



## The University of Bamberg

Steeped in Tradition

And Committed to the Future





*The University of Bamberg is both old and young.*

*Its current structure and facilities create the appearance of a newly founded institution, but it also remains committed to the traditions of its long history.*

Prof. Dr. Dr. habil. Godehard Ruppert,  
President of the University of Bamberg



## Answering Ancient Questions Using Modern Methods

*Since the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the historic Academia Ottoniana and present-day University of Bamberg has seen itself explicitly as a “House of Wisdom.” It was founded in 1647 by Prince Bishop Melchior Otto Voit von Salzburg as a centre of contemporary humanistic education.*

The “domus sapientiae” of past centuries is now home to programmes offered by the university’s four academic faculties: Humanities; Social Sciences, Economics and Business Administration; Human Sciences; and Information Systems and Applied Computer Science. The academic disciplines are closely linked to the focal areas of our overall profile:

- Education & Life Planning
- The Individual & Society
- Languages & Cultures
- Business & Markets



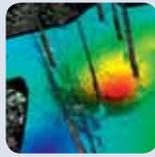
1647 establishment  
of the Academia Ottoniana

1773 four-faculty university with the name  
Universitas Ottoniano-Fredericana

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1700

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Academic learning is a method-driven process. The methods employed in our applied computer sciences, for instance, range from digital editions of medieval texts and cognitive modelling used in psychology to reconstructive 3D imaging for building and architectural research. The excellent support and mentoring of our young academics throughout the course of their studies and research careers is central to our philosophy. The Trimberg Research Academy (TRAc) and the Scientific Career Service provide these young scholars with structured academic support. From among our doctoral programmes (German Research Foundation research training groups, graduate schools), the Bamberg Graduate School of Social Sciences (BAGSS) is sponsored by the German Excellence Initiative.

The excellence of our research programmes is substantiated not least of all by the volume of third-party funding which in the last ten years has grown from 2.37 million euros (2000) to 29.6 million euros (2012). We owe this increase primarily to the most renowned of Bamberg's research projects: the National Education Panel Study (NEPS). The project, founded on an interdisciplinary network of researchers employing cutting-edge methods, examines one of academia's oldest research topics: educational processes and competence development in Germany.

Since 2007 four interdisciplinary, networked faculties

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## Academic Support and Real-World Education

*Time spent pursuing a university degree is a special phase in a person's life, and that is why our instructors not only give seminars, but also mentor and assist students throughout their studies and encourage them to challenge themselves both while at the university and beyond. This approach stems from our sense of tradition and our historical roots: We are truly committed to the ideal of comprehensive education.*

It is our belief that quality university education is defined by qualification programmes and opportunities that motivate and inspire students to individually pursue their interests. For this reason, students in our more than 100 predominantly accredited bachelor's, master's and teaching degree programmes are encouraged to work as independently as possible. The application of theoretical knowledge to practical experience is ensured by curricula featuring practice-based seminars, training courses and degree-related internships.

Furthermore, we provide an environment in which the humanistic notion of man's place in the world can be experienced and explored holistically. This includes numerous literary readings, concerts, theatre productions, exhibits, or the university's poetics professorship, which was established in 1986.

We see it as our responsibility to encourage our students to play an active role in moulding both their own living environments and society itself. Opportunities are provided by university clubs and organizations dedicated to social, political, journalistic or religious involvement, and by our numerous student committees, societies and working groups.

Comprehensive education, as we understand it, takes time. Our flexible course offering allows for the necessary individual freedom and is our answer to both changing living conditions in a globalised world and to increasingly flexible life and career paths. Nearly every degree offered in Bamberg can be pursued part-time, and our multi-subject bachelor's programmes invite students to take advantage of unique subject combinations in order to create an academic profile based on individual interests.

