

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE RECTORATE
2019

Masthead

Publisher:

University of Bonn
Regina-Pacis-Weg 3
53113 Bonn

Editorial staff:

Dr. Andreas Archut (responsible), Katja Dynewski-Zeimet, Jonas Fehres,
Dr. Anke Peters, Sabine Schäper

Copy-editing:

Tobias Rothenbücher, Bonn

Design:

Bosse und Meinhard Wissen und Kommunikation, Bonn

Photo credits:

Volker Lannert: cover, 10, 14, 15, 18, 22, 23, 24, 26(2), 27, 32, 33, 35, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50(2), 51; Bosse und Meinhard: 5, 8, 12; Benjamin Westhoff: 13; Barbara Frommann: 7, 9, 10, 11, 15, 39; Nickenig: 16; University Hospital Bonn: 16, 33; Colourbox: 17, 36, 43; Jenna Dallwitz: 18; Franziska Ruflair/University of Bonn: 21, Stefan Walheim: 23; Tashatuvango/Colourbox: 29; J. Vogel/LVR-LandesMuseum Bonn: 30; Ed Broughton/University of St Andrews: 34; Dr. Manuela Meraner: 37; Elena Mozhvilo/unsplash: 40; Stifterverband/Kay Herschelmann: 41; Ulrike Eva Klopp: 42; Ivelin Radkov: 44; idw/Rupert Oberhäuser: 51

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RECTORATE 2019



CONTENT

INTRODUCTION BY THE RECTOR	6
THE UNIVERSITY	8
“We are a University of Excellence”	9
The Bonn Innovation Campus	11
Great success in the tenure track program: the University of Bonn welcomes 28 early-career professors	12
United for increased sustainability	13
RESEARCH	14
PERSONALITIES	15
The prestigious Google prize for Matthew Smith	15
The Eugen and Ilse Seibold Prize for Prof. Dr. Köichirō Agata	15
The Humboldt Research Prize for Antonio DeSimone	16
THIRD-PARTY FUNDED PROJECTS	17
Two new Collaborative Research Centers for the University of Bonn	17
A new research group investigating resilience	17
European research funding	18
Funding for the clinical neurosciences from the Hertie Foundation	18
ORGANIZATION	19
The tenth jubilee of the University of Bonn Foundation	19
Research conference 2019	19
Meeting with the Scientific Advisory Board	20
Postdoc day: focusing on career paths and funding	20
Research Data Service Center	20
TRANSFER	22
The University of Bonn extends its transfer activities	22
The validation prize for innovative ship technology	23
TEACHING AND LEARNING	24
The award of the University of Bonn teaching prize	25
Initiative Prize for Digitally Aided Teaching Innovations	26
Recruiting excellent students with funds from the Excellence Strategy	26
The first University of Bonn “FuckUp Night”: doubts in study	27
The NRW digitalization offensive provides funding for digital teaching resources	27
New Campus Management System	28
Digital teaching on eCampus	28
The advance of quality management	29
Digital teaching incorporated in the university teaching qualification	30
A new master's degree program Provenance Research and the History of Collecting	30

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS 32

International partnerships: target countries and strategic partnerships	33
Developing strategic partnerships	33
Regional priorities in international cooperation	34
The international guest house	34
Bonn University Ambassadors	35
A record budget for the Erasmus Program: higher funding awarded to students	36
The establishment of the Central Translation Service	36
The first official delegation sent to Africa by the University of Bonn: Ghana	37
Panel discussion on gender equality in international organizations	38
Alumni Spring School	38
The University of Bonn concluded an agreement with the Bonn Greeters	39

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY 40

The Diversity Audit “Forming Diversity”	41
The Equal Opportunity and Diversity Unit	41
Diversity workshop	41
Diversity Day	42
New funding lines	42
Childcare	42
Program for Women Professors	43
The working group gender-inclusive/gender-neutral language	44
The Anti-Discrimination Complaints Office and the Ombudsperson	45

ADMINISTRATION 46

A comprehensive service for newly-appointed professors	47
Infrastructure	47

KEY FIGURES 52



INTRODUCTION BY THE RECTOR

2019 will be remembered as a special year in the 200-year history of the University of Bonn. 2018 not only saw the University of Bonn celebrate its 200th jubilee; we were also granted more Clusters of Excellence than any other university. The University of Bonn now numbers amongst the eleven universities and university alliances accorded "University of Excellence" status. This is a fantastic success, and represents the fruits of considerable labor on the part of countless individuals in all areas of university life over the past few years. Our university partners also had a vital part to play.

The award of this status represents an important milestone on the way to what promises to be a successful future and a starting point for further success. The University of Bonn was not only the most successful university in Germany within the Excellence Strategy, we were also awarded the greatest number of professorships in the second round of the tenure track program. The cutting-edge research produced at the University of Bonn has maintained our position at the forefront of European research. The leading Shanghai-Ranking 2019 placed us as the 70th leading university in the world.

These developments have given us renewed impetus in the implementation of our collective strategy: "WE invest in people, WE foster networks, WE create impact". The University of Bonn has taken the decision to focus on the people that constitute it and the researchers at every stage of their career who are passionate about their discipline and look to the future. "WE invest in people": We seek to invest in those with innovative ideas and who seek to develop the state of the art. In endowing a range of Hertz-Chairs, Schlegel-Chairs and Argelander-Tenure-Track Professorships we have established new top-quality professorships.

"WE foster networks": one aspect of this strategy is the focus on our six Transdisciplinary Research Areas (TRAs) taking an interdisciplinary approach (incorporating aspects of science, technology and social challenges) to pressing questions of the future, all of which incorporate a Cluster of Excellence. Working with the existing strengths of our faculties and disciplines, we have established new areas of exploration and innovation in which our researchers can work in a truly interdisciplinary manner across subject, faculty and institutional boundaries. One example is the TRA "Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Futures". Much was achieved in the past year in terms of sustainability, above all with our Innovation Campus Bonn (ICB), officially opening last summer. The university management is currently working together closely with all groups in the university structure to develop a "Sustainability Strategy 2030" for research, teaching and university operations. We have also moved to refine and expand our internationalization strategy. For example, in 2019 we were able to extend and strengthen our already close relations with our strategic partners in Waseda, St. Andrews and Melbourne.

One of our core values is diversity; equal opportunity and diversity inform all of our decisions. Another of our core values is the digitalization of research, teaching and university operations, the cause of which has been advanced by our new Digital Science Center Bonn (DiCe).

One issue was of central importance and impact in 2019: the closure of the third floor of the university main building represented but the tip of a very deep iceberg of construction and restoration work. All this acted to make conditions at the University very difficult. Pulling together and in collaboration with our initiative "WE support our palace" with unanimous support from the Senate and University Council,

the university management was able to ensure the planning process for our beloved, in every aspect central university building finally got underway. One thing is clear: as a University of Excellence, we need a clear campus development strategy incorporating both restoration work and new developments.

This represents a key requirement for continued success. Success in a highly competitive and globalized university context means meeting our aim of establishing ourselves as one of the best universities in Germany and Europe by 2026. Our successful 2019 represents the start of this campaign.

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Michael Hoch
The Rector



THE UNIVERSITY

"We are a University of Excellence"

July 19, 2019 will no doubt go down as a turning point in the history of the University of Bonn: the day on which it was awarded the status of a University of Excellence. All associated with the University was filled with pride and a sense of achievement on the day on which the University of Bonn was inducted into the elite circle of "Universities of Excellence", a hand-picked group of 10 further institutions and alliances viewed as the leading institutions of higher education in Germany. Our joy was made complete by the knowledge that following the six Clusters of Excellence awarded in September 2018, the University of Bonn has become the most successful university in the Excellence contest.

The decision was anticipated with great excitement. Rector Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Michael Hoch and several hundred members of the University gathered in a lecture theater on the Poppelsdorf campus to follow the press conference announcing the decision via livestream. The crowd erupted in celebration following the announcement of Bonn as a University of Excellence. Addressing the celebrating crowd, the rector said: "We are a University of Excellence! Today is a milestone in the 200-year history of our University. Our hard work has been rewarded and we were able to convince the jury of the capabilities of our University in a strong field." This represents a great success for the University of Bonn and a big step closer to our goal of establishing and maintaining Bonn amongst the best universities in Germany and Europe.

