



Visit of an HRK Delegation to Colombia,

15/16th – 21/22th March 2025

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Participants

Head of the delegation:

- Prof Dr Walter **Rosenthal**, President, German Rectors' Conference (HRK)

University Presidents:

- Prof. Dr. Gundolf **Baier**, President, Hochschule Schmalkalden
- Prof. Dr. Stefan **Leible**, President, Universität Bayreuth
- Prof. Dr. Katharina **Lorenz**, President, Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen
- Prof. Dr. Susanne **Menzel-Riedl**, President, Universität Osnabrück
- Prof. Dr. Eduard **Mühle**, President, Europa-Universität Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder)
- Prof. Dr. Ludger **Santen**, President, Universität des Saarlandes

accompanied by

- Iris **Danowski**, Deputy Head of Department for International Affairs, German Rectors' Conference (HRK)

The **German Rectors' Conference** (HRK) is the association of public and government-recognised universities in Germany. The member institutions are represented in the HRK by their executive boards and rectorates. The HRK currently has 271 member institutions, at which around 90 per cent of all students in Germany are enrolled. Due to this large membership, representing all types of higher education institution, the HRK functions as the voice of the universities in dialogue with politicians and the public and as the central forum for opinion-forming in the higher education sector.

The HRK deals with all issues relating to the role and tasks of higher education institutions in academia and society, especially teaching and studying, research, innovation and transfer, scientific further training, internationalisation, and university self-administration and governance.



Foto: Anne Günther/Universität Jena

Prof. Dr. Walter Rosenthal President, German Rectors' Conference

In May 2023, Professor **Walter Rosenthal** was elected president of the German Rectors' Conference (Hochschulrektorenkonferenz; HRK) after a distinguished career as a molecular pharmacologist and academic leader. In 1996, he became director of the Leibniz Institute of Molecular Pharmacology (FMP) in Berlin. He headed the FMP for twelve years before serving as Chair of the Board and Scientific Director of the Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine in Berlin-Buch (2009-2015). For the past nine years, he was President of the University of Jena (2014-2023). Rosenthal is a member of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, an elected Senate member of the Leibniz Association and serves as Dean of the Max Planck Schools. In 2022, he was awarded the title "**University Manager of the Year**".

Schmalkalden University of Applied Sciences (SUAS) is a small but highly international HEI with more than 120 years of history that offers German- and English-language study courses both on an undergraduate and graduate level on a green campus with state-of-the-art infrastructure. SUAS trains students in engineering and economics subjects, offers academic training for specialists and conducts applied research especially in the areas of product development and toolmaking, human-centred interactive technologies, 3D Electronic systems and adaptive signal analysis.

SUAS is looking for committed institutional partnerships in teaching and research. We are interested in promoting inter-institutional mobility for students and teaching staff, in developing double degree collaboration and in conducting strategic projects and research cooperations. SUAS has a dense network of cooperation in all disciplines with over 200 partner universities worldwide. We invest great effort in sustaining the bonds with our partners.



Foto: Hochschule Schmalkalden

**Prof. Dr. Gundolf Baier President,
Schmalkalden University of Applied Sciences**

Since January 2020, Professor Gundolf Baier is president of the Schmalkalden University of Applied Science (Hochschule Schmalkalden). Before working in science management, he spent almost 20 years as a scientist in teaching and research. He was Professor of Marketing at the West Saxon University of Applied Sciences in Zwickau for 17 years, including 8 years as Vice-Rector for Education. Before that, he worked at the following universities: Chemnitz University of Technology, RWTH Aachen University and Dresden University of Technology. He is a graduate of the Technical University of Darmstadt with a degree in Business Informatics.



