

# INSIGHT

into Bielefeld University



research



teach



study

## Bielefeld University

Research, teaching, and studying on an interdisciplinary, communicative, and inspiring campus.

→ [www.uni-bielefeld.de](http://www.uni-bielefeld.de)

→ interdisciplinary

→ innovative

→ international

## Bielefeld University

Bielefeld University – founded in 1969 – hosts 13 faculties covering a range of subjects in the humanities, natural sciences, social sciences, and technology. As an internationally oriented university, it combines a strong focus on research with a particular emphasis on top-quality teaching. More than 22,000 students are enrolled in more than 100 different course options, and the University employs approximately 2,750 staff, including 1,600 academic researchers and teachers.

## Transcending Boundaries

The founding mission and still practiced to the full: Interdisciplinarity – theory and research that goes beyond disciplinary borders – is the basis of Bielefeld University's success. 'Transcending Boundaries' is how it describes its successful approach to strengthening innovative, top-ranking research by taking multiple perspectives and overcoming the boundaries between both disciplines and academic cultures in a problem-focused way. The university has a strong tradition of communication networks, scope for individuality and creativity, reflection, learning through research, and lateral thinking. This is all reflected in its unusual architecture that encourages innovative ideas and unconventional approaches. After more than 45 years, Bielefeld University is still committed to its role as a reform university.



## research

Interdisciplinary top-ranking research: internationally networked and recognized throughout the world.

→ [www.uni-bielefeld.de/research](http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/research)

Molecular and Nano Sciences

Theories and Methodologies in the Humanities and Social Sciences

Theoretical Sciences

Interactive Intelligent Systems

Human Development, Conflict and Violence

MAIN RESEARCH AREAS

## Top level research

In relevant and focused areas covering the humanities and social sciences along with the natural and engineering sciences, Bielefeld University is one of the top research universities in Germany.

Five main research fields are committed to carrying out research and promoting young academics on a top international level within the framework of first-class interdisciplinary collaborative research projects, central academic institutes, and systematic individual funding. The university's exceptional research performance is underlined in a host of ways by, for example, the Excellence Initiative (Cluster, Graduate School), Collaborative Research Centres (SFB), DFG Research Units, ERC grants, Heisenberg Professorships, and participation in the German Federal Ministry of Research and Education's 'it's OWL' technology network.

Bielefeld University's research strengths are confirmed regularly in rankings such as the German Research Foundation's (DFG) Funding Atlas, the Centre for Higher Education's CHE Research Ranking, or the Humboldt Rankings of popularity among international visiting academics. In the renowned Times Higher Education World University Rankings (2014), Bielefeld University is Number 51 among the top 100 universities under 50 years old in the world, making it Number 4 in Germany.

### Center for Interdisciplinary Research (ZiF)

Ever since its foundation, Bielefeld University has hosted one of the most renowned and successful institutes for advanced study in the world – the Center for Interdisciplinary Research (ZiF). The ZiF's mission is to promote exclusively cooperative research projects. More than one-half of the academics at the ZiF come from outside of Germany.

→ [www.uni-bielefeld.de/ZiF](http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/ZiF)



## teach

Innovative structures and projects, platforms for exchanging information, a wide range of further training options, and an inspiring teaching climate.

→ [www.uni-bielefeld.de/teach](http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/teach)

## Networked Teaching

Teaching at Bielefeld University is characterized by a broad, differentiated, and interdisciplinary range of highly networked courses. What makes it so special is the way in which numerous combinations are possible within a standard Bachelor degree programme framework. A broad range of Master's degree programmes, some involving cooperations between several faculties, offer attractive options for studying one subject in more depth or linking together different subjects. The guiding principle is to offer a structure that makes it possible for students to design their own individual study course, that motivates them to become actively involved in their subjects, and that promotes independent learning and academic curiosity. Bielefeld University does not just impart the necessary specialized knowledge for future careers but teaches its students fundamental analytical skills and interdisciplinary competencies. For Bielefeld University, one major precondition for good teaching is to support its highly committed teachers. It does this by actively involving them

in the further development of teaching skills. Bielefeld is a highly innovative university. In 2002, it was one of the first German universities to transform its entire teaching programme into Bachelor's and Master's degrees. Current strategic further developments are focusing on improving the introductory study phase for new students and making its teaching and degree courses international.