Rector Hoch thanked everyone whose determination and team spirit contributed to the success. "'We' was the guiding theme of our application for the status of a University of Excellence. We succeeded because we worked together to face the competition. I should like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all researchers,



Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Michael Hoch responding to the decision that Bonn is a university of excellence

deans, students, members of the Rectorate and all employees for their hard work. I should also like to express a debt of gratitude to all our extra-university co-operation partners and our countless supporters in the City of Bonn, the wider region and the state of North Rhine-Westphalia. The success of today reflects on the entire academic region around Bonn and beyond."

2018 already saw the award of six Clusters of Excellence to the University of Bonn across all seven faculties, making it the most successful university in the competition. With our recent successes in the Excellence funding line, the University of Bonn has finally established itself as one of the best research-led universities in Germany. The long-term funding provided to Universities of Excellence started on November 1, 2019. Each University of Excellence is awarded some 105 million euros over seven years. After this period, the institution is subject to an external evaluation.



The Rector Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Michael Hoch and Provost Holger Gottschalk surrounded by students and staff of the University of Bonn

Investing in people, networks and transfers

The centerpiece of the University of Bonn excellence strategy focuses on the triad "WE invest in people, WE foster networks, WE create impact". The University is planning to use the financial support from the "ExStra" to attract top researchers at all stages of their careers and to improve the working conditions for research and research-oriented teaching ("WE invest in people"). The six new Transdisciplinary Research Areas established by the University will number amongst the beneficiaries of this new funding. These interdisciplinary bodies seek both to work across faculty boundaries and with partners outside the university environment to address pressing academic, technological and social challenges. The University will also use funding from the Excellence Initiative to strengthen its regional, national and international networks ("WE foster networks"). Finally, the University seeks to disseminate the findings of its research through knowledge transfer and academic communication to make it more visible and applicable in and across society ("WE create impact").

The architect and motor of our success

The chairperson of the University Council Prof. Dr. Dieter Engels was one of the first to congratulate Rector Hoch: "Bonn's new status as a University of Excellence is owed primarily to Michael Hoch. He is the architect and motor of this success". The Mayor of Bonn, Ashok Sridharan also proffered his personal congratulations: "I should like to offer my warmest congratulations to the University of Bonn for this magnificent success." The funding secured from the Excellence Initiative will benefit not only the University but the city of Bonn as a whole. The University is now in a position to use its new-found status to extend its international reputation and attract the best researchers from over the globe. This will reinforce Bonn's position as an international city and strengthen its status as a region of cutting-edge research. The city undertakes to support the University in all its activities."



Prof. Dr. Dieter Engels (left) and Rector Michael Hoch

The Bonn Innovation Campus

Already the city of the United Nations, Bonn has established itself as a center of sustainability and global change. The University makes a multifaceted contribution to this status, not least through its Transdisciplinary Research Area "Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Futures" also containing the Cluster of Excellence "PhenoRob". The Innovation Campus Bonn (ICB) was established on the initiative of the University of Bonn, working to maintain it in conjunction with a range of prestigious internationally-active partner institutions. The ICB is a joint platform for conducting research into a range of issues pertaining to sustainability and global change. It co-ordinates the work of a range of members, the Center for Development Research (ZEF) at the University of Bonn, the Institute for Environment and Human Security of the United Nations University (UNU-EHS) the International Center for Conversion (BICC), the German Development Institute (Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE) and the Hochschule Bonn-Rhein-Sieg, University of Applied Sciences (H-BRS).

The summer of 2019 saw the arrival of high-ranking guests from government and other political parties, industry, academia and civil society to mark the opening of the Innovation Campus Bonn. The Ministry of Culture and Science of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia provided start-up financing of 1.35 million euros. The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) has also provided financial support for the first large-scale academic project of the ICB, the project "digitainable" with a grant of 500,000 euros. As the Academic Director Prof. Dr. Jakob Rhyner was keen to point out, this public funding enables the ICB to get off to a solid start. Prof. Rhyner told guests that the project "digitainable" would investigate the rapid progress of digitalization and artificial intelligence in terms of sustainable development. The results are intended to enliven and bring objective data to the debates held at the interface between digitalization and sustainability.



Great success in the tenure track program: the University of Bonn welcomes 28 early-career professors

In September 2019, the University of Bonn was awarded funding for 28 tenure track professorships within the scope of the State and Federal government program for funding early-career researchers. This was more than any other university in this round of funding. A tenure track professorship is awarded to particularly well-qualified early-career researchers so that they have the opportunity to work on a qualification post subject to tenure review and in this way reach a regular professorship. This mechanism is designed to provide promising

young researchers with an improved perspective to a permanent position and a career in academia. This program has been designed to be family-friendly, as those in receipt of funding can apply for an extension of the funding period following the birth of children. Moving in 2009 to introduce a tenure track system, the University of Bonn was one of the first German universities to do so. Quality assurance of this system is implemented via a dedicated committee consisting of professors drawn from all faculties. The committee is appointed by the Rectorate.



Members of the student group Fridays for Future presenting the rector their open letter with demands for greater sustainability.

United for increased sustainability

The transition to sustainability is one of the most important tasks currently facing society, a process in which universities play an important part. The University of Bonn is conscious of its status as a role model in the development of sustainable practices. Aware of its responsibilities in this area, the Rectorate took the decision to develop a "Sustainability Strategy 2030" incorporating research, teaching and university operations. All groups within the University together with the General Students' Committee (AStA) and its environmental group are involved in this process. The University is seeking to combine and coordinate existing initiatives with new concepts and ideas. A lecture series focusing on the current climate crisis and the issue of sustainability is currently being planned, led by the Bonn Alliance for Sustainability Research. Three fields of action have been identified within "university operations": energy consumption, mobility and waste disposal and recycling. The University has moved to take immediate action in switching to green electricity.

RESEARCH



PERSONALITIES

The prestigious Google prize for Matthew Smith



The computer scientist Professor Matthew Smith is currently working on issues developing at the interface between technical IT security and Behavioral Science. He is investigating how systems should be designed in order to minimize the opportunities presented for hacking and on methodologies to observe the work of programmers to locate possible "doorways" for hackers. Prof. Smith was awarded the 100,000 US dollar Google Security and Privacy Research Award for this work at the University of Bonn. Prof. Smith is a pioneer in the area of IT Security. He focuses on people as both system developers and users.

The Eugen and Ilse Seibold Prize for Prof. Dr. Kōichirō Agata



Prof. Dr. Kōichirō Agata won the Eugen and Ilse Seibold Prize awarded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). The Professor of Political and Administrative Sciences at the Waseda University in Tokyo is one of the first "Bonn University Ambassadors". The prize, coming with 10,000 euros was awarded on September 9, 2019 in Bonn. Prof. Agata does not only have an excellent international academic reputation, but has made a positive and lasting contribution to the establishment of German-Japanese ties. This was expressly recognized by the DFG.

The Humboldt Research Prize for Antonio DeSimone

Prof. Dr. Antonio DeSimone from the Scuola Superiore S. Anna in Pisa and the International School for Advanced Studies (SISSA) in Trieste (Italy) was awarded the Research Prize from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in 2019. Prof. Dr. Stefan Müller from the Hausdorff Center for Mathematics had nominated Prof. DeSimone for the prize. They will now seek to intensify their cooperation. The prize came with a check for 60,000 euros. Prof. DeSimone's many research interests have long engendered links to researchers at the Hausdorff Center for Mathematics at the University of Bonn. He has worked intensively with Prof. Dr. Stefan Müller and Prof. Dr. Sergio Conti for some 20 years; their collaboration has resulted in a number of academic publications.



THIRD-PARTY FUNDED PROJECTS

Two new Collaborative Research Centers for the University of Bonn

In May 2019, the German Research Foundation set up two new Transregional Collaborative Research Centers (TCRC) with the aim of strengthening top-level research at the University of Bonn. One of these long-term research projects investigates dangerous diseases of the aorta. The speaker of the center is Prof. Dr. Georg Nickenig, Director of the Medical Clinic and Polyclinic II of the University Hospital Bonn. The second TCRC is set to conduct in-depth research into the working of antibiotics. The speaker role is performed by the University of Tübingen, the application was placed jointly with Prof. Dr. Tanja Schneider from the Institute of Microbiology at the University of Bonn.