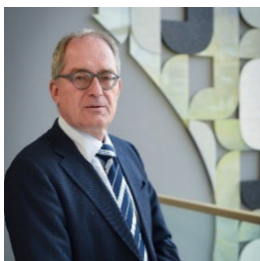
UNIVERSITÄT
BAYREUTH

The **University of Bayreuth (UBT)** is a dynamic, research-oriented campus university. Its founding mission is to support interdisciplinary research and teaching and to develop focus areas in order to strengthen its own profile. It offers favourable study conditions for national and international students and is highly attractive for researchers from all over the world. As a young, medium-sized campus university, the UBT places less emphasis on quantitative growth and more on ensuring the highest quality of its research, teaching and infrastructure. One example is our newest Faculty of Life Sciences: Food, Nutrition and Health in Kulmbach. The success of this strategy is reflected in domestic and international rankings where UBT has been achieving excellent results for many years now. The Research Centre for AI in Science and Society (RAIS2) at the University of Bayreuth is dedicated to the task of researching the opportunities and challenges of AI in a broad interdisciplinary context and at the same time ensuring its transfer into practice.

UBT acts offensively in national and international competition. It has developed its own internationalisation strategy with geographical focus areas and a tight international network of university partnerships. UBT cooperates with other universities and non-university research institutes around the world and fosters dialogue between science and society. The research programmes and courses offered at UBT include the natural sciences, engineering, law, economics, language, literature, and cultural studies. Several undergraduate and graduate degree programmes and numerous individual courses and seminars are offered in English (i.e. 29 master programmes in English). Furthermore, research and doctoral programmes and the international summer programmes are generally conducted in foreign languages (English, French, Spanish), attracting students and internationally renowned academics from all over the world. Excellent research requires professional service, especially when there is a high potential for complex international collaboration in key regions. UBT addressed this need by defining global

strategic hubs (GSHs) and creating service structures in regions of strategic relevance: Shanghai, Melbourne, Bordeaux and Boston.

Over almost fifty years, UBT has become one of the leading African studies institutions worldwide. The 'Africa Multiple' Cluster of Excellence seeks to realign UBT's African Studies focus in close cooperation with four African partner institutions. The Cluster embodies UBT's typical core elements of research and teaching on campus, i.e. an interdisciplinary approach, robust networking, profile development, and a strong international presence.



Professor Dr. Stefan Leible
President of the University of Bayreuth

Prof. Dr. Stefan Leible has been President of the University of Bayreuth (UBT) since 2013 after a distinguished career as a professor in law. From 2002-2006, he was a full professor of law at University of Jena, and from 2006 at University of Bayreuth. From 2010-2013, he was Vice President for Internationalization, Gender Equality & Diversity at the University of Bayreuth. Stefan Leible is the expert spokesperson for the Science Forum of the Nuremberg Metropolitan Region (Europäische Metropolregion Nürnberg), a member of the Supervisory Board of Bayern Innovativ, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Bavarian Research Institute for Digital Transformation (Bayerisches Forschungsinstitut für Digitale Transformation (bidt)) and a member of the Strategy Council of the Bavarian Research and Innovation Agency (Strategierat der Bayerischen Forschungs- und Innovationsagentur). He is chairman of Universität Bayern e.V. (Bayerische Universitätenkonferenz). In January 2025, he was re-elected as President of the University of Bayreuth for the third time.

Founded in 1607, **Justus Liebig University Giessen (JLU)** is a research university with a rich tradition and around 25,700 students. In addition to a wide range of subjects – from the classic natural sciences to law and economics, from social and educational sciences to linguistics and cultural studies – it offers a unique range of life sciences subjects: human and veterinary medicine, agricultural, environmental and nutritional sciences, and food chemistry. Among those who have researched and taught at JLU are a number of Nobel Prize winners, including Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen (Nobel Prize in Physics 1901) and Wangari Maathai (Nobel Peace Prize 2004). Since 2006, research at JLU has been continuously funded by the Excellence Initiative and the Excellence Strategy of the German federal and state governments.

JLU and its partner universities in Colombia have close institutional ties and long-standing contacts dating back 70 years. In 1967, JLU signed the first German-Colombian university collaboration agreement with the Universidad de los Andes. Today, JLU has further cooperation agreements with the Universidad Nacional de Colombia, the Universidad de Antioquia, the Universidad del Rosario and the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana Cali.

Two beacons of German-Colombian research cooperation are the driving force behind the cooperation: JLU coordinates the German-Colombian Centre of Excellence in Marine Sciences (CEMarin), founded in 2009, and together with the Universidad Nacional de Colombia is consortium leader of the German-Colombian Peace Institute (CAPAZ), founded in 2016.



