize various events on current developments. With its German-Egyptian symposium and the “Cairo Talks on Transformation and Change” series, for example, Freie Universität offers a platform for exchange of ideas and scholarly analysis of societal change based on real-world events. In cooperation with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the German Archaeological Institute, the liaison office in Cairo organizes an interdisciplinary lecture series on research projects in Berlin with a connection to the region.

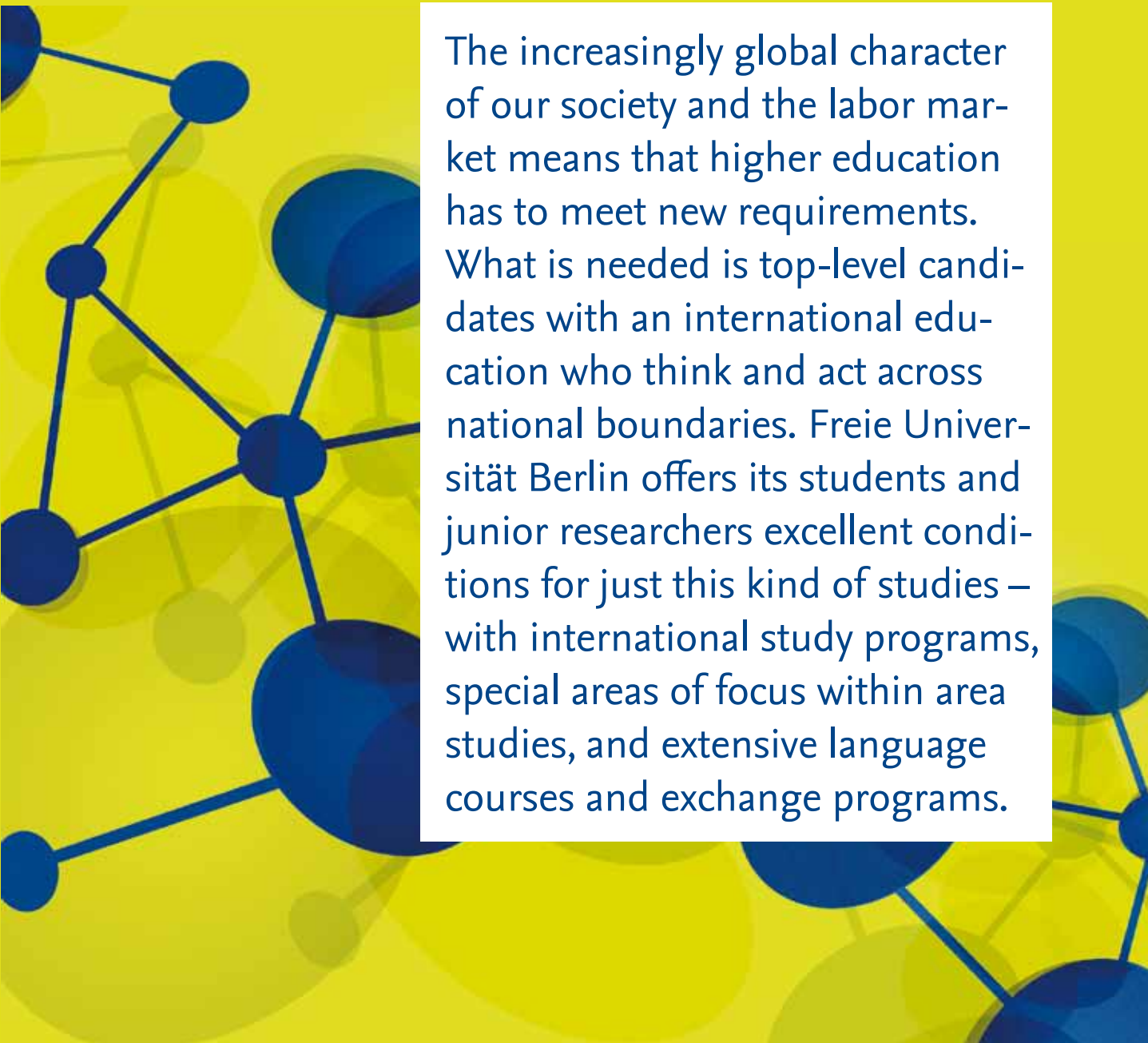
Junior scholars also benefit from Freie Universität's local presence: In 2011, the office in Cairo began teaming up with the local branch office of the Orient-Institut Beirut to offer a tutorial course for undergraduate and graduate students in the social sciences and humanities whose studies relate to the Middle East. Freie Universität is also involved in an international cooperative project focusing on children's rights and in a German-Egyptian bilateral project to support gender fairness in the higher education system. Research links are particularly strong in Arabic and Islamic Studies, in political sciences, and in archeology.



**Emad Flear Aziz, born in Egypt, is a professor of physics at Freie Universität and the Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin.**

*Thanks to two fellowships from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), I had repeated opportunities to come to Berlin to study chemistry. Freie Universität Berlin offers a bilingual master's degree program in chemistry, so I was able to attend lectures in English while I was also learning German. I am now a junior professor of physics at Freie Universität, and I hold lectures in the international master's degree program in physics. I see the university's openness toward talented international scholars and researchers as one of the key factors in its success.*

# INTERNATIONAL STUDY PROGRAMS



The increasingly global character of our society and the labor market means that higher education has to meet new requirements. What is needed is top-level candidates with an international education who think and act across national boundaries. Freie Universität Berlin offers its students and junior researchers excellent conditions for just this kind of studies – with international study programs, special areas of focus within area studies, and extensive language courses and exchange programs.

## INTERNATIONALIZATION OF STUDY PROGRAMS AND DEGREES

Freie Universität was faster than all other German universities in implementing the Bologna reforms aimed at harmonizing degrees across the European Union, swiftly shifting its study programs to bachelor's and master's degree tracks. Working in cooperation with international partner universities, Freie Universität also developed master's degree programs that permit students to stay abroad for a time and gain international experience and knowledge, with options ranging from traditional exchanges all the way to double degrees from Freie Universität and foreign partner institutions.