The researchers at the University Hospital Bonn and the Universities of Düsseldorf and Cologne seek to determine the causes of defects of the aortic valves, so as to find better treatments. The German Research Foundation has pledged some thirteen million euros of funding over the next four years. The project can be extended to a maximum of twelve years. The Transregional Collaborative Research Center "Cell Mechanisms of the Impact of Antibiotics and Production" has been granted some eleven million euros of funding over the next four years.



A new Research Group investigating resilience

People surviving challenging life situations without suffering any impairment are taken to exhibit a high degree of resilience. A new Research Group "Resilience in Religion and Spirituality: Enduring and Responding to Feelings of Powerlessness, Anxiety and Worry" is set to investigate these mental powers of resistance at the interface between Theology, Philosophy and Medicine. The research program will receive some two million euros from the German Research Foundation over the next three years. The speaker of the research group is Prof. Dr. Cornelia Richter from the Faculty of Protestant Theology at the University of Bonn. Researchers from Bonn, Cologne, Rostock, Zürich and Munich will be involved in the project.



European research funding

Supporting academic research is one of the central activities of the European Union, which provides considerable sums to this end. The levels of third-party research funding awarded to a university is a good indicator of its academic performance. In addition to the substantial sums which it received from national funding bodies such as the German Research Foundation, 2019 saw the University of Bonn increase its levels of EU research funding. A new EU project office was created in the Division for Research and Transfer to concentrate and extend the existing funding received from the EU. The University of Bonn is an especially good performer in terms of awards of funding from the European Research Council (ERC). With 25 ERC-funded projects, Bonn leads the university section of the "Top Host Institutions in Germany" ranking, in front of Aachen, Munster (both with 22) and Cologne (20). Bonn is placed ninth in the ERC university ranking for Germany. The University of Bonn takes second place in the HORIZON 2020 program, receiving 52 million euros in funding. The University of Bonn is involved in a total of 85 funded projects.



The representatives of the six locations in the network together with the chairperson Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Otmar Wiestler (front center) and Dr. Astrid Proksch (to his right), general manager of the not-for-profit Hertie foundation for the area "neurological research". Front left Prof. Dr. Anja Schneider representing the Bonn location.

Funding for the clinical neurosciences from the Hertie Foundation

The non-profit Hertie Foundation has established the forward-looking Hertie Network of Excellence in Clinical Neuroscience. The work of this institution seeks to bridge the divide between basic research and clinical practice with the aim of translating academic findings into medical practice. The University of Bonn is one of the leading institutions set to receive funding in this area and will receive 660,000 euros over the next three years. This will be added to by 339,000 euros from the Faculty of Medicine. The University of Bonn will focus on conducting research into the neurobiological principles of molecular science, cell biology and the complex network activities of nerve cells.

ORGANIZATION

The tenth jubilee of the University of Bonn Foundation

2019 saw the University of Bonn Foundation celebrate its tenth birthday. The foundation acts as a reservoir for donations for research and teaching at the University. The foundation supports students by awarding scholarships and researchers at various qualification levels with funding for research projects and specialist literature. As an incorporated foundation in civil law, the University of Bonn Foundation accepts donations from a range of sources, including individuals and companies. The foundation does not just act as a passive recipient, but has set itself the task of acquiring grants and playing its part in forming the future of the University. Today, the University of Bonn Foundation combines 22 endowment funds, four foundation trusts and four collections. The foundation is primarily active in four areas, issuing scholarships and prizes as well as funding projects and research conducted at the University of Bonn.

Research conference 2019

The first research conference was held at the University of Bonn in 2015 to mark the inauguration of the university's new research strategy. All professors at the University of Bonn were invited by the Rectorate. As a result of the collaborative input of the senior faculty, six Transdisciplinary Research Areas (TRA) were established, with a Cluster of Excellence at the core of each TRA since 2018. Responding to the resounding success experienced by the University of Bonn in the Excellence Strategy competition, a further research conference was held in December 2019, to which all professors from the University of Bonn were again invited. The aim of the conference was to inform its participants about the development of the research profile of the University and to engender intensive exchange over the implementation of the Excellence Strategy. The speakers of the TRAs and the six Clusters of Excellence presented their academic program, activities and plans.



Meeting with the Scientific Advisory Board

2018 saw the Rectorate establish a Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), tasked with advising the Rectorate in questions of strategy, especially in the development of the six Transdisciplinary Research Areas. The SAB met with the Rectorate team and the deans in December 2019 to discuss the strategy aspects of the development and refinement of the research profile of the University. The SAB will meet at least once a year. The board consists of:

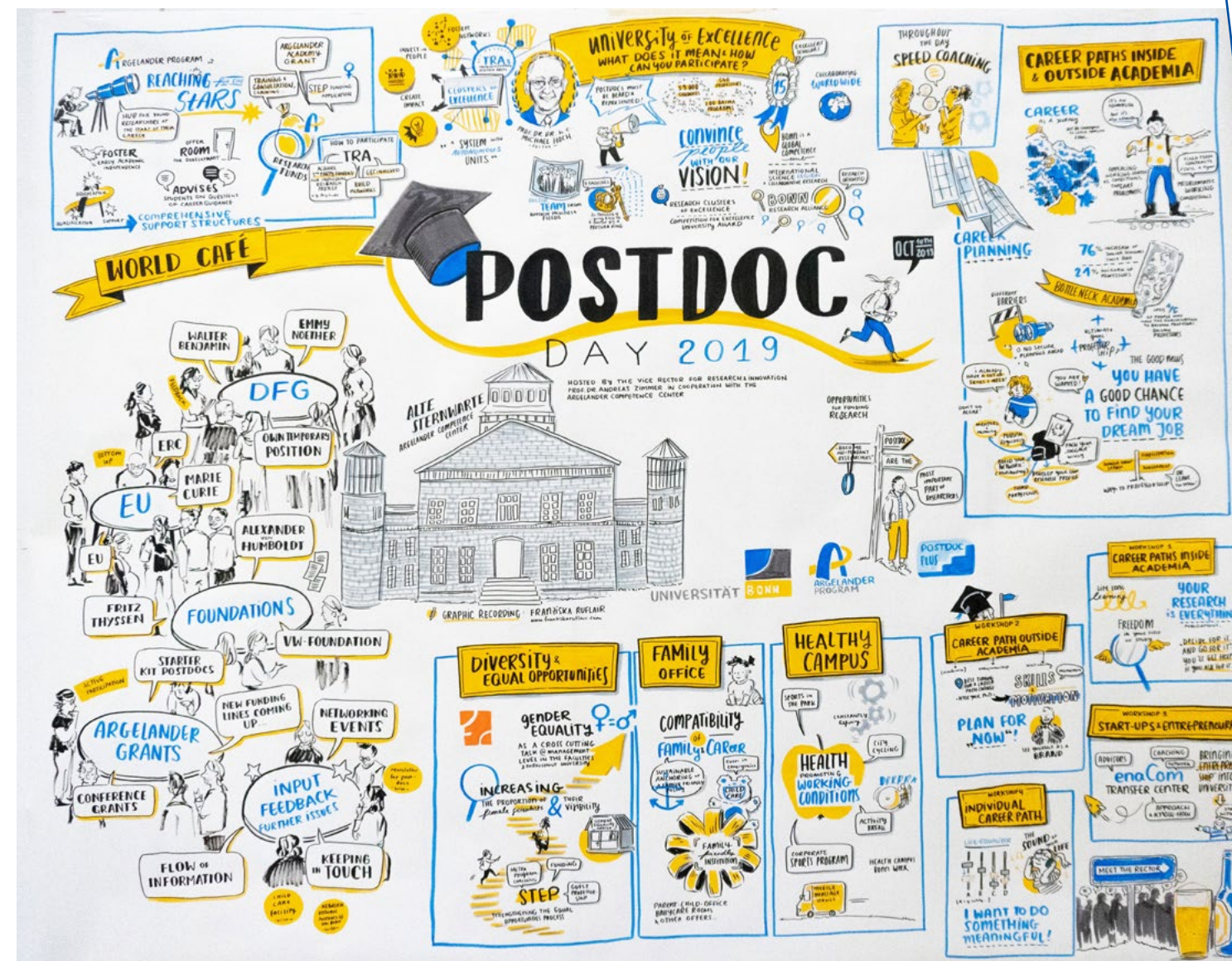
- Prof. Dr. Reuven Amitai, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel
- Prof. Dr. Sigrid Peyerimhoff, University of Bonn, Germany
- Prof. Dr. W. Th. Frank den Hollander, University of Leiden, The Netherlands
- Prof. Dr. Véronique Perdereau, Institut des Systèmes Intelligents et de Robotique (ISIR)/Sorbonne Université, Paris, France
- Prof. Dr. Rudi Balling, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg
- Prof. Dr. Petra Ritter, Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany
- Prof. Dr. Asun St. Clair, University of Exeter, Great Britain
- Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Wolfgang Schön, Max Planck Institute for Tax Law and Public Finance, Munich, Germany