Foto: Katrina Frieze

Prof. Dr. Katharina Lorenz President, Justus Liebig University Giessen

Professor Katharina Lorenz has been President of Justus Liebig University Giessen (JLU) since April 1, 2024. Between 2021 and 2024, she served as a member of the JLU Executive Board as Vice-President for Teaching and

Learning and First Vice-President. Prior to her appointment at JLU, she was Professor of Classical Art and Archaeology at the University of Nottingham, UK. She leads the university in its pursuit of academic excellence, securing resources and fostering a vibrant academic community that empowers students and faculty to achieve their full potential. She is committed to shaping the future of higher education through strategic innovation and a focus on impactful research, teaching, and service to the broader community

Osnabrück University, founded in 1974, has built up an outstanding reputation over the past five decades - regionally, nationally and internationally. Its research strengths include microbiology, comparative law, artificial intelligence, cognitive science and migration research. These areas of research and teaching at the highest level are embedded in a comprehensive scientific canon of numerous other disciplines. The research results achieved here flow directly into highly qualified academic education in the form of "research-based learning". Around 13,500 students are currently enrolled; providing them with the best possible support is a priority for the university. A total of 1,000 professors, lecturers and research assistants teach and conduct research in eight departments, which offer around 180 attractive and modern study programmes. The diverse range of subjects includes future-oriented Bachelor's and Master's programmes. The university shapes and enriches the cultural life of the city of Osnabrück. The economy also benefits from the university through the transfer of scientific research results to companies. In summary, the following applies to Osnabrück University: research and teaching combine to ensure a future worth living.



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Prof. Dr. Susanne Menzel-Riedl
President of Osnabrück University

From 1996 onwards, Prof. Dr. Susanne Menzel-Riedl studied the subjects biology, education and English for secondary school at the universities of Münster, Dakar (Senegal) and the College of William and Mary (U.S.A.), where she was awarded her master's degree in 2002. Between 2004 and 2007 she was a research associate in the Department of Biology Education at the University of Göttingen (Ph.D. 2007), and subsequently a postgraduate scholarship holder in the German Research Foundation (DFG) PhD research group "Successful Matching of Determinants of Learning at School". Through her academic career, she has numerous connections to Latin America, including Chile, Ecuador and Costa Rica. In 2008, she came to Osnabrück as an assistant professor. From 01 October 2016 she was the extra-professional Vice President for Research and Advancement of Young Academics at Osnabrück University and a key contributor to the strategic plan for the future of the university, the "Zukunftskonzept UOS 2020". Prof. Dr. Susanne Menzel-Riedl has been President of Osnabrück University since October 1st, 2019. On 7 November 2022, she was elected as the new Chairwoman of the Lower Saxony State University Conference. Since December 2023, she has been Vice-President for the Higher Education System and Organisation of the German Rectors' Conference.



The **European University Viadrina** is located in the German-Polish twin city of Frankfurt (Oder)-Śluby. Research and teaching at Viadrina focuses on the subject areas of Culture, Law and Business. Around 4,000 students, a good 300 lecturers and researchers and around 300 non-academic staff work at Viadrina. As a European university, Viadrina aligns its activities with the tasks necessary for shaping the future both from a European and from a global perspective. It addresses the diverse challenges of social change and focuses on the current issues of social, digital and ecological transformation, European integration and globalisation with a particular interest in Eastern Europe. Using the expertise in this field, the university makes a contribution to thinking about Europe; it considers the specific interest in and engagement with Eastern Europe to be a central part of its mission as a European university and is committed to a democratic, open and diverse European society.