1986 creation of the  
poetics professorship

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1990



*The ideal of comprehensive education has been the core philosophy of the University of Bamberg since its founding.*

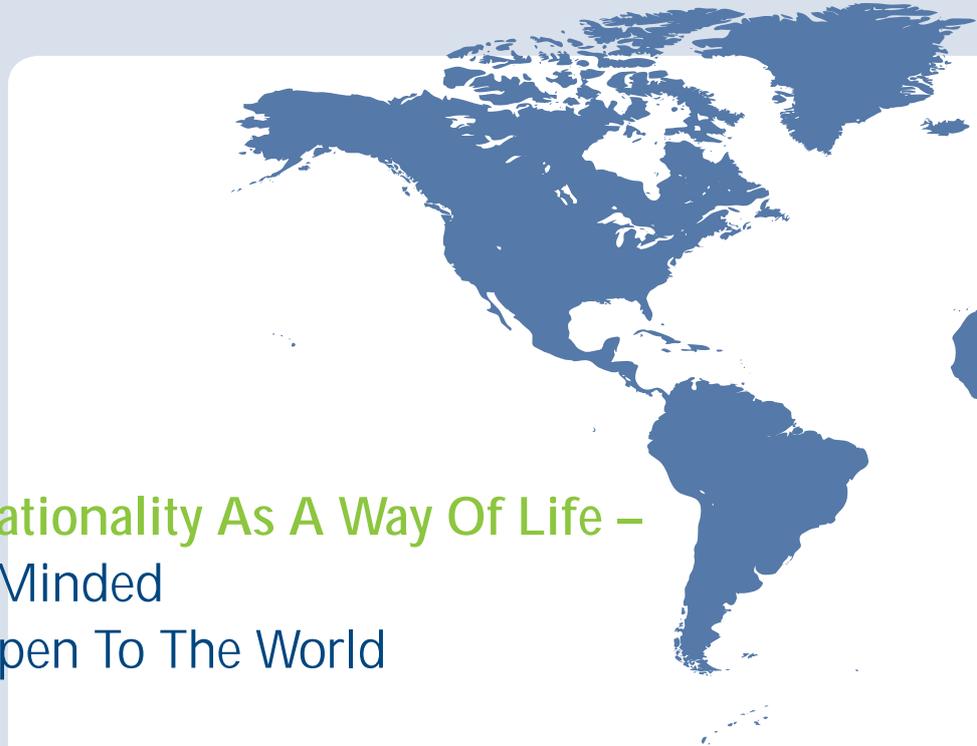
2005 accreditation of the first BA/MA degree programmes in „European Economic Studies“

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Since the 2011/12 winter semester, nearly every degree programme accommodates part-time studies

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## Internationality As A Way Of Life – Open-Minded And Open To The World

*As an internationally renowned research centre, the University of Bamberg is committed to the academic exchange of knowledge and ideas, and it promotes networking and partnerships with foreign universities and research institutions. For years, foreign exchange opportunities, special degree programmes and inter-university partnerships have drawn foreign students to Bamberg and led Bamberg students abroad.*

At the University of Bamberg, internationality is more than a mere formality; it is desired, promoted and is indeed a way of life. Following in the footsteps of the world-traveling Jesuits who founded the Academia Ottoniana in 1647, Bamberg's researchers and academics share their knowledge and skills worldwide. The University of Bamberg has cooperated with partner institutions in Budapest, Sarajevo and Tirana, to create joint master's degree programmes in economics. Currently, a joint master's programme in political science is being planned with the University of Tbilisi. And conversely, guest professorships facilitate the intensive transfer of knowledge and ideas from abroad to Bamberg.



1648 initial contact and  
exchange with other regions

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Our university's Welcome Center, which was founded in 2010, provides support and assistance for our foreign guests.

One example of the many academic endeavours in which networking, exchange and cooperation are coordinated from Germany is the interdisciplinary "Monuments and Context in Bukhara" project.