Postdoc day: focusing on career paths and funding

October 2019 saw the first ever "Postdoc day" at the University of Bonn. Some 50 early-career researchers gathered in the Old Observatory in Poppelsdorfer Allee, the location of the "Argelander Competence Center", the University of Bonn early-career researchers' center. A range of workshops, lectures and interactive formats were offered, focusing on issues raised by early-career researchers in a preliminary survey conducted in the spring of 2019. Participants at the meeting were also given advice about how to apply to the University and non-university sources for research funding. They were also introduced to a range of career paths both within and outside academia. Space was also provided for interdisciplinary exchange and individual conversations with representatives from University departments and organizations. The Postdoc Day was organized by the Vice Rector for Research and Innovation, the Human Resource Development Team, the Division for Research and Transfer and a number of other departments and groups from the University. The highly positive feedback from the participants means that next year's Postdoc Day is already being planned.

Research Data Service Center

The Research Data Service Center started work in the first quarter of 2019. Located in the University IT and ULB, the service point seeks to provide a central hub for all the responsibilities for dealing with research data. Supporting the project planning process, the center also seeks to exercise responsibility for a range of issues ranging from local data management to data archiving and publication.



TRANSFER

The University of Bonn extends its transfer activities

The University of Bonn numbers amongst the most innovative universities in Europe. Over twenty companies have been founded as start-ups under its aegis over the last 10 years. Bonn has been awarded over two million euros of funding for business start-ups in the next four years. It numbers amongst the prize winners in the EXIST-Potentiale competition run by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy. The University plans to use the federal funding to extend the Transfer Center enaCom and place its work on a more professional footing. The center seeks to translate top-level research into marketable ideas

and extract start-up potential in the areas of sustainability, healthcare and artificial intelligence. The Clusters of Excellence and Transdisciplinary Research Areas (TRA) at the University of Bonn are accorded a key role in this process. It is intended that the number of start-ups and spin-offs emerging from the University increases. To this end, the University seeks to convince early-career researchers and students of the advantages of alternative career paths as entrepreneurs and to qualify them appropriately. Today, between two and three start-ups emerge from the University of Bonn every year. We plan to increase this number.



The validation prize for innovative ship technology

From dirt-repelling surfaces to friction-reducing atmospheres on ships, Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Barthlott drew inspiration from the natural world (such as the nelumbo and salviniaaceae) for a range of revolutionary materials technologies. Together with his team and colleagues from the University of Rostock and the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Prof. Barthlott was awarded the prestigious Validierungspreis 2019 by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research. This prize is awarded to cutting-edge technologies developed in Germany and on the cusp of application.



From left: Dr. Matthias Mail (University of Bonn), Dr. Stefan Walheim (KIT), Dr. Martin Brede (University of Rostock), Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Barthlott (University of Bonn), Prof. Dr. Thomas Schimmel (KIT) and the minister Dr. Michael Meister



TEACHING AND LEARNING



The award of the University of Bonn teaching prize

Once again, a number of prizes were awarded to recognize teaching excellence at the University of Bonn. The presentations were made during the 15th Bonn Universitätsfest held in the Telekom Dome. Prof. Dr. Karin Holm-Müller, the Vice Rector for Teaching and Learning awarded the prize winners with their certificates.

The prizes were awarded across the faculties; each faculty was awarded a number of prizes depending on student numbers and size. The awards were decided upon by the faculties on the basis of student course evaluations and nominations by faculty staff or student participation in evaluation bodies.

The prize winners from 2019:

Faculty of Medicine

- Dr. Stefanie Schliwa, Institute for Anatomy
- Prof. Dr. Helmut Stark, Head of the Department of Prosthodontics, Preclinical Education and Dental Materials Science

Faculty of Arts

- Julia Reuschenbach, Department for Political Sciences and Sociology
- Privatdozent/adjunct Professor Dr. Beate Hintzen, Department for Classical and Romance Philology
- Jun.-Prof. Dr. Ove Sutter, Department of Archaeology and Cultural Anthropology
- Daniel Schönbauer, the Bonn Center for Teacher Education/Department of English, American, and Celtic Studies, subject didactics English

Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences

- Prof. Dr. Andreas Gansäuer, Department of Chemistry
- Dr. Mario Valdivia Manchego, Department of Earth Sciences
- Prof. Dr. Annette Scheersoi, Department of Biology (subject didactics)
- Prof. Dr. Christoph Thiele, Department of Molecular Biomedicine

Faculty of Agriculture

- Dr. Christoph Holst, Institute of Geodesy and Geoinformation

Faculty of Law and Economics

- Isabelle von Kalm, Department of Law
- Prof. Dr. Lorenz Götte, Department of Economics

Faculty of Protestant Theology

- Maximilian Kröger, Department of Old Testament Studies

Teaching prize 2019: Vice Rector Prof. Dr. Karin Holm-Müller (wearing robe) with the prize winners from 2019



Initiative Prize for Digitally Aided Teaching Innovations

The Initiative Prize for Digitally Aided Teaching Innovations, awarded every year to recognize excellent initiatives in this area from teaching staff at the University of Bonn and to provide funding, in 2019 was awarded to the "Outcrop-Wizard – Virtual Geology" project developed by Privatdozent/adjunct Professor Dr. Gösta Hoffmann from the Institute of Geosciences in the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences for the promotion of new eLearning offers and the further development of existing programs.

Recruiting excellent students with funds from the Excellence Strategy

The Excellence application included funding for student assistant jobs for especially talented master's students. The recruitment drive seeks to give talented students the opportunity to prepare for doctoral study as well as developing good, research-oriented teaching concepts. The funds will be allocated to degree programs in two competition cycles 2020 and 2023. A maximum of five two-year student research posts will be funded for five degree programs. The funds must be deployed within four years.

The first University of Bonn "FuckUp Night": doubts in study

The Central Study Advisory and Counseling Service of the University of Bonn has long provided advice and support to students who are unsure that they have chosen the right degree for them. Working within the scope of the project "Next Career" run by the Ministry of Culture and Science of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, it is testing new ways of addressing this target group. They hope to take action at an early stage to reach students with doubts about their chosen program of study and who have not yet taken advantage of any of the help provided in this area. To this end, the first "FuckUp Night" was held in November 2019 focusing on this issue. Students were invited to an informal evening in which four former students at the University of Bonn spoke about the doubts that they had suffered during their studies, how they dealt with them and what they are doing today. The 250-strong audience then had the opportunity to ask questions and talk about their own experiences. The large media interest prior to and after the event as well as the results of the survey of participants shows that the FuckUp Night was a great success. It has proven itself as a good new way to address its target group, as it reaches those students who were not covered by the existing formats. 12 of 13 respondents indicated that they had already entertained serious doubt about their choice of degree program, but had not taken advantage of any of the offers of support designed for them. The authentic stories told by the speakers gave listeners the reassurance that they were not alone and would be able to bring their own personal dilemmas to a positive resolution. The success of the event means that it will be repeated in 2020.