*The Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales (HEC), in Paris, and the Otto Suhr Institute of Political Science, part of the Department of Political and Social Sciences at Freie Universität Berlin, have pooled their strengths in educating managers and political scientists, inaugurating a **German-French double degree Master's program in Public Policy & Management** as of the winter semester of 2009/2010. Each year, the two-year program offers 20 students the opportunity to earn a Master of Science in Management from HEC Paris and a Master of Public Policy and Management from Freie Universität. Program graduates are qualified to enter doctoral programs in economics, business, and political science. They are also prepared to enter jobs in national, European, or international administration and management, and they have skills in bridging gaps between the political and business sectors.*



*The Otto Suhr Institute at Freie Universität Berlin and the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po) offer students the opportunity to complete the **German-French double degree Master's program in Political and Social Sciences** within just four semesters. The program offers an international education at a high academic level and supplements students' solid education by providing in-depth knowledge of the political cultures of both Germany and France and the languages of both countries. This is a major advantage in today's Europe, with relations between France and Germany still being highly important. Many graduates of the German-French study cycle (which has existed since 1991, albeit in a different form) now work in relevant positions at the European and international levels.*

The **Master of Science in Management & Marketing**, offered within the School of Business and Economics at Freie Universität Berlin, is research-oriented and combines management studies with marketing expertise. During the first year of this two-year program, students acquire and deepen fundamental skills and knowledge in both areas. The second year is set aside for studies to specialize in a certain subject and for acquisition of intercultural skills. To that end, program participants spend the winter semester of their second year at one of the university's twelve partner institutions abroad: either in Australia, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Singapore, or South Korea.



**Jorge Martinez de Paz comes from Madrid, Spain, and studies Economics at Freie Universität Berlin.**

What I especially like about my master's degree program in economics is that there are many international visiting professors involved. They add diversity and variety to what is taught because they often have different views on economic issues, depending on their country of origin. I find it remarkable that my German fellow students and the professors seem to find it natural to speak English with one another.

Freie Universität Berlin is one of the twelve founding universities of the **Center for Transnational Legal Studies (CTLS)**, which was inaugurated in 2008 at the initiative of Georgetown University to act as a global school of law. The universities involved in the globe-spanning CTLS alliance put together a joint study program each year, from August until May. The program includes a mandatory course on the theory of international law and a workshop, with a wide range of electives available in public international law, international criminal law, and comparative and transnational private law. The international partners involved in the project are: Georgetown University, ESADE Law School, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, University of São Paulo, Université de Fribourg, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, King's College London, Melbourne Law School, National University of Singapore, Università di Torino, University of Toronto, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Peking University, and the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po).

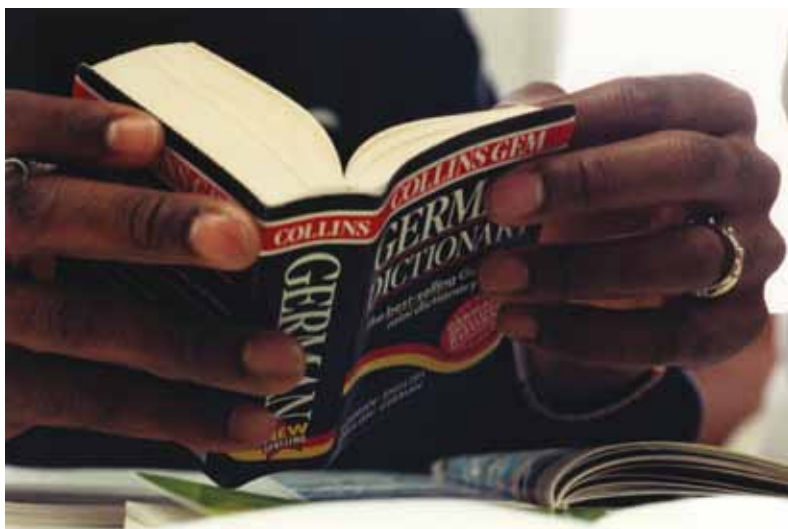


## A Broad Spectrum of Disciplines and Programs in Area Studies

Whether the driving factor is the global economic crisis, migration trends, or geopolitical decisions, demand for solid expertise on the world's diverse regions is rising steadily. Freie Universität traditionally offers an outstanding range of research on different areas around the globe. The very same year it was founded, in 1948, the university established its Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology and a chair for Islamic Studies, which was later followed by professorships in Arabic and Turkic Studies. Freie Universität has had institutions dedicated to research on China since 1953, on Japan since 1956, and on Korea since 2004. The Institute for East European Studies was founded in 1951, followed in 1963 by the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies and in 1970 by the Institute for Latin American Studies, where the Research Center for Brazilian Studies opened in 2010.

Today, about 185 professors from more than 30 disciplines work on area-related research at Freie Universität. Their work is hosted by the Center for Area Studies (CAS), which combines these broad-based regional research activities and creates a platform for networking between participating scholars from Freie Universität and their national and international co-operation partners. CAS aligns course offerings in individual programs in area studies to go together, initiates joint research projects, and promotes scholarly exchange with national and international research institutions.

*Shortly after their founding, the international master's degree programs **East European Studies Online** and **International Relations Online** were named among the "Top 10 International Master's Degree Courses Made in Germany" in a nationwide competition sponsored by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft, a nonprofit association affiliated with the German business sector. The two-year programs consist of a combination of online modules and one-week periods during which students are required to attend courses in Berlin, along with internships and a master's thesis.*



## Learning Languages – the Key to Success

Freie Universität Berlin has one of the largest university language centers in Germany. The Language Center (Sprachenzentrum), one of the university's central services, supports both German students looking to learn a foreign language and international students who are learning German. The Language Center is responsible for language practice in a

large number of bachelor's and master's degree programs, including general professional skills courses (allgemeine Berufsvorbereitung). More than 100 instructors teach courses to an average of about 3,000 students enrolled at the Language Center each semester, covering 13 languages: Alongside various German as a Foreign Language (Deutsch als Fremdsprache) course options, the Language Center offers classes in Arabic, Dutch, English, French, Italian, Japanese, Persian (Farsi), Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Turkish. The Language Center cooperates with leading cultural and higher education institutions in Europe and is involved in a large number of projects related to European language policy. Freie Universität is also home to the permanent secretariat of the European Language Council (ELC).

Instruction within the Language Center is based on the latest teaching methods and also relies on electronic media. An extensive language partner program and self-learning center offer students the opportunity to deepen and solidify their language skills.

For participants in mobility and exchange programs who have applied to study at Freie Universität Berlin, six-week German courses are offered before the start of each summer and winter semester. An extensive supplementary program of field trips, events, and talks introduces participants to the various historical and cultural aspects of metropolitan Berlin.



Individuals from 125 countries are involved in research and teaching at Freie Universität Berlin. The photo shows students from many countries at a welcome reception.

### **An International Campus**

Berlin offers little room for boredom. International students looking to branch out beyond lecture halls and libraries can join the International Club at Freie Universität, quickly making contact with others and getting to know the most entertaining side of the capital city. With more than 30 events each semester, the International Club offers something for everyone when it comes to making friends and finding recreational activities: movies, exhibit and museum visits, parties, city tours, day trips, sporting activities and regional evenings, each focusing on a specific country. The club's schedule also includes talks with politicians and podium discussions.