Each year, over 500 students take advantage of opportunities to pursue foreign studies, complete an internship or teach at a school abroad. Looking only at the EU's popular Erasmus Programme, an average of approximately 25 percent of the students in each year's class participate in an exchange, making the

University of Bamberg the most active of Bavaria's universities. Degree programmes like the European Joint Master's Degree in English and American Studies promote cross-cultural competence and prepare graduates for positions of leadership both at home and abroad.

Exchange programmes and inter-university partnerships ease both the placement of Bamberg students abroad and the accommodation of foreign students in Bamberg. The university's first international cooperation, with the University of South Carolina in Columbia (USA) in 1986, has been followed by 260 similar programmes in 58 countries. With a view to tradition, a main focus has been placed on institutions in Southern and Eastern Europe, as the Academia even welcomed 250 Bohemian students to Bamberg between 1648 and 1803.

Members of our university experience culture as an integral part of academic life, and German and foreign-language theatre productions, literary readings and exhibits are just a few examples of this. Both the International Office and Language Centre function as key supporters of this cultural cooperation and exchange.

1983 first international academic partnership with the University of South Carolina in Columbia (USA)

2010 establishment of the university's Welcome Center

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## High-Tech Resources, Service and Individual Support

*Technology connecting people: thanks to the comprehensive modernization of all university service processes and the expansion of information systems in recent decades, studying and working at the University of Bamberg is faster and more flexible than ever – but not less personal.*

**Books and Media:** A total of 1.6 million books and other media, many in electronic form, are available in our six university library branches. The paradigm shift towards hybrid libraries is therefore not merely a vision of the future, but a current reality. Far beyond simply making these media available, the university library has broadened its core focus to include the development and transfer of skills required for the effective and efficient use of information resources.

The university archives are also working to incorporate their valuable collections of materials dating from the 16th to the 21st centuries into these modern information structures and to make them easily accessible in a highly networked research environment. This means that materials like digital versions of hand-written documents and records pertaining to university history as well as a dynamic catalogue of professors will all be equally accessible online.



Library

Canteen



Bus

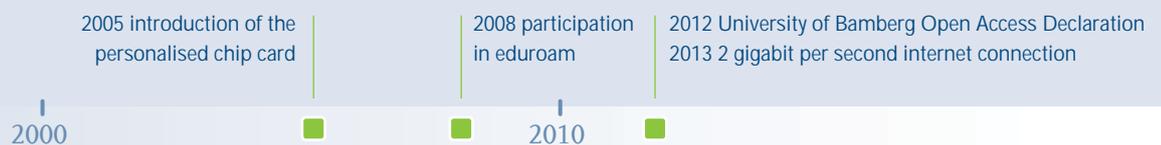




*Technological advancement has fundamentally changed the university's administration and services. The greatest benefit of this comprehensive information systems implementation is time. Time for personal guidance and individual counselling.*

The Internet and Information Technology: 1800 computer-equipped workstations and 700 laptops are available to university employees. 10,000 high-speed network connections make it possible to transmit 1 gigabit of data per second – knowledge transfer at the University of Bamberg is 1000 times faster than a DSL1000 connection! Materials required for lectures and seminars can be accessed on the university's e-learning platform, the Virtual Campus (VC). Thanks to eduroam, our students and staff can establish wireless connections to the internet at a great many universities and research institutions worldwide. And some of our scholars are already publishing their articles and books as "open access" documents, meaning that the global community can access these works online and free of charge.

This modern IT infrastructure and other innovations like numerous online services and a personalised chip card that functions not only as student identification and university library card, but also as a semester ticket for public transport and a method of payment at the university all save a great deal of time -- time that we invest in all aspects of individual counselling and service handled by the Student Service Centre. The centre, in which all student services departments are located under one roof, began operations in 2013. At the University of Bamberg, the individual is our top priority.