The NRW digitalization offensive provides funding for digital teaching resources

Working within the funding line "Digital Teaching/Learning Infrastructures" managed by the state-wide digitalization offensive, 2019 saw the University of Bonn succeed in obtaining some 800,000 euros of funding dedicated to the improvement and installation of the infrastructure required for e-assessment, digital laboratories and digital teaching and learning locations. A large proportion of the funds have been allocated for the establishment of a student media center in the University and State Library Bonn, and it will provide a range of hardware and software solutions, technical support and group working facilities. The funds will also enable the expansion and improvement of the University of Bonn eCampus services and a range of subject-specific teaching and learning laboratories in the Bonn Center for Digital Humanities (BCDH) and the Language Learning Center (SLZ).



New Campus Management System

Started in 2018, the planning for the introduction of the new "HISinOne" campus management system was completed on-time by the end of the first quarter 2019, resulting in a project overview with personnel, time and cost planning. The plan foresees the replacement by 2025 of all HIS modules and peripheral systems. This is intended to provide the basis for the digitalization of the university administrative processes for study and teaching. The HISinOne module for applications and admissions was introduced ahead of schedule in January 2019 to provide improved support for the applications procedure to Dialog-Oriented Service Procedure (DoSV) degree programs from winter semester 2020/21. The application module for local numerus clausi was activated on-schedule on December 1, 2019, and the online pre-enrollment for summer semester 2020 was activated. The application procedure is now much easier to complete. The application procedure for all undergraduate degree programs (incl. DoSV) and selected master's degree programs will be adapted to this new procedure in a pilot program launched in 2020. The software for the student management, doctoral student management and reporting systems will be implemented from 2020; the degree program, event management and examination management systems will be implemented successively from 2022.

Digital teaching on eCampus

The University of Bonn eCampus and eLearning services have advanced to become central parts of our teaching. eCampus had 35,000 active users by the end of 2019, who are now able to use the learning platform to teach and study at a time and place of their choosing. 4,500 eCampus courses were created in 2019, and are used by 30 per cent of all classes provided by the University. eCampus provides a number of digital tools which can be used for various types of teaching. Ever-more teachers are taking advantage of interactive tools; some 1,500 fora and 1,000 wikis were created in 2019. 2,800 tests and 1,800 tutorials were established to assess student performance.

Students enjoy the quality of support to their classes provided by eCampus. The general student's survey recorded 92% complete or partial agreement with this statement. Many teachers are very interested in various digital learning scenarios, displayed by their visits to eCampus workshops and high levels of registration for advice appointments. eCampus cafés also use best-practice examples to show how digital tools can be integrated in teaching. The general interest in e-written examinations is also increasing. Almost 10,000 students took part in an e-examination in 2019. Ever-more examiners are choosing to use this interesting and practical examination form. Students can perform a range of tasks in the process e.g. evaluate an ultrasound scan, perform statistical calculations or diagnose veterinary diseases using videos.



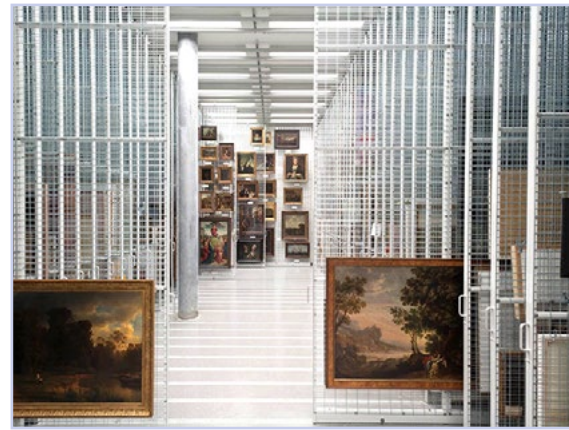
The advance of quality management

The University of Bonn is acting to extend and improve its quality management in both teaching and learning. This is of especial importance in terms of the system accreditation which the University of Bonn is currently seeking. The core data portal has been in operation since 2014. It stores all information pertaining to the study progress and examination record. It has been supplemented by a new database for skills-oriented curriculum development. A pilot project run in the Faculty of Agriculture determined the requirement for such a database and developed a new software to gather and visualize the preparation of skills and module data. The University of Bonn is happy to share its insight in this area with other universities, for example at conferences. The national specifications network led by the University of Bonn has succeeded in recruiting six universities.

Digital teaching incorporated in the university teaching qualification

University teaching staff can gain qualifications and attend continuing professional development at The Bonn Center for Higher Education. 2019 saw a new emphasis on digitalization. Teaching staff at the University of Bonn can now attain the NRW state university teaching qualification with a focus on digital teaching. The first of these specialist qualifications was awarded in 2019. Teaching staff can also qualify for a new online-supported eTeaching certificate; this has already been awarded twice in 2019. Seven eTeaching workshops were run in 2019 focusing on the integration of digital methods and instruments in teaching. Digital elements have also increasingly been incorporated in the University of Bonn continuing professional development program for university teaching. Of 17 teaching and learning projects run within the scope of the certificate program, seven use digital media and methods. 2019 saw the introduction of media-teaching support for online-supported teaching scenarios which can be used to revise entire module concepts. The certificate program is enjoying increasing demand: registrations from teaching staff increased in 2019 from 10 to 32.

A new master's degree program Provenance Research and the History of Collecting



The University of Bonn was proud to launch a new master's degree program "Provenance Research and the History of Collecting" in winter semester 2019/20. Provenance research investigates the origin and ownership history of cultural artifacts in their historical context. It is a traditional aspect of fine arts and is used for instance in establishing collection histories and in questions of attributions and authenticity. The new master's degree program taught by art historians seeks to provide a qualification in this dynamic sector. It is closely associated with the history of private and institutional collections, which represents a further focus of the degree program. The degree program covers all epochs and areas, both European and non-European. The master's degree program is run by the Transdisciplinary Research Center for Provenance Research, Artworks and Cultural Artifacts Property Rights, staffed by two art history professors and a law professor.



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



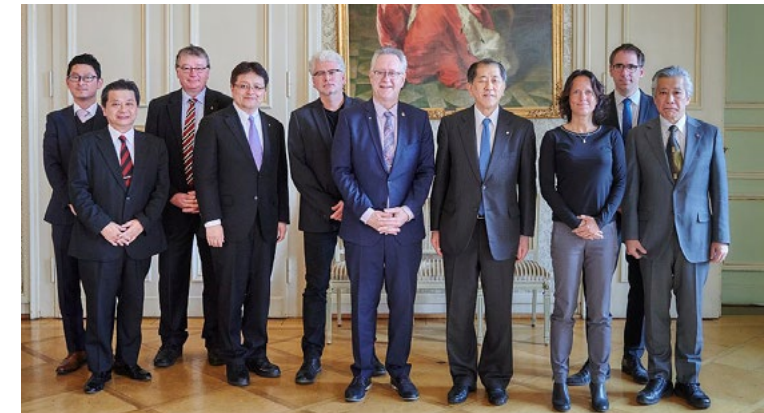
International partnerships: target countries and strategic partnerships

International cooperation is the bedrock of all the internationalization activities of the University of Bonn. The University maintains a wide range of contacts throughout the world. Seeking to further this success, the Rectorate moved in 2019 to establish regional priorities in the University international strategy. This comprises a combination of strategic partnerships with the establishment of certain priorities in the selection of countries in which the University seeks to establish cooperation programs. The University is especially keen to establish partnerships with countries from the so-called Global South. The University of Bonn maintains close links with its strategic partners: the University of St Andrews (Great Britain) Waseda University (Tokyo, Japan) and the University of Melbourne (Australia). The University has also moved to establish Australia, France, Great Britain, Israel, Japan, the Netherlands and the USA as strategic priorities.

Developing strategic partnerships

Seeking to honor the long-term partnership between the University of Bonn and Waseda University in Tokyo, the University of Bonn marked "Waseda University Day" in May 2019. A 34-person delegation led by the President of Waseda University, Prof. Dr. Aiji Tanaka, was invited to a ceremony in Bonn. Welcoming addresses by Prof. Tanaka and Prof. Hoch were followed by a talk from Prof. Dr. Kōichirō Agata, Professor of Administrative Sciences at

Waseda University Day: Representatives from both universities. Rector Hoch (fifth from right), President Tanaka (fourth from right) and Prof. Dr. Kōichirō Agata (right) who gave a speech.