## **TO DAHLEM FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD – FROM DAHLEM TO ALL OVER THE WORLD**

Ever since it was founded, Freie Universität Berlin has cooperated with selected universities all over the world and supported students, scholars, and researchers who wish to go abroad for a short or long period during their studies or research activities. In recent years, the university has consistently expanded on its partnerships and exchange agreements, and currently, Freie Universität maintains more than 100 agreements with partner universities and over 340 agreements on student exchanges via the European Union's ERASMUS program.



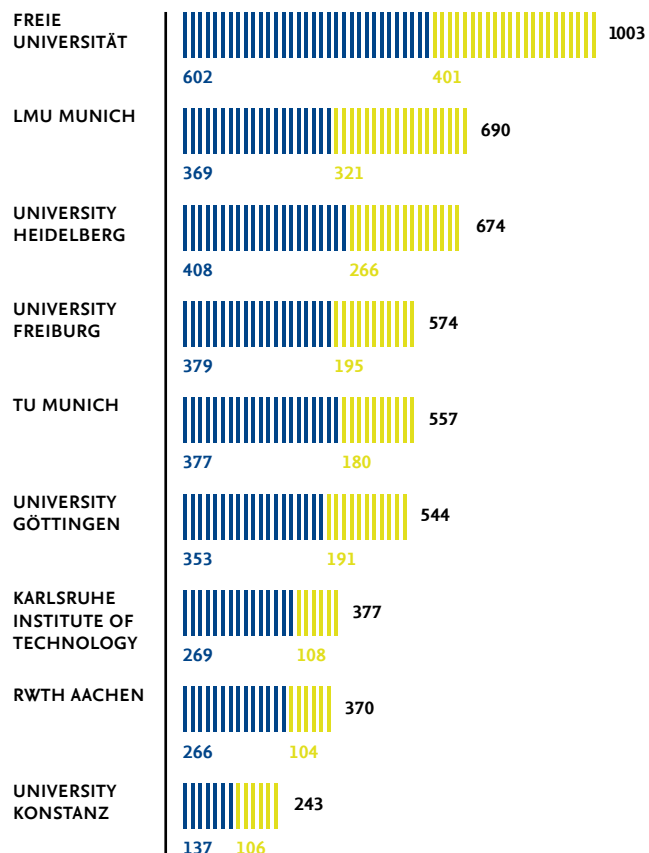
**Daphne Gehrels, from Amsterdam in the Netherlands, is doing a Master of Arts degree in “Sociology – European Studies.”**

*I chose Freie Universität for the international program: I am doing an international degree program that is in English and we are about 40 students from all over the world, which is really amazing. And Berlin is such a wonderful international city offering so many events. I read somewhere that there are around 1,500 events happening every day in Berlin, and at most of them English is totally accepted.*

At the same time, the university provides targeted support for recruitment of talented students and outstanding junior scholars from other countries – through grants, scholarships, and fellowships, special academic programs as well as the work done at the university’s seven international liaison offices. The success of its efforts toward internationalization is evident in more than just figures. Freie Universität Berlin has been ranked at or near the top for years by the major exchange organizations, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and the Fulbright Commission.

### Top Destination for International Students

All of this makes the university one of the most popular German universities for international students. Some 600 young people from abroad studied at Freie Universität in 2010 thanks to scholarships from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), more than at any other German university. The university also took top billing nationwide in terms of the number of German students who received DAAD scholarships to go abroad in 2010, some 400. Freie Universität Berlin is also a top destination – including in comparison to the other eight designated universities of



Number of DAAD scholarships at German Excellence universities in 2010  
 Scholarships for foreigners  
 Scholarships for Germans

Source: DAAD

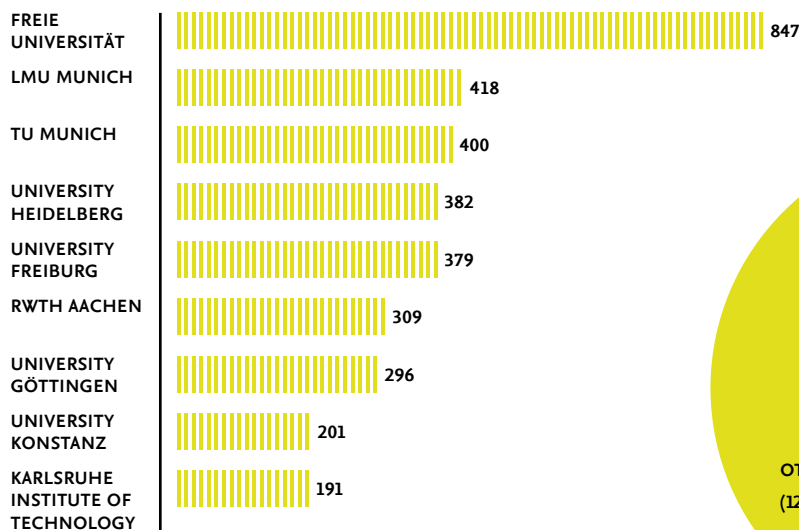
*Freie Universität Berlin maintains about 80 **direct exchange programs** with partner higher education institutions worldwide. In these programs, each partner institution offers the same number of study placements. The university focuses in particular on institutions in the United States, with about 40 agreements in place.*

excellence in Germany 2011 – for students who receive funding under the European Union’s ERASMUS mobility program.

In light of these developments, the number of international students at Freie Universität Berlin has risen accordingly. There are currently almost 4,000 students enrolled at the university based on educational qualifications earned outside Germany. That means nearly one in seven of the university’s 28,500 students is from abroad, with figures even higher among doctoral candidates, at almost one in four – and rising.

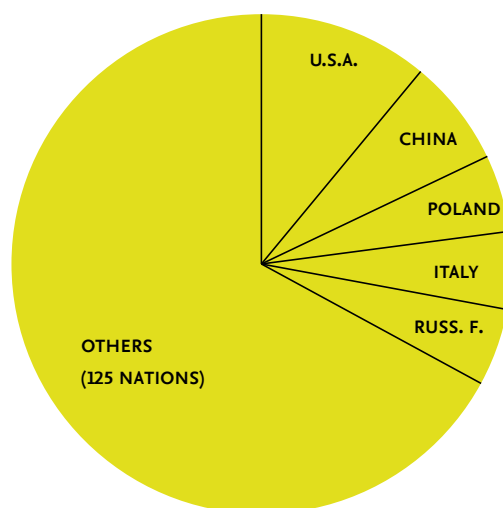
### Paths Abroad, Paths to Berlin

Students from Freie Universität who wish to gain international experience have a number of options, as do young people from other countries who wish to study at Freie Universität. There are as many different ways to go abroad as there are to come to Berlin: Students can apply to one of the many direct exchange programs in place, programs run by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the Fulbright Program, or ERASMUS, the European Union’s action program for university exchanges.