## Excellent Teaching

Bielefeld University regularly wins major competitions for its teaching concepts – for example the Exzellente Lehre [Excellence in teaching competition] organized by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder (KMK) together with the Stifterverband or the Quality Pact for Teaching organized by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). A look at the rankings confirms the quality of teaching at Bielefeld University.

Business Administration and Economics

Educational Science

## study

A range of different degree programmes, individually combinable, backed up by service and counselling – all on one modern campus.

→ [www.uni-bielefeld.de/study](http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/study)

Law

Biology

Linguistics and  
Literary Studies

Physics

History, Philosophy  
and Theology

Mathematics

Psychology  
and Sports Science

Technology

Sociology

Chemistry

Health Science

FACULTIES



## Studying in Bielefeld

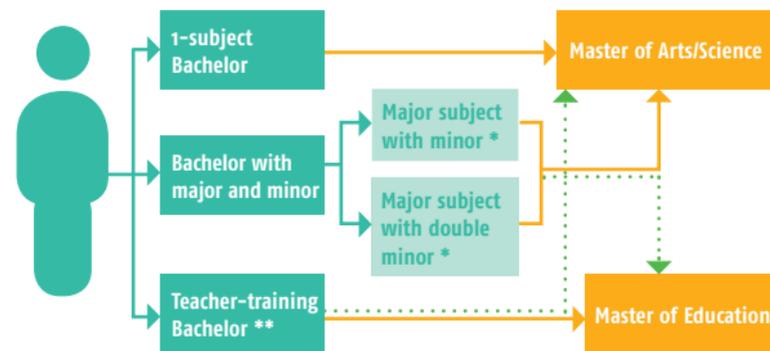
At Bielefeld University, students can choose between a great number of courses. They can concentrate on one single subject, choose a teacher-training course, or put together their own choice of interdisciplinary subjects. Individual subsidiary subjects enable students to pursue their own personal interests. This includes not only the option of spending a semester in another country but also the chance to get involved in research or to start focusing one's studies on a future career at an early stage. A broad range of Master's programmes, some involving cooperations between several faculties, offer attractive options for studying a subject in more depth or linking together different subjects. Bielefeld University is renowned for its innovative teacher training.

The degree programmes are supplemented by comprehensive services and counselling facilities, one of the best university libraries in Germany, a modern study infrastructure, comprehensive lan-

guage courses, and a wide range of university-level sport facilities. The closely interlinked campus buildings encourage students to exchange information, meet each other, and become involved in university life.

Major rankings such as the Centre for Higher Education (CHE) University Ranking repeatedly confirm the quality of studying and teaching at Bielefeld University.

### Study options



\* in addition to chosen major subject  
\*\* 4 different teacher-training options

An aerial photograph of Bielefeld, Germany, showing a dense urban area with red-tiled roofs, green spaces, and a highway on the right. A large green rectangular overlay is positioned on the left side of the image, containing text.

## Living in Bielefeld

A metropolis full of green parks with  
a lively and varied cultural life.

→ [www.bielefeld.de](http://www.bielefeld.de)

## Living on campus

Individual freedom and an easy-going atmosphere simply go hand in hand with the university's unusual architecture. In particular, the central hall's numerous recreational spaces and shopping facilities provide a lively communicative forum for daily university work. A broad range of cultural events and sport facilities offer a break from the lecture hall and the workplace.

University staff with children can enjoy top-quality facilities for balancing family life with their studies or career – the university has repeatedly won prizes for its excellent family services, including the national Familiengerechte Hochschule [family-friendly university] certificate.

Researchers, teachers, post-grads, and students from all over the world contribute to the international flair of the campus.

## Bielefeld

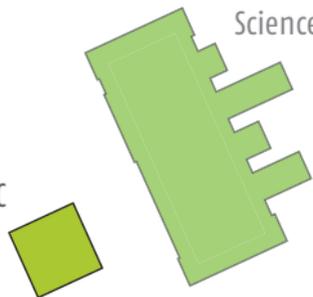
The city of Bielefeld is one of the twenty biggest cities in Germany, with a population of almost 330,000. This lively university city on the edge of the Teutoburg Forest is the region's cultural and intellectual hub. East Westphalia-Lippe is Germany's fifth-largest economic area and the region is home to two million people.