Waseda University and a research ambassador of the University of Bonn, about German-Japanese university relations. The ceremony was followed by a visit to the joint research projects of the two universities in the Life Sciences, Natural Sciences and Humanities. A tour of the campus included a visit to the Waseda Office in Poppelsdorf.

April and October 2019 saw high-level visits from delegations from the University of Melbourne to the University of Bonn to conduct a range of discussions, including the establishment of further joint doctoral projects and research projects. The Australian university is one of three strategic partnerships maintained by the University of Bonn. Close links already



A tour of the campus on the Venusberg: The medical director of the University Hospital Bonn, Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Wolfgang Holzgrevé (sixth from right) welcomed the delegation and gave them a tour of the campus.

exist in the areas of Life Sciences and Agricultural Sciences. The five-strong Australian delegation to Bonn in October 2019 was led by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Duncan Maskell. Founded in 1853, the University of Melbourne is the second oldest university in Australia and one of the leading research universities in the country. With some 50,000 students and more than 8,000 members of staff, the publicly-funded institution is made up of ten faculties and fifteen graduate schools.

In October 2019, Rector Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Michael Hoch and Provost Holger Gottschalk led a 22-strong delegation consisting of representatives from the university management, the faculties, transdisciplinary research areas and administrative staff to St Andrews University in Scotland to hold discussions about a range of projects and possible future joint research programs. The decision was taken to initiate a steering group.



A delegation from the University of Bonn led by rector Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Michael Hoch (front, third from right) to St Andrews University in Scotland. Photo: Ed Broughton/University of St Andrews

Regional priorities in international cooperation

2019 saw the Rectorate establish a number of target countries and strategic partners for international cooperation. To this end, the Vice Rector for International Affairs moved in early 2019 to announce funding designed to promote cooperation with these target countries. 24 projects were selected for funding and will conclude at the end of June 2020. Four new funding lines will be made available within the scope of the Excellence Strategy from 2020.

The international guest house

All 64 apartments in the Studierendenwerk guest house in Bonn-Endenich have been made available to the University of Bonn in April 2019. The apartments serve as accommodation for international guests visiting the University. Bookings are managed by the Welcome Center. There is a high demand for this accommodation; 94% of the apartments are currently occupied.

Bonn University Ambassadors

In the future, the University of Bonn will be able to draw on the support of a group of renowned international researchers who have undertaken to represent the University and its research on the global stage. Rector Michael Hoch appointed the first 14 "Bonn University Ambassadors" – five female and nine male representatives – in February 2019. Three of the new ambassadors came to Bonn to receive their certificates of appointment: Prof. Dr. Tiegist Abebe, expert on plant culture and genetics at the Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia; Prof. Dr. Kōichirō Agata, professor of Administrative Sciences at Waseda University Japan; and Prof. Dr. Roberto Hofmeister Pich, professor of philosophy at the Pontificia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. These leading researchers have

all become acquainted with the University of Bonn during research visits. Today, they are all continuing their research abroad. In their function as "Bonn University Ambassadors", they will all represent the University of Bonn abroad and provide a point of contact for early-career researchers interested in cooperating with it. The University launched this scheme not only to expand its international network of multipliers and establish contact persons throughout the world, but also to raise the profile of the University of Bonn as an international research university.



Bonn University Ambassadors
(From left) Prof. Dr. Kōichirō Agata, Prof. Dr. Roberto Hofmeister Pich, Prof. Dr. Tiegist Abebe and Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Michael Hoch

A record budget for the Erasmus Program: higher funding awarded to students

In 2019, the University of Bonn was able to draw on a record budget of 1.6 million euros for the Erasmus+ program. The funds are used to promote European student and research staff mobility. Erasmus+ is a European Union program for education, youth and sport. The seven-year program has a budget of around 14.8 billion euros and enables more than four million people to gather European experience. With some 900 University of Bonn students participating in the Erasmus program every year, it is the most important international exchange program for Bonn and the largest in terms of third-party funding.

Erasmus+ is organized by national agencies and the executive agency of the European Commission. Responsibility in Germany for university exchange is held by the National Agency for Erasmus+ in Germany (NA DAAD). The University of Bonn's model status in implementing the program has established it as a "Best-Practice University"; this means that all mobility grants for which the University has applied this year will be approved without the usual curtailments. This not only means increased mobility opportunities for Bonn students, researchers and staff in 2019/20, but students grants have increased in size.



The establishment of the Central Translation Service

In the late summer of 2019, the University of Bonn established the Central Translation Service, a two-person team located in the new Central Unit in the International Office. In addition to organizing both translations from German into English and English-language editing services for university staff, the team also gives advice and support in this area, provides terminology management services, and has issued and maintains a glossary and style guide to ensure a uniform language policy at the University of Bonn. The establishment of the Central Translation Service is just one measure in the integrated internationalization policy launched by the University of Bonn with the aim of furthering the welcome extended to international students and researchers alike and to ensure their rapid integration in campus life.

The first official delegation sent to Africa by the University of Bonn: Ghana

The University of Bonn maintains an above average number of agreements with universities and research institutions in Ghana. One of these long-term agreements celebrated its 20th jubilee in 2019. Prof. Dr. Achim Hörauf from the Institute for Medical Microbiology, Immunology and Parasitology (IMMIP) has worked with the Kumasi Centre for Collaborative Research in Tropical Medicine (KCCR) for twenty years. To mark this occasion, a 18-strong delegation led by the Vice Rector for International Affairs, Prof. Dr. Stephan Conermann, traveled to Ghana in December to visit the cities Accra and Kumasi. The delegation visited a number of destinations including the United Nations University's Institute for Natural Resources in Africa and took part in the signature ceremony

of a memorandum of understanding between the German Reference Centre for Ethics in the Life Sciences (DRZE) at the University of Bonn and the Department of Philosophy and Classics of the University of Ghana. Whilst visiting the Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa (MIASA), the Bonn delegation learned about Project PARADeS ("Participatory Assessment of Flood-Related Disaster Prevention and Development of an Adopted Coping System in Ghana"). Whilst visiting Kumasi, the delegation also participated in a signing ceremony of a further memorandum of understanding, and talks were held about a joint third-party funding application and a student exchange program.

| The Bonn delegation and their hosts in Ghana



Panel discussion on gender equality in international organizations

Gender equality is a central and multifaceted aspect of the work of all international organizations and institutions. The International Office at the University of Bonn took up this important issue and in collaboration with the North Rhine-Westphalia Regional Association of the United Nations Association of Germany (DGVN) organized a panel discussion on the role of women in international organizations. The event was held to mark the "Day of the United Nations". The panel comprised the former UN Under Secretary General Angela Kane, Laila Riedmiller from the General Students' Committee (AStA) of the University of Bonn and the political scientist Dr. Manuela Scheuermann from the University of Würzburg. The discussion was chaired by Arne Molfenter (the head of the UNRIC Liaison Office in Bonn).

Alumni Spring School

The International Office of the University of Bonn and the German Development Institute (Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik–DIE), partners in the Bonn Alliance for Sustainability Research, organized their first Alumni Spring School in April 2019; its topic: "Global Transformation towards Sustainability – Transdisciplinary Peer Learning between Africa, Europe and Rising Powers for the 2030 Agenda". The program was funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The event hosted 24 individuals from academia, organizations of civil society and public administration and the world of politics, including 16 African alumni from German universities and eight alumni of the Managing Global Governance Academy of the DIE. A total of 16 nationalities, predominantly from African countries, were represented.

The University of Bonn concluded an agreement with the Bonn Greeters

The University of Bonn moved in 2019 to conclude a co-operation agreement with Bonn Greeters e.V., to provide guided tours of Bonn. This is designed to provide newly appointed members of staff and their families with an introduction to the city. The aim is to introduce the newcomers to the city and its environs and help them to settle in. A "greet" involves a local Bonn resident showing a newcomer around the town, introducing it from a very personal angle. In contrast to conventional city tours, the greeters do not visit well-known landmarks

but the small things that make Bonn special. This is accompanied by personal stories, anecdotes and everyday tips. A tour lasts around one-and-a-half to two hours. The "greet" can be conducted in German or English and other languages subject to availability. The concept of a "visitor welcome program" was developed in New York City in the 1990s. Its success there saw its export across the globe. The Bonn greeter group was established in November 2016.