Source: NA-DAAD

Number of ERASMUS students at German Excellence Universities during the winter semester 2009/2010



U.S.A. = 11 %, China = 7 %, Poland = 5 %, Italy = 5 %, Russian Federation = 5 %, others (125 Nations) = 66 %

Source: Freie Universität Berlin

International students at Freie Universität in 2010/2011 according to their country of origin



### **The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)**

offers more than 100 programs to provide funding to students, graduates, and scholars and scientists from Germany and abroad. The **Fulbright Commission**, named for the American senator J. William Fulbright, awards partial and full scholarships to German scholars and scientists, students, and teachers. Students of modern foreign languages and literatures and students enrolled in teaching credential (Lehramt) programs in other disciplines as well as student teachers can apply to the **Pädagogischer Austauschdienst**, operated by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany, to spend one school year working as foreign language assistant teachers at educational institutions abroad, thereby acquiring practical experience. There are also a number of other exchange programs for students and scholars beyond those mentioned here.

**ERASMUS study abroad placements** are available to students from Freie Universität Berlin. Every single academic department at the university participates in the ERASMUS program. Since 2007, Freie Universität Berlin has also been involved in the ERASMUS Mundus Action 2 scholarship program, which builds cooperative arrangements between higher education institutions based in EU countries and those outside the EU. These arrangements also foster the exchange of undergraduate and graduate students, doctoral candidates, scholars, and scientists.

The **PROMOS mobility program** operated by the German Academic Exchange Service awards scholarships for up to six months abroad. This program aims to offer opportunities to go abroad for students and doctoral candidates whose projects or destinations do not fit with any of the structured programs offered by the DAAD or through the ERASMUS program. The scholarships are awarded by Freie Universität Berlin in a merit-based selection process.



**Flora Suen from Sydney in Australia is doing a Masters degree in Public History.**

The university's **Career Service** serves as a clearinghouse for job postings and offers a large number of ways to complete internships abroad, within both private businesses and international organizations. Students from Freie Universität can also complete internships at the liaison offices of Freie Universität, where they can put their own familiarity with the university to work directly in answering questions from local students.

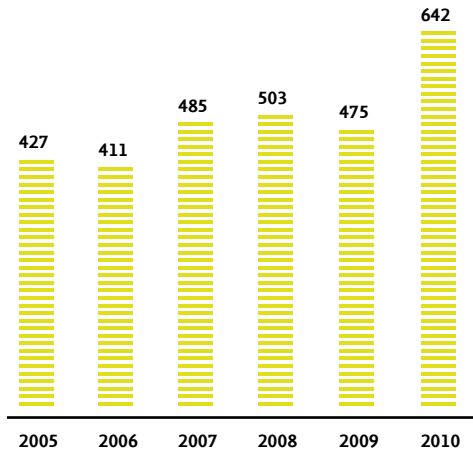
*I chose Freie Universität because of its teaching profile: a handful of authors of texts that I have read about Modern German History actually teach here. Many of the academic colloquia and symposia that take place here are held in English, and that was particularly attractive for me. I also like the interdisciplinary aspect of my degree, with its emphasis on historical studies plus a dash of sociology and cultural studies and a spoonful of information technology: we learn how to design websites or to structure press releases. The fact that Freie Universität is tucked away in a relatively more open space in Berlin is also pleasant. Plus there is a vegetarian dining hall on campus, which is incredible. I do not know any other university in Germany that offers that.*

## Short Term International Academic Programs

Freie Universität Berlin offers special short-term programs of the highest academic quality for students and graduates from abroad. These programs give participants their first taste of German language and culture, promote acquisition and practice of intercultural skills, and offer courses in the humanities and social sciences.

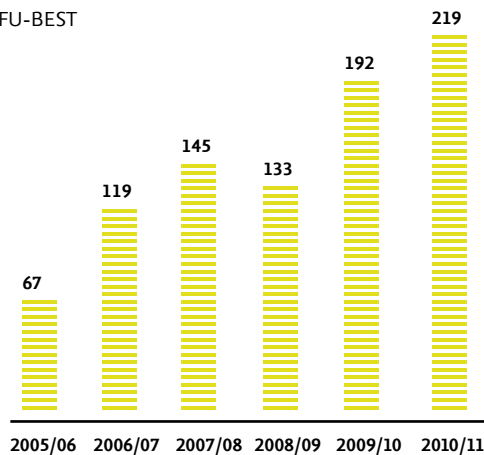
*The international summer and winter university FUBiS offers six-week programs at three different times. Along with five levels of German courses, participants take courses in specific disciplines. These courses alone bring about 500 students to Freie Universität Berlin each year from more than 60 countries, making them the largest multidisciplinary programs of their kind in Germany.*

Participants of FUBiS



*Another one-semester academic program at Freie Universität is aimed specifically at students from North America. The **Berlin European Studies FU-BEST** program offers comprehensive German courses and courses in specific disciplines. Most of them are held in English, such as classes on German and European history, literature, theatre, and political science.*

Participants of FU-BEST



Source: Freie Universität Berlin

The FUBiS and FU-BEST programs have received the quality seal of the American Forum on Education Abroad.

Six Ivy League universities joined with Freie Universität Berlin to form the **Berlin Consortium for German Studies**. While studying at Freie Universität Berlin for one or two semesters, American program participants deepen their subject-specific knowledge and language skills and gain intercultural skills through a fully integrated study program conducted in the local language. Each year, 30 to 40 undergraduates come to Freie Universität from the United States with this program. In return, students from Freie Universität are given the opportunity to study at one of the American partner universities on a full scholarship for an academic year. The partner institutions are Columbia University including its Barnard College, the University of Chicago, Cornell University, Johns Hopkins University, the University of Pennsylvania, and Princeton University. Vassar College and the University of Notre Dame are associated members of the program. More than 600 students have participated since the start of this challenging academic program.

## Exchange Programs with the United States

The close historical ties that exist between Freie Universität and the United States are evident in a number of ways, including the special exchange programs that exist between leading American universities and Freie Universität. These include the Berlin Program for Advanced German Studies, the Berlin Consortium for German Studies, the University of California Education Abroad Program, and the Duke University Study Abroad Program.

Each year, the **Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies** awards ten or eleven scholarships to North American doctoral candidates as well as postdoctoral researchers studying topics in the social sciences and humanities with a particular connection to Germany and Europe. Funding is awarded to current and historical comparative and interdisciplinary projects. Fellows in the program do research for ten to twelve months in Berlin, using the resources of academic institutions in the city. During the lecture-free periods, they can also use libraries and archives in other parts of Germany and elsewhere in Europe. Doctoral candidates and postdocs from U.S. and Canadian universities are eligible to apply; the cooperation partner in North America is the German Studies Association. To date, about 250 scholars have benefited from the program, which was launched in 1986. The program contributes to strengthening Freie Universität's ties with North American researchers. During the summer of 2011, the Berlin program celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with an alumni conference.