## A Commitment to Social Responsibility

*The mandate to diligently and dutifully address and engage “the intellectual currents of the day” was laid down for us in the university’s foundational charter of 1647. The social responsibility implied in this philosophy has characterised our self-conception throughout the years and is expressed today as much in family-friendly working structures and our commitment to equal opportunity as in a course offering that is carefully tailored to ever-changing, ever more diverse academic developments and the increasing demands placed on continuing education.*

*Family-friendly policies are more than just a play date. Regular university meetings for parents and children help parents to form networks with other families.*

Establishing and maintaining values like comprehensive equal opportunity and sustainable family-friendly policies for employees and students demands a great deal of effort, but we are happy to put in the time to make them a reality. Our commitment to family issues has been rewarded since 2005 with certification as a family-friendly university. The initial steps towards this distinction were a series of structural improvements including the deregulation of core working hours, the expansion of childcare availability, and the establishment of the Parents’ Service Office.

1990 establishment of the Hegelwoche or Hegel Week (known as „Bamberger Talks“ at the time of founding) as a platform for philosophical debate on topics of our times.

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*Lifelong learning is a reality at the University of Bamberg: Anita Timm is one of 66 senior students pursuing continuing education at the university.*



*Andreas Hübner works in an architectural firm and is pursuing an MA in Heritage Conservation part-time.*

The most recent re-certification (2012) specifically honours the increased flexibility of study programmes: it is currently possible to pursue almost every degree offered in Bamberg either as a part-time student or in modular study programmes, and the availability of online courses has been greatly expanded. A further milestone on the path to fulfilling our centuries-old commitment is represented by the establishment of the KinderVilla which provides day care and kindergarten education for the children of both university students and staff.

Our commitment to addressing matters of ethical import is reflected not least of all in our numerous research projects which are presented to the community in a series of public events. Among these are the Bamberger *Hegelwoche* (Hegel Week) and our humanities faculty lecture series. At these events, friends and guests of the university are invited to participate in discussions on current social and political topics.

Since 2005 the University of Bamberg has been certified as a family-friendly university

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2011 the KinderVilla childcare centre opens

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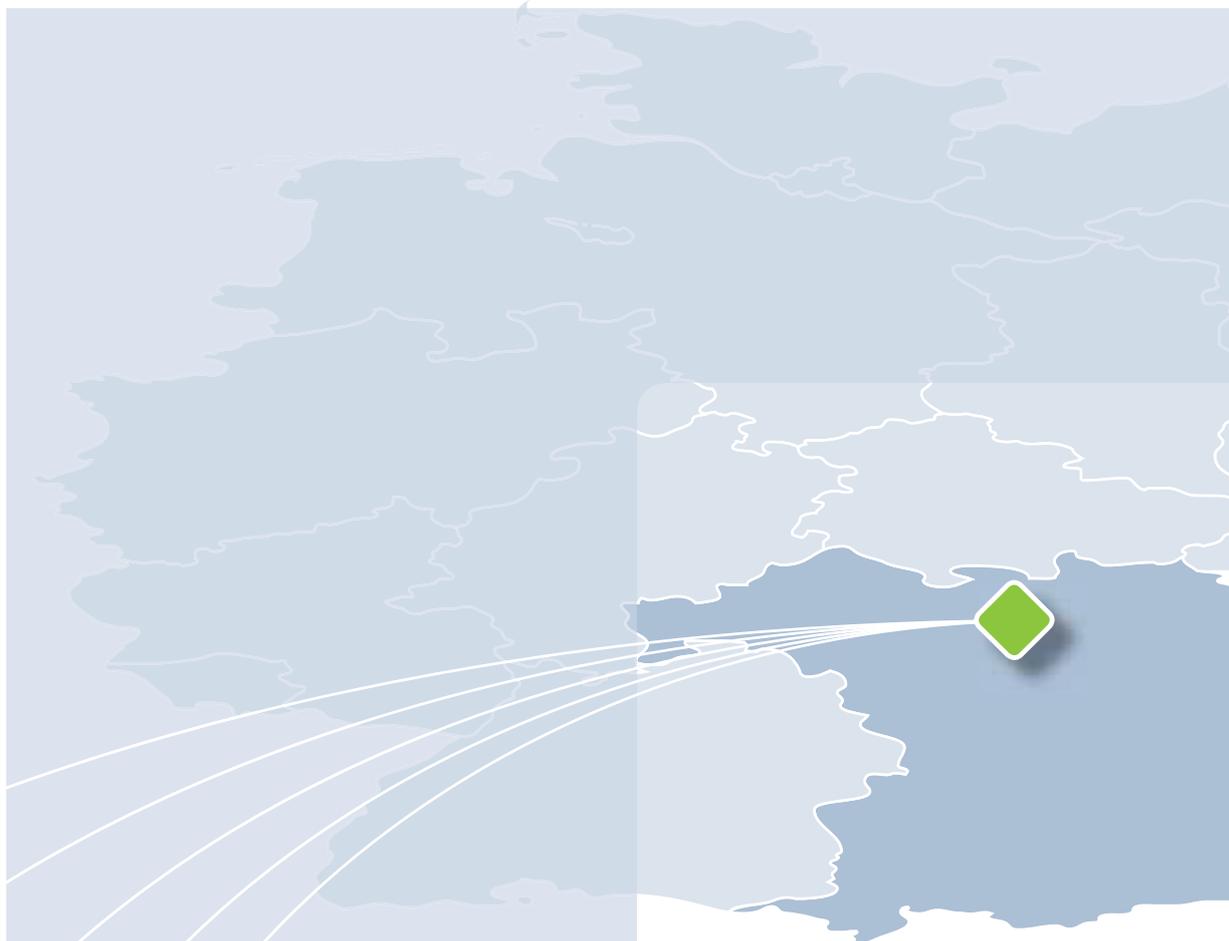
AWT Audit  
Wirtschafts-Treuhand AG