Provost Holger Gottschalk (left) and the Chairperson of the Bonn Greeters, Matthias Ohm

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY



The Diversity Audit "Forming Diversity"

The University of Bonn has taken part in the Diversity Audit "Forming Diversity" organized by the Stifterverband since 2017. In 2019, the second audit year, a diversity strategy was developed under the guiding theme "Building Networks for Participation, Individual Diversity, Appreciation and Esteem". The various aspects of this theme are summarized in the term BRIDGES, the plural form reflecting the diversity of the networks. The idea followed the triad of individual ability, the promotion and strengthening of university networks and the involvement in academic and social discourse.

The Equal Opportunity and Diversity Unit

Seeking to strengthen equality of opportunity and diversity at the University of Bonn, the Rectorate took the decision to establish the Equal Opportunity and Diversity Unit at the Vice Rectorate for University Development and Equal Opportunity. The unit provides the Vice Rectorate with advice and support on the strategic development with regard to these aspects. This also affects the implementation, dissemination and evaluation of all measures associated with the Excellence Application and the application to the Federal-State program for funding early-career researchers for their equal opportunity aspects.

Diversity workshop

November 2019 saw the organization of the first ever diversity workshop for managers from the academic and administrative sections of the University of Bonn. The topic of diversity was viewed from a range of angles; discussions focused on the meaning of diversity for everyday working realities and the opportunities and challenges which it presents for the operation of the University. The program included lectures and workshops focusing on a number of aspects on this topic: diversity and health, diversity and management, diversity and communication, diversity and working practices.



Shaping diversity: (from left) Dr. Volker Meyer-Guckel, the deputy secretary general and member of the board of management of the Stifterverband, Marie Ullenboom, Head of the Equal Opportunity and Diversity Unit, Olaf Brodersen, Head of the Central Unit in the International Office, Dr. Birgit von Seggern, University development and equal opportunity officer, Prof. Dr. Klaus Sandmann (Vice Rector for University Development and Equal Opportunity).

Diversity Day

Seeking to mark the 7th German diversity day, the University of Bonn sent postcards to members of staff in the faculties, divisions and central units. The action continued at the University of Bonn Summer Festival and was extended by creative offers for children and adults.

New funding lines

2019 saw the Office for Family Services and the Gender Equality Office work together to develop new funding lines to support students. This includes short-term grants for students and doctoral students with children, for the period in which they write their final theses. Sources of emergency funding have also been established for parents and a fund was set up for single parents writing up. Applications to the funding lines established by the Office for Family Services and the Gender Equality Office can also be made by female researchers. In this way, the funds are designed to support female single parents employed by or associated with the University of Bonn and engaged in the final phase of postdoctoral research work.

Childcare

2019 saw the University of Bonn make continued strides in extending the childcare facilities which it provides. A new agreement with the Fröbel agency has resulted in the provision of an extra 10 childcare places open to members of the University, bringing the total number of places to 232. New arrangements for providing flexible childcare services were developed via an agreement with the childcare agency Proki, and the purchase of "KidsBoxes", the mobile parent-child rooms. The KidsBox, a cupboard on wheels, provides play and nappy changing facilities and can be used in both university events and a parent-child room or a family room. The number of family and diversity rooms in the faculties has also been increased.



The kids box: Elisabeth Wößner-Schmelzle from the Office for Family Services (left) and Dr. Martina Pottek from the Gender Equality Office with the kids box

Program for Women Professors

Following the successes of the first two funding phases, the University of Bonn also registered successes in the third funding phase of the Federal and State Program for Women Professors funded by the BMBF, aimed at increasing the number of women professors at universities. The third program phase promised funds for two professorships currently occupied but set to require a new appointment within five years, together with a regular professorship. The University's vision and policy for gender equality, "Changing Cultures – Promoting Structural Change – Recruiting Excellent Female Researchers", received a positive evaluation.



The working group gender-inclusive/gender-neutral language

Seeking to implement its decision that all university communications and legal texts are composed in gender-inclusive/gender-neutral language, the Rectorate has set up a dedicated working group. This working group has been commissioned to draft guidelines for all the affected areas. The Rectorate has accepted the recommendation to ensure that all job advertisements are composed in gender-inclusive/gender-neutral language.

The Anti-Discrimination Complaints Office and the Ombudsperson

As an institution of education and research welcoming students and researchers from a variety of backgrounds, the University of Bonn actively seeks to promote and enhance diversity, to which end it places paramount importance on respectful behavior. These aspects are not just demanded by social justice, but represent active gains for the University. The University of Bonn does not tolerate any form of discrimination or disadvantage based on ethnicity, gender, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual identity. In consequence, the University takes action to identify and deal with any form of discrimination at an early stage and provides advice and support for people who suffer from it. In full cognizance of its responsibility, the Rectorate

moved in early 2019 to set up a complaints office as defined by § 13 of the German Anti-Discrimination Act in the University Legal Department. Employees can lodge an appeal with this body if they feel that they have suffered discrimination by their employer, superiors, colleagues or third parties in conjunction with their employment at the University of Bonn. They can also submit questions to this body. It is also available to students. In addition to the tasks and responsibilities arising from the German Anti-Discrimination Act, the complaints office will also act as the general anti-discrimination unit for the University of Bonn until further notice. Those subjected to discrimination on the grounds outlined above can lodge a complaint with this office, provided the matter is connected to the University of Bonn. To meet its objectives, the complaints office will collaborate closely with the other advice and contact units and the newly-established ombudsperson at the University of Bonn.

Words Have Power

ADMINISTRATION



A comprehensive service for newly-appointed professors

The development of the University of Bonn Excellence Strategy included the establishment in 2018 of the new section "Appointment Management and Onboarding" located in the Provost's Office. Since its establishment, the newly-appointed professors, faculties and the university management have profited from the comprehensive services which it provides. Close contact is established with the new appointees as soon as they are notified of their appointment, in order to understand their wishes and requirements. Once conditions have been created to enable academic work, the focus widens to include the entire family of the new appointee, including assistance in finding a professional appointment for the partner of the new member of staff (dual career), childcare and search for accommodation. The unit works with the relevant faculty and university management to put together the best possible offer, which is sent to the new appointee directly after the appointment negotiations. Once the new appointee has accepted the position, the unit starts with intensive preparations to facilitate a smooth transition in Bonn. In this way, it seeks to enable newly appointed professors to start with their core tasks in research and teaching from day one. Experience from the first years of this new approach show that this close and personal co-operation pays dividends.

| A shuttle bus to temporary quarters

Infrastructure

Restoring the University main building

2019 saw the start of one of the most important and wide-ranging infrastructure projects yet implemented in the University: the restoration and extension of the university main building. The kick-off meeting held on May 16, 2019 marked the beginning of a number of workshops, in which representatives of the faculties and user groups developed a joint vision for the future use of the university main building. The meeting addressed issues of both quality and quantity; the plan to establish libraries and teaching areas in a central location; the desire to make the main building more accessible to the public; to create future-proof areas for inter-faculty communication and encounter; and to build on and extend the level of identification of users with "their" main building. The aim is to create an environment which caters to the needs of future students and increases the level of satisfaction with the university facilities.





This phase will be concluded by the establishment of a feasibility study with targets for the restoration and modernization of the main building and which will act as a basis for further planning. At the same time, plans will be drawn up for an interim solution to ensure continued university operations during the construction phase and to identify potential for the extension of the main building.

This process was preceded by the decision made by the building supervisory authority BLB NRW in December 2018, to close the top floor of the university main building on fire safety grounds. This affected some 100 rooms, 150 members of staff and 400 students, all of whom required short-term alternative accommodation. The completion of additional fire safety alterations and a change in the use of the space enabled around half of the rooms to be returned to operation in March 2019. The comprehensive nature of the official university strategy "WE for our palace" convinced the regulatory authorities to provide rapid approval for restoration and modernization plans in 2019.