**Prof. Dr. Eduard Mühle President,
European University Viadrina**

In November 2022, Professor Eduard Mühle was elected President of the European University Viadrina for six years, starting office on 1 April 2023 after having been Professor of the History of East Central Europe and Eastern Europe at the University of Münster since 2005. After studying Eastern European, Modern and Jewish History, Slavic Studies and Philosophy in Paderborn, Jerusalem, Münster and London, and research stays in Kyiv, Leningrad, Novgorod and Moscow, he received his doctorate in Münster in 1990 and completed his habilitation in 2004 at the Philipps University of Marburg. From 1990 to 1995, he worked as Head of the Executive Division of the German Research Foundation (DFG) and Head of the International Department at the Secretariat of the German Rectors' Conference (HRK) in Bonn. Between 1995 and 2005 he was Director of the Leibniz Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe in Marburg, and from 2008 to 2013 Director of the German Historical Institute in Warsaw. He held visiting professorships and senior visiting fellowships at St Antony's College at Oxford (2001-2002), Wolfson College at Cambridge (2007), the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton (2017) and at the German Historical Institute's Warsaw branch in Prague (2021-22). He has published widely on medieval Slavic and Polish History, History of modern Historiography on East Central Europe, History of the Higher Education and Science Systems of the Soviet Union and East Central Europe, as well as on Urban History of East Central and Eastern Europe.



UNIVERSITÄT
DES
SAARLANDES

Founded in 1948 under French oversight, **Saarland University** (UdS) began with a bilingual foundation that shapes its identity today. The university excels in computer science, pharmaceutical research, and sustainable materials science, with its location fostering strong French connections and a European character.

Research Excellence

Saarland University maintains strong links with prestigious external research institutes located on or near campus. At the Saarland Informatics Campus (SIC), UdS works with the Max Planck Institute for Informatics and the Max Planck Institute for Software Systems, as well as the CISPA Helmholtz Centre for Information Security and the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI). In the PharmaScienceHub (PSH), there is a close collaboration with the Helmholtz Institute for Pharmaceutical Research Saarland (HIPS), which focuses on the development of novel anti-infectives and improving their applicability in humans. Our campus is also home to the Leibniz Institute for New Materials (INM) and two Fraunhofer Institutes. These partnerships significantly enhance the university's research capabilities and provide students with exceptional opportunities to work with leading scientists.

University Profile

Today, Saarland University serves approximately 16,300 students, with a remarkable 23% international student population. The university employs 4,800 staff, including 294 professors, in six academic faculties: Natural Sciences and Technology, Mathematics and Computer Science, Humanities, Human and Business Sciences, Law and Medicine. UdS is currently establishing a new research focus on sustainability, in addition to its existing focus on Computer Science, BioMed and Interdisciplinary European Research.

International Engagement

The university maintains global academic partnerships, participates in the International Deans' Course Latin America, and leads Transform4Europe, a European University Alliance of ten institutions across the continent.



Photo: Jörg Pütz / Saarland University

**Prof. Dr. Ludger Santen President,
Saarland University**

Ludger Santen was born in Haren (Ems) in 1969 and studied physics at the University of Cologne. Following his doctorate, he worked at the École Normale Supérieure in Paris for two years as part of a research fellowship from the German Research Foundation.

In 2001, Ludger Santen moved to Saarland University, where he headed an Emmy Noether Junior Research Group in the Department of Theoretical Physics for four years. From 2006 to 2015, he was spokesperson for the DFG Research Training Group 'Structure Formation and Transport in Complex Systems'.

In 2006, Ludger Santen was appointed Professor of Theoretical Physics at Saarland University. As a member of the Senate (2008-2010), Spokesperson of the Department of Physics (2020-2022), Head of the Centre for Biophysics (2017-2024) and Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology (2022-2024), he has gained a wealth of experience in academic self-administration and the acquisition of third-party funding.



Iris Danowski, M.A.

Iris Danowski, M.A. is Deputy Head of the International Department, Head of Section Latin America of the German Rectors' Conference (HRK).

Iris Danowski studied Spanish and French Language and Literature and History of Art at the University of Cologne and the University of Seville, Spain. In 1991, she started her career as ERASMUS coordinator of the University of Cologne. In 1994, she changed to the German Rectors' Conference as Head of Section for Europe. In the second half of the nineties, she started building up the cooperation with Latin American partners for the HRK and has been coordinating that field since then. Iris Danowski is member of the Steering Committee of the DIES-International Deans' Course for Latin America, HRK's Audit team "Internationalisation of Universities" and the Steering Committee of the Centro Universitario Argentino-Alemán/Deutsch-Argentinisches Hochschulzentrum CUAA/DAHZ.



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