**Ana-Nicoletta Bondar came to Freie Universität Berlin from the University of California at Irvine. She is a professor of theoretical molecular biophysics.**

For our research, we use computer simulations to understand complex biomolecular systems – a field of research that bridges the gap between physics, chemistry, biology, and computer science. The spectrum of research performed within the Department of Physics at Freie Universität, with its outstanding focus on experimental biophysics and the Dahlem Center for Complex Quantum Systems, offers unique opportunities for successful cooperation among scientists.

The **Education Abroad Program (EAP)** of the **University of California (UC)** organizes programs for students from the university's various locations in California, such as Los Angeles, Berkeley, and Irvine, to come to Berlin and Potsdam and attend program-specific seminars and regular seminars at the host university. The UC system maintains an office at Freie Universität to assist exchange students from California. In return, the University of California offers 25 exchange placements per year for students from Freie Universität. This makes the UC system Freie Universität's most important partner for student exchanges with the U.S.



**Jutta Eming, a professor of medieval literature, came to Freie Universität Berlin from the Vancouver campus of the University of British Columbia.**

Research in medieval studies takes place at the international level – I found that out early on during my studies. In the meantime, I have been able to take North America as an example and get to know international conventions in teaching, organization of academic activities, and academic life, which I have felt to be tremendously enriching. I strongly urge students to make use of the outstanding exchange opportunities offered at Freie Universität. I enjoyed excellent working conditions in Canada. The major factors in my decision to return to Germany were the highly developed research landscape in Berlin, which is found nowhere else, and the opportunity to work within collaborative projects, along with the prospect that Freie Universität would support me in my efforts to maintain international contacts now and in the future.

**Duke University**, located in Durham, North Carolina, has an office at Freie Universität, where it advises students in its **Study Abroad Program**. The students have the opportunity to take classes at Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, and Technische Universität Berlin. Duke University offers special course modules for its program students, and it is also possible for them to participate in the regular courses offered at these three universities in Berlin.

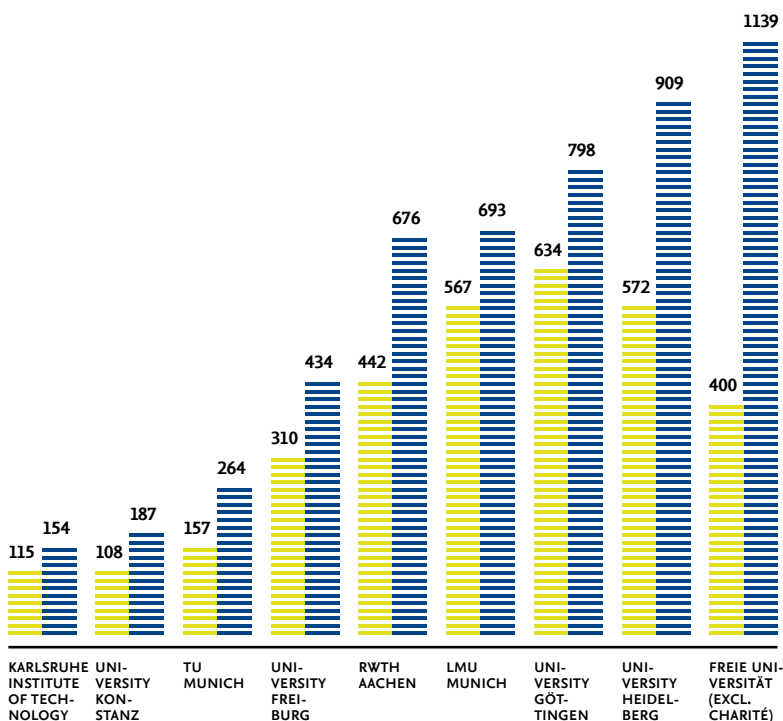


## OUTSTANDING CONDITIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR SCHOLARS AND SCIENTISTS

Networking in research – both internationally and across disciplines – is one of the core principles underlying Freie Universität's current research activities and its strategy for the future. The objective is to recruit the best doctoral candidates, scholars, and scientists from all over the world. To that end, Freie Universität has developed bilateral and internationally oriented doctoral programs in recent years that offer excellent working conditions for doctoral candidates from abroad. Participating junior scholars and scientists benefit from the wide range of regional research pursued both at Freie Universität and elsewhere in the Berlin-Brandenburg area, which is home to a large number of research institutions. They have access to excellent libraries and archives and are integrated into national and international research programs here. At the same time, there are many opportunities for program participants to make contact with international scholars and scientists.

The percentage of doctorates awarded to international students rose from about 15 percent in 2007 to nearly 20 percent in 2010. One in ten scholars at the university is now a citizen of a country other than Germany. In terms of the number of recipients of funding from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, which operates the largest program to invite top international scholars to Germany, Freie Universität is the most popular university for the period from 2007 to 2011.

Doctoral candidates from abroad  
at German Excellence Universities  
in 2005 and 2011



Source: Wissenschaft weltoffen (DAAD/HIS)



**Siyu Chen, a native of Beijing, is completing a doctorate in the Department of Law.**

*I first came to Freie Universität for two semesters, in 2008, via a direct exchange program with Peking University. I felt right at home here at the time. The faculty and staff take special care to support international students. What I especially like is the many additional services Freie Universität offers to doctoral candidates. I can check books out from a number of different reference libraries, for example, and I have my own spot reserved for me at the library. Doctoral studies may be a bit different from undergraduate studies, but I still need support and guidance as a foreign doctoral candidate. I get that in a variety of ways here, including in colloquia that deal with the topic of earning a doctorate in Germany.*

### Junior Talent from China

One highly successful example of the university's efforts to recruit qualified junior scientists and scholars is its work with the China Scholarship Council (CSC). As part of a special program sponsored by the Chinese government, the CSC awards about 6,000 foreign scholarships each year to Chinese doctoral candidates, most of them from the top 50 universities in China.

Since 2008, Freie Universität has also maintained a special partnership with the China Scholarship Council that makes it easier to recruit qualified junior scholars and scientists from China for doctoral programs at Freie Universität. Professors from all of the university's academic departments provide available doctoral placements, the Beijing office of Freie Universität organizes the communication efforts surrounding available study placements and the selection of candidates, and the CSC then generally awards scholarships if the candidates are able to present a good doctoral project. Scholarship recipients can decide whether to participate as "sandwich candidates," doing research at their home universities during the first and final years of the doctoral program and traveling to Berlin for two years in between, or whether they wish to complete a full four-year doctoral program in Berlin. Thanks to this program, the number of doctoral candidates from China at Freie Universität Berlin has risen from 24 during the 2006/2007 winter semester to 170 in the 2011/2012 winter semester.