The digitalization of administrative processes

The University of Bonn was the first German university to deploy the SAP version S/4Hana on-schedule and with full efficiency on January 1, 2019. Subsequent months were dedicated to the re-working and roll out of the new finance/accounting, procurement and personnel software across the faculties. The adoption of this state-of-the-art software by over 1,200 members of staff, represents an important milestone in the digital transformation of administrative processes. The preparations and rollout involved intensive training in the decentral areas and subsequent discussions, the results of which are being incorporated in the further optimization and extension of the system. This step represented the formal conclusion of project phase WARP 3 in 2019.

Planning for WARP 4 has also commenced, involving the extension of the SAP system for Human Resources functions (travel expenses workflow, self-service functions), accounting (digital invoice receipt), procurement (the incorporation of further procurement portals), the creation of a customs audit trail, reporting and interface optimization.

2019 also saw the completion of initial preparations and decisions pertaining to participation in the state digitalization offensive "Digital Universities in NRW". The introduction of the "e-document" has also enabled direct link-up with further extension of the SAP functions. As a result, WARP and the Digital University NRW will be incorporated in a joint program for the digitalization of administrative processes.



The introduction of SAP at the University of Bonn: Provost Gottschalk making entries in the rooms of the external accounting department. Provost Holger Gottschalk (sitting) and the members of staff (from left) Head of Unit Andrea Rosenbauer, Vice Provost and WARP Project Manager Kristina Friske, Head of Section and WARP Sub-Project Manager Yvonne Köhns and the Deputy WARP Project Manager Michael Prill.

The Wiley DEAL contract

Following a recommendation from the Bonn University and State Library, the Rectorate decided in 2019 that the University of Bonn would take part in the DEAL contract with the publishers Wiley. The contract runs until 2021. This represents the first agreement signed with a major publishing house which provides all participating institutions with access to the complete journal holdings of a single publishing house. It also included an Open Access component.

Long-lost books returned to Bonn

April 2019 saw the University and State Library Bonn celebrate the return of over 600 manuscripts, prints and books from its pre-1939 holdings which were thought to have been lost irretrievably after 1945. This included a number of items of considerable historical and financial value. This was the largest collection returned to the University Library in its 200-year history. The collection had been held by a private collector in Belgium for 70 years; a number of individual items from this collection were put up for auction in the London branch of Sotheby's in 2017. After learning of this development, the University of Bonn moved quickly to effect the return of the entire collection. It is not known how exactly the manuscripts and books ended up in Belgium. The quick return of the artifacts was facilitated by the support of the Cultural Foundation of the German Federal States and the Ministry of Culture and Science of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia.

The return of treasures: ULB director Dr. Ulrich Meyer-Doeringhaus (left) and Dr. Michael Herkenhoff examining special artifacts.

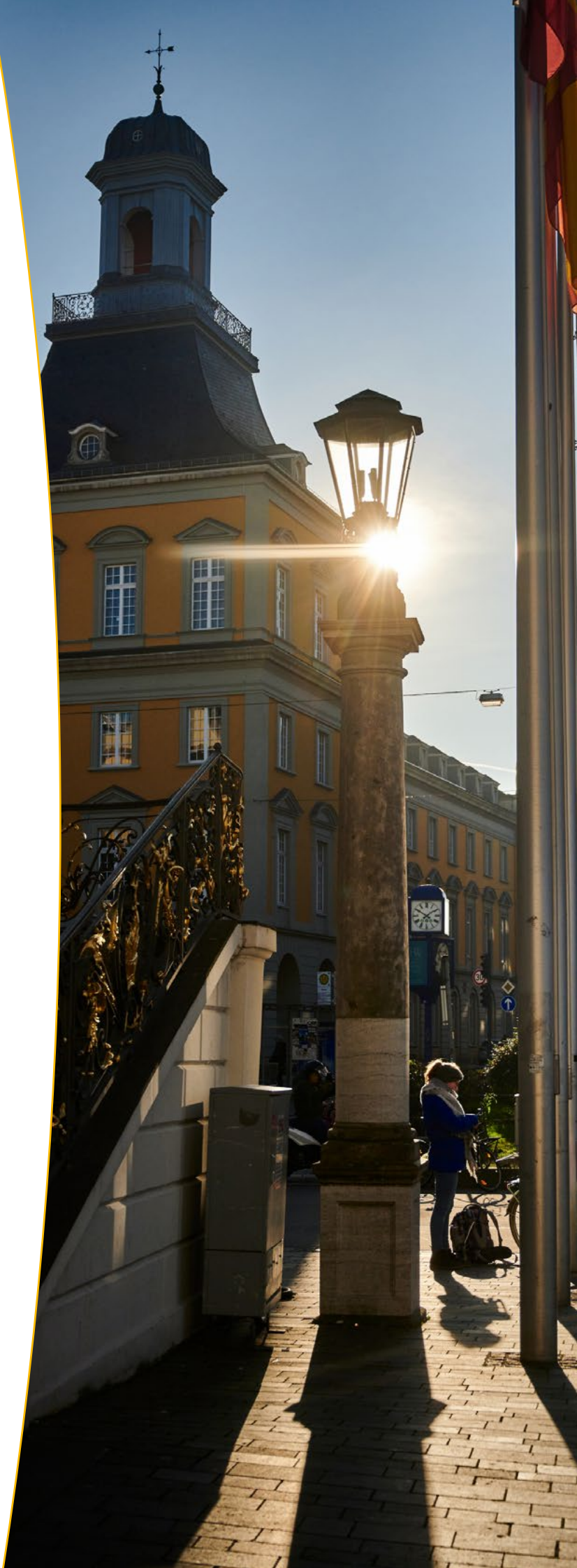


"A textbook approach": the idw prize for a press release goes to the University of Bonn

In April 2019, the Informationsdienst Wissenschaft (idw) e.V. awarded the idw-Preis for Academic Communication to the University of Bonn Press Office for one of its press releases. According to the jury, it was one of the best-composed academic press releases of the year. 89 Press Offices from Germany, Austria, Sweden and Switzerland had applied. The idw prize is awarded for professionally-composed press releases with an exceptionally high news value and academic relevance. The author of the prize-winning press release, Johannes Seiler, accepted his award at a ceremony in Bochum.



Representatives from the prize-winning press offices (from left): Johannes Faber (University Hospital Freiburg, 2nd prize); Johannes Seiler (University of Bonn, 1st prize); Folke Mehrstens (AWI, 3rd prize)



KEY FIGURES

BUDGET (IN THOUSAND EUROS)



Total budget (university budget incl, state funding for the Faculty of Medicine and third-party funding in the Faculty of Medicine)	672,068
of which third-party research funding (university budget incl, Faculty of Medicine)	171,702

NUMBER OF ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES WITH DIFFERENT QUALIFICATIONS



Bachelor's level	112
Master's level	96
State Examination degree programs	6
Degree programs culminating in a Church degree	2
Magister degree programs (qualification: Magister Theologiae)	2

JOINT PROJECTS



Clusters of Excellence	6
Graduate Schools	1
Collaborative Research Centers	12
Research Units	6
Research Training Groups funded by DFG	5
Collaborative Research Projects funded by BMBF	12
ERC Projects	20

PERSONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BONN

STUDENTS



	total	male	female	diverse
	34,981	15,070	19,907	4
<i>of which from abroad</i>	4,492	1,968	2,524	0
Doctoral students	6,399	2,993	3,406	0
<i>of which from abroad</i>	1,760	825	934	1
Graduates	4,747	2,010	2,737	0
Doctorates	677	354	323	0
Habilitations	37	30	7	0

STAFF (INCL. THIRD-PARTY AND STATE FUNDED)



	total	male	female
	6,669	3,524	3,145
Professors (incl. Faculty of Medicine)	541	425	116
academic staff (incl. Faculty of Medicine)	4,319	2,358	1,961
Administrative and technical staff ¹	1,727	689	1,038
Apprentices and interns ¹	82	52	30

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS



	total	male	female
Professors (incl, Faculty of Medicine)	534.90	423.15	111.75
academic staff (incl, Faculty of Medicine)	3,127.50	1,814.49	1,313.01
Administrative and technical staff ¹	1,484.24	662.99	821.25
Apprentices and interns ¹	82.00	52.00	30.00

¹ excl. Faculty of Medicine and University Hospital Bonn