## CAMPUS NORTH

New Extension  
University of Applied  
Sciences Bielefeld

CITEC



Building X

Center for Biotechnology

## CAMPUS SOUTH

Behavioural  
Biology

Section Q

Main building  
Bielefeld University

International guest house

Section H

New Extension  
Experimental Physics

Center for  
Interdisciplinary Research

### Key

 Tram station University (Universität)

 Tram station Wellensiek

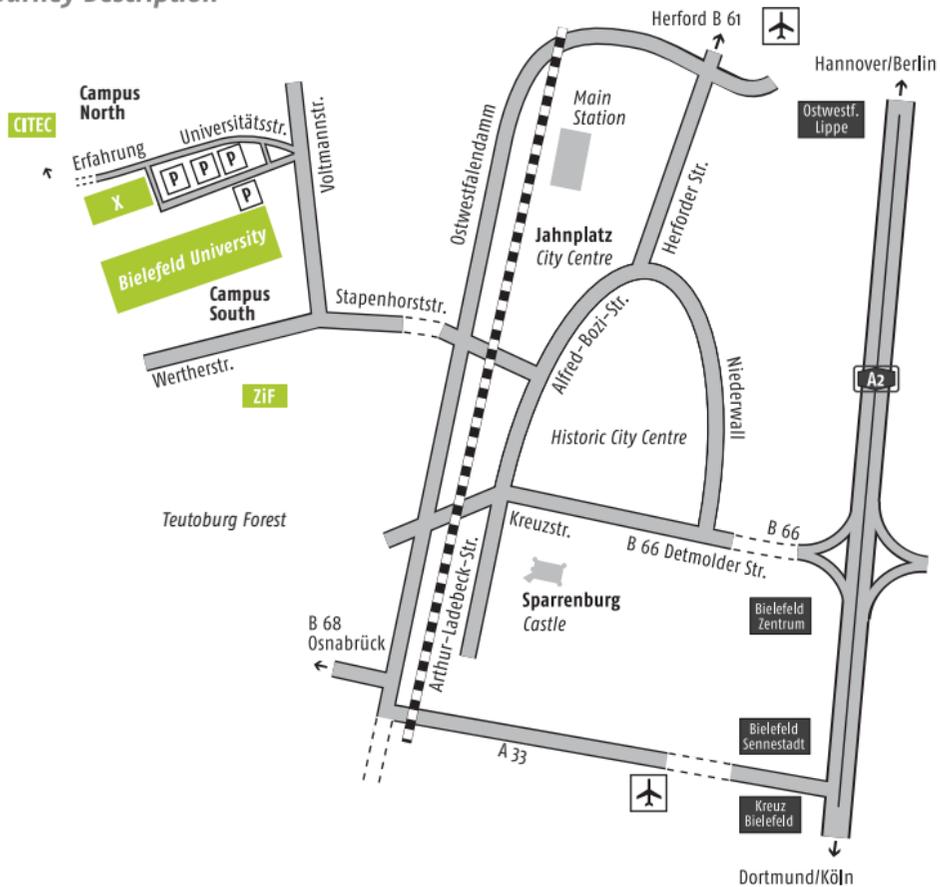
Tram Line No 4 | Direction Lohmannshof



 [www.uni-bielefeld.de/maps](http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/maps)

**SITE PLAN**

## Journey Description





Visualization: Modernization of the main building (competition)

### Building the future – the new campus

By investing more than a billion Euros over the next few years, the state of North Rhine–Westphalia is decisively promoting the future of the university and of Bielefeld as a major academic centre. Ultramodern teaching and research buildings along with a modernized main building provide a perfect context for top–level research, teaching, and studying.

➔ [www.uni-bielefeld.de/building](http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/building) ➔ [www.campus-bielefeld.de](http://www.campus-bielefeld.de)



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Bielefeld University  
Communication Office  
Universitätsstraße 25  
D-33615 Bielefeld  
Tel.: 05 21. 106-41 46  
Fax: 05 21. 106-29 64  
[refkom@uni-bielefeld.de](mailto:refkom@uni-bielefeld.de)

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