### Scientists from Brazil

In September 2011, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) signed a partnership with the Brazilian funding organizations CAPES and CNPq, with the aim of allowing up to 30,000 Brazilian undergraduates and doctoral candidates per year to study abroad. Freie Universität is participating in this partnership in hopes of bringing highly qualified doctoral candidates to Freie Universität from Brazil with government-sponsored scholarships. Unlike the CSC program, the Brazilian program offers scholarships only for students of natural sciences and engineering. The doctoral study placements offered by Freie Universität for applicants from the Brazilian program are posted on an online platform operated by the DAAD as well as being advertised extensively by the university's own liaison office in São Paulo. The available options include study abroad programs lasting up to four years and covering a full doctoral program at Freie Universität along with one- or two-year research programs as part of doctoral programs operated by the student's home institution in Brazil.

### Short-term Scholarships for Doctoral Candidates

With its seven liaison offices around the world, the Center for International Cooperation (CIC) supports the university's efforts to recruit excellent doctoral candidates and junior scholars and scientists. Professors from Freie Universität can invite international students to come to the university for up to three months on a trial scholarship in order to see whether the candidates are suitable for doctoral programs and then work with successful candidates to develop joint scholarship or grant applications. More than 60 talented young people came to the university this way between 2009 and 2011.

Professors at Freie Universität can also apply for short-term scholarships and grants for their doctoral students from Berlin to spend up to three months abroad doing research, provided that these stays serve to advance existing cooperative structures or to pave the way for new research projects with foreign institutions.

### DAHLEM RESEARCH SCHOOL

Dahlem Research School (DRS) functions as a center for the promotion of junior scholars and scientists. It is responsible for developing strategies to provide doctoral candidates and postdoctoral researchers with optimum support at Freie Universität. DRS also serves as the framework that encompasses the outstanding structured doctoral programs with an international focus offered by Freie Universität.

Candidates who write their dissertations as part of this kind of structured program benefit from additional financial support options, interdisciplinary courses that teach key skills for working in academia and the sciences or other professions, and systematic support in planning their future careers. The Welcome Center offers services geared specifically to international doctoral students, with activities and events including week-

The structured doctoral programs offered at Dahlem Research School are in high demand by students from abroad.

long orientation programs for newly admitted foreign doctoral students. The structured doctoral programs offered at Dahlem Research School take a number of different forms.

### International Research Training Groups

The international research training groups funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) offer educational programs in cooperation with one foreign university or several universities abroad. These groups typically admit ten to fifteen doctoral



Freie Universität is one of the most popular destinations in Germany for students and doctoral candidates from abroad.

The university offers various kinds of support for students and doctoral candidates in finding career options.



candidates every three years for a program of interdisciplinary study on a particular research topic. Freie Universität maintains research training groups with universities in Copenhagen, Mexico City, and Hyderabad, India, all of which set new standards in offering international education to junior scholars and scientists.

Offering advanced classes, workshops, and guest presentations as well as extensive individual support, these programs are specifically tailored to the needs of doctoral candidates and open up both direct access to the latest research and opportunities to connect with the research community early on, at both the national and international levels.

### **Graduate Schools**

As part of the Excellence Initiative sponsored by the German government to support top-quality academic research, a number of outstanding graduate schools were established at higher education institutions in Germany. These schools support doctoral candidates in a variety of ways, both personally and professionally.

Freie Universität is home to five graduate schools that were awarded excellence status in the Excellence Initiative: Friedrich Schlegel Graduate School, Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies, Graduate School of North American Studies, Berlin-Brandenburg School for Regenerative Therapies, and Berlin Mathematical School.

### **International Max Planck Research Schools**

Another model used to provide a structured doctoral education takes the form of International Max Planck Research Schools, which are set up as cooperative ventures between universities and Max Planck Institutes. Freie Universität is involved in three International Max Planck Research Schools (IMPRS):



- IMPRS for Complex Surfaces in Material Science (Fritz Haber Institute of the Max Planck Society in cooperation with Freie Universität Berlin and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin),
- IMPRS for the Life Course: Evolutionary and Ontogenetic Dynamics (Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin, in cooperation with Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, the University of Michigan, and the University of Virginia),
- IMPRS for Infectious Diseases and Immunology (Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology in cooperation with Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, and Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, a joint corporation of Freie Universität and Humboldt-Universität).

*The International Research Training Group “Between Spaces. Movements, Actors and Representations of Globalization” is aimed at highly qualified doctoral candidates in the social sciences and cultural studies. The group focuses on the movements between various regions of the world, with particular attention to Latin America, and on the new spaces created by these movements throughout the history of globalization, right up to the present day. The German partners include Freie Universität, along with the institutes of Romance languages and literatures at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and the University of Potsdam, and the Ibero-American Institute. On the Mexican side, there are five partners involved. Starting in 2012, Columbia University is also one of the partners offering research and study abroad opportunities for doctoral candidates within this program.*



**Jörg Aschenbach came to Freie Universität Berlin from the University of Vienna. He is a professor at the Institute of Veterinary Physiology.**

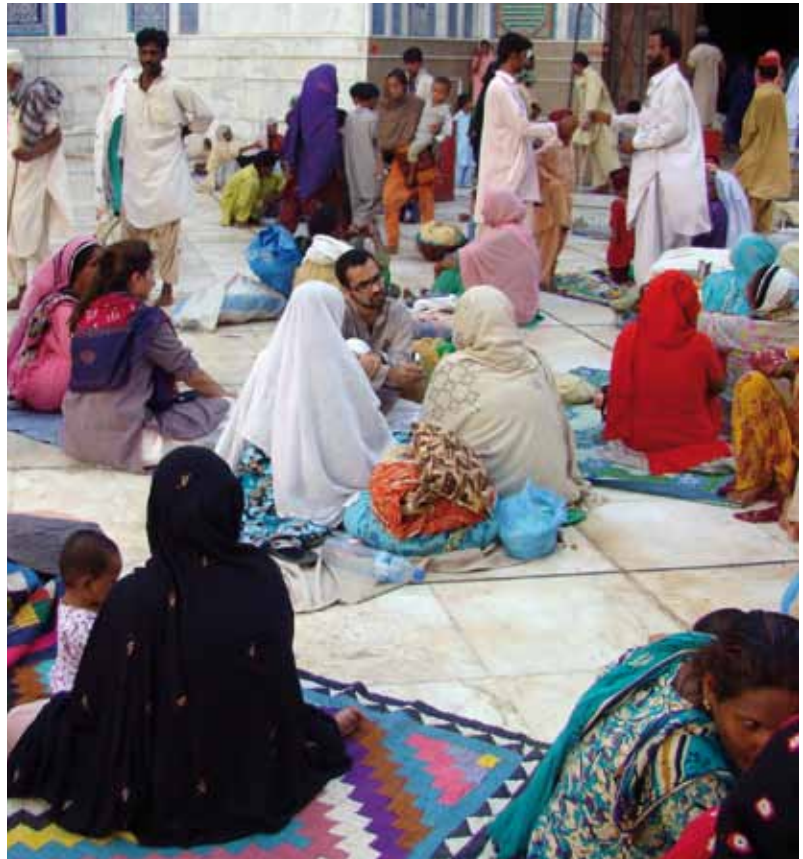
*I have been given a gift at the institute: I get to work with an extremely capable, motivated team. There are now seven postdocs in my group, and the number of doctoral candidates is also growing steadily. At the university level, the things I notice most are excellence, a culture of networking, and internationality. I believe the international atmosphere at the university is both the result of a well-structured foreign policy, if you will, by the university and the product of its excellence in itself. Here in Berlin, I receive more inquiries regarding cooperation and education from abroad than ever before. Nearly a third of my colleagues were born outside Germany. We also have an outstanding applicant pool. I myself have seen an excellent first group of students come through their exams. After all, a university's excellence is defined by a number of factors – and the excellence of its graduates is certainly one of the major ones.*

