

At a glance

- 30.000 students
- 700 professors
- 5.500 academic staff
- 2.000 technical and administrative staff
- 8 Cluster of Excellence since 2026
- 6 Transdisciplinary Research Areas
- € 40 million in annual cluster funding from 2026
- € 225 million in Excellence funding 2019–2025
- Around 400 new jobs created out of Excellence funding



What the University of Bonn is doing for North Rhine-Westphalia as a University of Excellence

The University of Bonn is much more than the prestigious, research-intensive university in Bonn, Germany's 'federal city' and the home of the United Nations in the country. As the most successful University of Excellence in Germany, it is flying the flag for North Rhine-Westphalia as a center for research and innovation.

WE are generating the power to innovate.

Research findings are transformed into new ideas, techniques, start-ups and potential policy measures.

WE are training the bright minds of tomorrow.

Students and early-career researchers learn in an environment that combines scientific and academic quality with internationality and social responsibility.

WE are boosting competitiveness on the international stage.

Top-level research attracts talent, partnerships and investment.

WE are making research relevant.

We at the University of Bonn champion research that provides explanations and context and that seeks dialogue with policymakers and society.

The University of Bonn:



More about the University of Bonn – a University of Excellence:



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**The University of Bonn:
Germany's most successful University
in the Excellence Strategy.**



The name's Bonn. University of Bonn.

Eight Clusters of Excellence. Six Transdisciplinary Research Areas. One strategy for the future: forward-thinking, top-level research.

The University of Bonn is a byword for scientific excellence paired with social responsibility. It has been a University of Excellence since 2019 – and is home to more Clusters of Excellence than any other university in Germany. Earlier on in 2026, it consolidated this leading position in the Excellence Initiative of the German government and federal states even further, with eight Clusters of Excellence now being funded at the University of Bonn.

Our mission: to establish the University of Bonn in the leading pack of the world's 50 best universities over the long term while also taking responsibility for tackling the big challenges of our time.



A shining beacon with an international reputation

Enshrined in its concept for the future, the University of Bonn’s Excellence Strategy is essentially guided by three parallel ideas:

WE invest in people

Excellence grows inside excellent minds. This is why we create the best possible environment for exceptional researchers, from those just starting out in their career to high-profile professors leading the world in their field.

WE foster networks

We bring together disciplines, faculties and non-university partners. Bonn is becoming the nerve center of a powerful research ecosystem as part of the Bonn Research Alliance, international networks and strategic partnerships.

WE create impact

We translate research into impact, because excellent research must not be allowed to stay cooped up in the laboratory or seminar room. The University of Bonn shares its knowledge with the worlds of politics, business, industry, administration and society through consulting, transfer, start-up support and funding, science communication and formats for dialogue.



Excellent eight times over

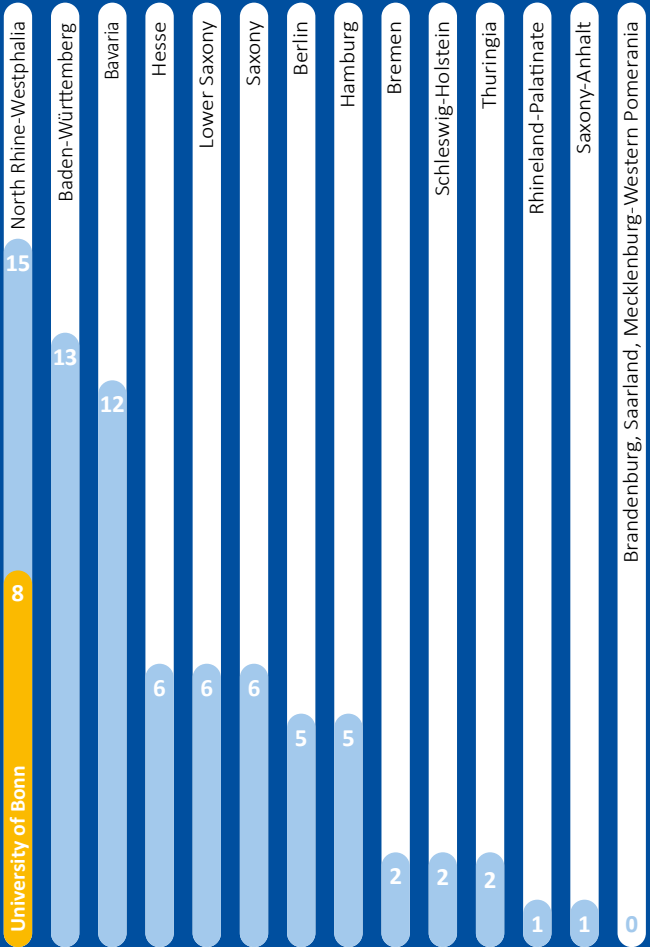
Clusters of Excellence

These are collaborative projects where researchers work together in fields capable of competing in the international arena. Funding is awarded for a seven-year term, which can be extended once. Seventy Clusters of Excellence across Germany are being supported in the 2026–2032 funding period, each receiving around €7 million annually on average. Eight of these clusters are based at the University of Bonn (with other institutions also involved in some cases).

These are the Bonn Clusters of Excellence:

- Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies
- Color meets Flavor
- DYNAVERSE – Our Dynamic Universe
- ECONtribute: Markets & Public Policy
- Hausdorff Center for Mathematics
- ImmunoSensation³
- ML4Q – Matter and Light for Quantum Computing
- PhenoRob

Clusters of Excellence by federal state



* Up to three universities can join forces to apply for a cluster, in which case these clusters may potentially count multiple times.



Researching outside the box

Transdisciplinary cooperation

As well as organizing its research along traditional subject lines, we at the University of Bonn also look beyond subject boundaries to find answers to the pressing issues of tomorrow in six Transdisciplinary Research Areas (TRAs). After all, the world is not divided neatly into self-contained fields of scientific expertise.

These are our Transdisciplinary Research Areas:

- TRA - Modelling
- TRA - Matter
- TRA - Life and Health
- TRA - Individuals and Societies
- TRA - Present Pasts
- TRA - Sustainable Futures