Dahlem Research School is also home to a number of additional structured doctoral programs affiliated with research clusters or collaborative research centers, all of which focus in particular on an international approach.

### **Fellowships for International Postdoctoral Candidates**


In 2011, Dahlem Research School began offering a special support program for international postdocs. Each year, the new program, Postdoc International Fellowship (POINT), allows five outstanding scholars and scientists from other countries to work academically within one of the Focus Areas – special interdisciplinary research alliances – at Freie Universität for a maximum of two years. During that time, POINT fellows are expected to develop their research projects to the point of being ready to apply for funding and then to raise funds for them.

To offer postdocs an incentive to return after spending time abroad, Freie Universität also plans to establish a new program called the ReGain Fellowship. The new program will offer opportunities for three scholars a year to continue their research at Freie Universität. As with POINT fellowships, the maximum term of funding under this program will be two years.



Freie Universität's close research ties with institutions around the world open many possibilities for research. In the photo, a doctoral student is conducting interviews with believers on pilgrimage to a shrine in Pakistan.

# GUESTS FROM ABROAD – COMMITMENT WORLDWIDE



Freie Universität Berlin has always been a center of intellectual exchange across borders. This atmosphere is due in no small measure to the many people from all of the world's regions who regularly visit the university as scholars, researchers, intellectuals, artists and performers, government guests, or politicians. The expertise of academics from Freie Universität is sought after beyond Germany's borders – they advise governments and are involved in projects all over the world.

## A PLACE OF INTELLECTUAL IMPULSES

Through their efforts, and through lectures, talks, and encounters with others, figures from all over the world have inspired others and left a lasting mark on academic life at Freie Universität and the spirit of Freie Universität as a cosmopolitan institution, often with effects reaching far beyond the university itself. Freie Universität Berlin was born to this stimulating international atmosphere, in a way: Back when the university was founded, on December 4, 1948, it already had its first guest – the American writer Thornton Wilder. In a speech delivered before an audience of 2,000 at the Titania-Palast in Berlin's Steglitz district, the three-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize was visibly moved, predicting that the young university would grow and develop with participation from abroad, and that its path would be followed with pride. Then, in 1950, the German émigré Paul Hindemith, a professor of composition at Yale University, became the first visiting instructor at Freie Universität. Just 13 years later, President John F. Kennedy honored the university with his visit. In his speech on June 26, 1963, he said that Freie Universität had been called upon to educate “citizens of the world,” which he explained as people “who are willing to commit their energies to the advancement of a free society.” Freie Universität has maintained that same sense of openness and curiosity, pioneering new developments, and international intellectual life right up to the present day.



### Visionary Political Economist

Paul Krugman, a professor of economics at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University, has had close ties to Freie Universität Berlin for many years. The winner of the Nobel Prize in Economics in 2008, Krugman was granted an honorary doctorate from Freie Universität Berlin in 1998 and is a frequent guest in Dahlem. Presentations by the insightful analyst and columnist of the *New York Times* always meet with broad public interest.



### Seminars Led by a Nobel Laureate

In 1999 and 2000, the Japanese writer and Nobel laureate in literature Kenzaburō Ōe gave students at Freie Universität Berlin insight into his work. The holder of the Samuel Fischer Visiting Professorship taught at the Peter Szondi Institute of Comparative Literature of Freie Universität Berlin. The visiting professorship was later held by authors including Yann Martel, Feridun Zaimoglu, Nuruddin Farah, Raoul Schrott, Richard Powers, Sara Stridsberg, and Adam Thirlwell.



### Sunshine Policy

South Korean president Kim Dae-jung, speaking at Freie Universität in March 2000, called for reconciliation and cooperation between his country and North Korea. His “Berlin Declaration” was broadcast to Korea on Korean television. Three months later – 55 years after the partition of Korea – the very first summit was held between North and South Korea. In 2007, Freie Universität honored Kim, who had been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, with its own international Freedom Award.





### **In the Spirit of the United Nations**

In July 2001, Freie Universität granted an honorary doctorate to Kofi Annan, then the Secretary-General of the United Nations. In his acceptance speech, Annan highlighted the university's emphatic commitment to working with universities in other countries, especially developing countries. This, he said, was "entirely in the spirit of the United Nations." For that reason, Annan continued, he felt he was "among spiritual kindred souls, among friends."



### **World-class Men of Letters in Dahlem**

In May 2007, the Turkish author and Nobel laureate in literature Orhan Pamuk was granted an honorary doctorate from Freie Universität. The Department of Philosophy and Humanities recognized Pamuk as an "exceptional figure in world literature." The department has also granted honorary doctorates to other figures, including literary critic Marcel Reich-Ranicki and writers Imre Kertész, Günter Grass, Carlos Fuentes, Cees Nooteboom, and Umberto Eco.



### **Thinking Freedom**

The American philosopher Judith Butler gave a widely acclaimed talk at Freie Universität Berlin in February 2009. Butler, a scholar from the University of California, spoke for that year's Hegel Lecture, organized by the Dahlem Humanities Center at Freie Universität. The annual event, which generates widespread public interest, has also brought other leading intellectuals, such as André Glucksmann, Slavoj Žižek, and Homi Bhabha to Freie Universität Berlin.



### **Fighting to End Apartheid**

In July 2009, Freie Universität honored the South African archbishop and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Desmond Tutu with the international Freedom Award. In a statement, the university called Tutu an outstanding role model for his nonviolent commitment to ending apartheid and commended him for his priceless service to the cause of human rights and the ideal of liberty. The address was delivered by German education minister Professor Annette Schavan.



### **Warning of Downfall**

The president of the Republic of Maldives, Mohamed Nasheed, held a talk at Freie Universität in March 2010 in which he urged the international community of nations to reduce emissions of environmentally harmful carbon dioxide – quickly, and drastically. "We are out of time; our very existence is at stake," said Nasheed, the head of government in the world's lowest-lying nation, which is made up of about 1,200 islands.



### **From New York to Berlin**

The American political scientist Nancy Fraser, of the New School for Social Research, in New York, started her Einstein Visiting Fellowship at the Graduate School of North American Studies of Freie Universität Berlin in 2011. Nancy Fraser, one of the worldwide most influential intellectuals, is working in Berlin with a group of junior scholars from various countries on the topic of crisis in American democracy.

## COMMITMENT AND GLOBAL INVOLVEMENT

In a world that is growing ever closer together, the idea of responsibility is taking on a whole new dimension. Conserving our natural resources and demonstrating a commitment to social justice or improving educational opportunities are no longer matters for individual nations to tackle alone. Freie Universität believes that it has a global responsibility to uphold – in its academic work, in the education it provides to its students, and in its commitment to academic freedom.

### Award for Dedication to Freedom



The former German Federal President Richard von Weizsäcker congratulated the former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, upon her conferral of the international Freedom Award awarded by Freie Universität Berlin.

Freie Universität is the first university in Germany to join the international Scholars at Risk Network, which offers temporary refuge to scholars who face human rights violations in their home countries. Each year, the university will offer researchers whose academic freedom has been curtailed the opportunity to visit for several months. In 2007, Freie Universität also inaugurated its international Freedom Award, which is granted to people who have made outstanding contributions to the cause of freedom, whether politically, socially, or in academia.

The recipients of the Freedom Award include two Nobel Peace Prize laureates: former South Korean president Kim Dae-jung and South African archbishop Desmond Tutu. Another recipient is former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and former Irish president Mary Robinson, who worked to make protecting human rights a part of all UN policies.

### Helping Democracy

Through its international liaison offices, Freie Universität maintains particularly close ties with its partners abroad, allowing it to respond quickly to current developments. At the university's liaison office in Cairo, for example, Freie Universität has teamed up with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the Orient-Institut Beirut to organize discussion series and seminars on current political developments in connection with the "Arab Spring." In workshops, conferences, and exchange visits, scholars and researchers pass along their experience and expertise on the subjects of gender fairness and gender equality in higher education. Student representatives from the University of Cairo learn about student co-determination and democratic university structures in Berlin.

### Support for Academic Management

Freie Universität participates in the Dialogue on Innovative Higher Education Strategies (DIES) organized by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the German Rectors' Conference, a program that supports higher education institutions in developing countries in developing strategies for university management, quality assurance, and study

Researchers are dedicated to global problems, such as the water shortage in certain areas as here in Ethiopia.



programs. Starting in 2009, deans from developing universities have been coming to Freie Universität each year to learn about best practice examples in higher education reform and management. As part of the program, scholars and members of the university management of Freie Universität also hold workshops all over the world on how to manage research projects or write applications for funding, aimed at alumni of Freie Universität from the Middle East, East Africa, and Central and Southeast Asia who work at academic and scientific institutions in these regions. Freie Universität also offers continuing education seminars in the field of internationalization for foreign universities.

### **Quality Standards in Teaching Activities**

Freie Universität is also involved in teaching activities at an international level. Scholars from the Environmental Policy Research Centre (FFU) and the Department of Earth Sciences, for example, provide support in developing master's degree programs in water management at Kazakh-German University, in Almaty, Kazakhstan, Kenyatta University, in Nairobi, Kenya, and Kyrgyz State National University, in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. This development program receives funding from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the Volkswagen Foundation. Earth scientist and vice president of Freie Universität Brigitta Schütt and other scholars from the university also visit these regions, along with China and India, several times each year to hold guest lectures and organize summer school programs.

## Experts in Demand

Researchers from Freie Universität advise governments and are also involved in many projects of capacity building worldwide. This section cites a few examples.

Hydrogeologist **Michael Schneider** from the Department of Geosciences works on questions related to the water cycle and production of drinking water. Together with his colleagues at Freie Universität Berlin, Schneider works with the Water and Environment Center at Sana'a University, located in the Yemeni capital. The goal is to collect rainwater for use as groundwater and drinking water in Yemen, which has a desert climate in some regions and heavy rainfall in others.

Professor **Hansjörg Dilger** heads the Medical Anthropology Thematic Cluster at Freie universität Berlin, representing a discipline, still relatively new in Germany that deals with the multifaceted relationships between health, society, politics, and culture. Medical anthropology scholars at Freie Universität focus in particular on issues related to HIV/AIDS in Africa.

The expertise of scholars from Freie Universität Berlin who study issues related to climate, energy, and the environment is sought after all over the world. That includes the director of the Environmental Policy Research Centre (FFU), the American-born **Miranda Schreurs**. In 2008, Schreurs, a professor of comparative political science, was appointed to the German Advisory Council on the Environment, making her – like her colleague at Freie Universität, European and environmental law scholar **Christian Calliess** – one of the nine members of the council, which was founded by the German federal government in 1971. After the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster in Japan in March 2011, Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel appointed Schreurs to serve on the German government's newly established ethics commission for dealing with safety issues and the energy supply.

**Martin Jänicke**, a political scientist and the founding director of the Environmental Policy Research Centre (FFU) at Freie Universität, was appointed in 2011 to serve on a panel to advise the Chinese government on issues of environmental protection and conservation. The team of experts, which is tasked with developing an action plan to limit pollution and environmental degradation in China and submitting its proposals to the State Council, the chief administrative authority of the PRC, comprises six Chinese scholars and six from the West. Together with Jänicke, **Ulrich Cubasch**, a professor of interactions in the climate system at the Institute of Meteorology at Freie Universität, is one of the two main players in the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The fifth report is being written by three groups of authors and is scheduled for publication between 2013 and 2014. Since 1990, Cubasch has contributed to all the reports published by the IPCC, which shared the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007 with former U.S. vice president Al Gore.

In many regions around the world, girls and women are still not allowed to live confident, independent lives and fully participate in society. Education specialist **Heather Cameron** champions their cause – under the motto “courage requires security.” In 2005, Cameron, a British/Canadian citizen, founded the nonprofit association “Boxgirls Berlin,” which teaches girls and young women to defend themselves and others through the art of boxing while helping them to develop self-confidence and encourages them to take on responsibility and develop leadership skills. Cameron, now a junior professor of inclusive education, has expanded the initiative, founding Boxgirls Nairobi in 2007 and Boxgirls Cape Town in 2009.



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