MEDIENGRUPPE  
OBERFRANKEN



ofa bamberg



*Cooperation between academia, commerce, culture and society benefits all parties: scholars investigate concrete issues and, together with their students, contribute to the regional implementation of potential solutions. With its various cooperative projects, the University of Bamberg is a considerable regional influence and is also a source of knowledge and specialists ideally suited for the local labour market. In this way, the university contributes significantly to assuring the competitiveness of the Upper Franconian region and to meeting demands for generations of qualified staff.*

The cornerstone for the only alliance of its kind in Germany was laid by the cooperation agreement of the “Technology Alliance Oberfranken.” For the first time, all universities in one region – in this case, Bamberg, Bayreuth, Hof and Coburg – joined forces to promote their common interests and strengthen their expertise in the areas of research, teaching and continuing education. The alliance’s core areas of focus are energy, mobility, raw materials and information technology.

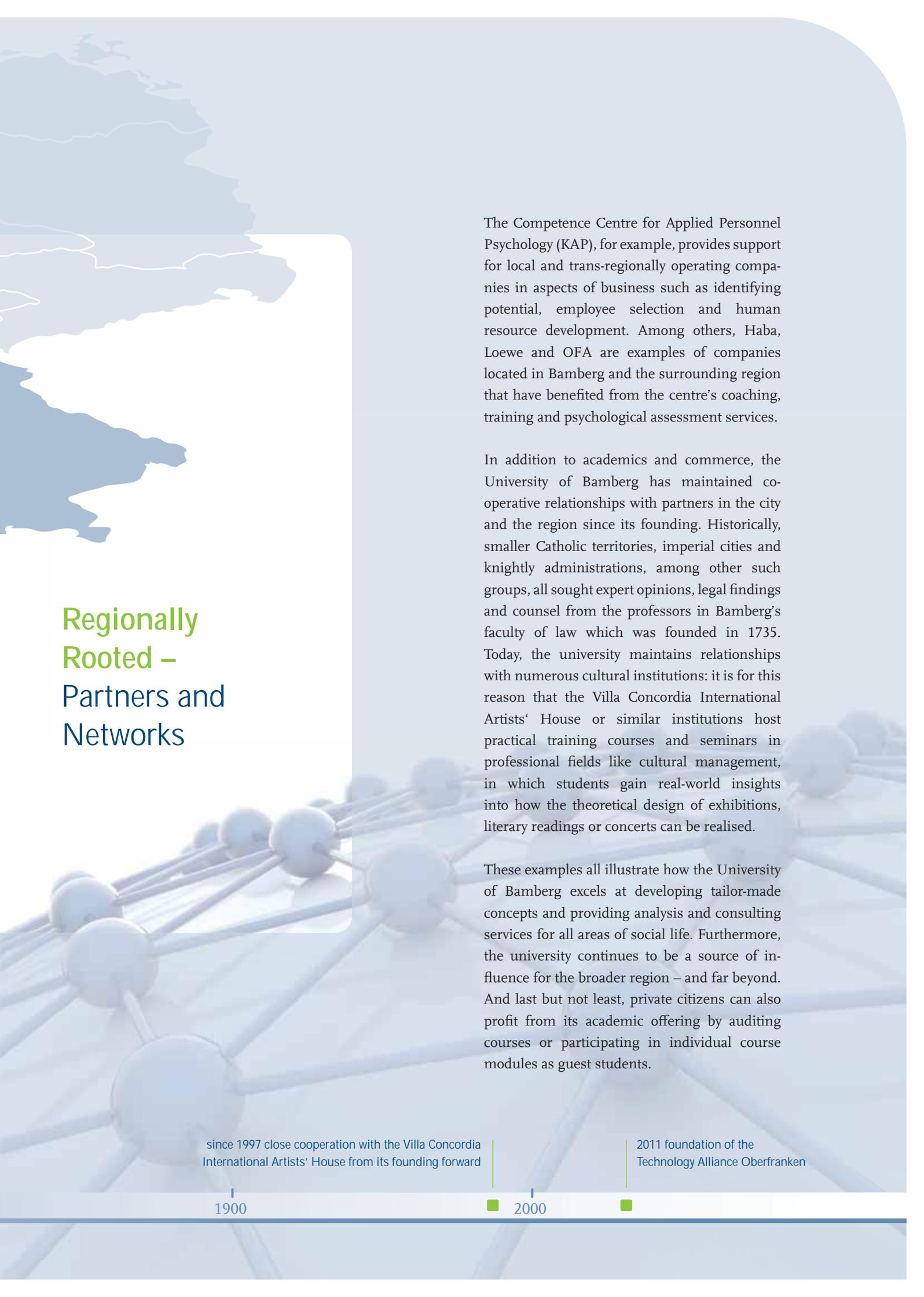
1735 the University of Bamberg  
faculty of law (until 1803)

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1700



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## Regionally Rooted – Partners and Networks

The Competence Centre for Applied Personnel Psychology (KAP), for example, provides support for local and trans-regionally operating companies in aspects of business such as identifying potential, employee selection and human resource development. Among others, Haba, Loewe and OFA are examples of companies located in Bamberg and the surrounding region that have benefited from the centre's coaching, training and psychological assessment services.

In addition to academics and commerce, the University of Bamberg has maintained cooperative relationships with partners in the city and the region since its founding. Historically, smaller Catholic territories, imperial cities and knightly administrations, among other such groups, all sought expert opinions, legal findings and counsel from the professors in Bamberg's faculty of law which was founded in 1735. Today, the university maintains relationships with numerous cultural institutions: it is for this reason that the Villa Concordia International Artists' House or similar institutions host practical training courses and seminars in professional fields like cultural management, in which students gain real-world insights into how the theoretical design of exhibitions, literary readings or concerts can be realised.

These examples all illustrate how the University of Bamberg excels at developing tailor-made concepts and providing analysis and consulting services for all areas of social life. Furthermore, the university continues to be a source of influence for the broader region – and far beyond. And last but not least, private citizens can also profit from its academic offering by auditing courses or participating in individual course modules as guest students.

since 1997 close cooperation with the Villa Concordia International Artists' House from its founding forward

2011 foundation of the Technology Alliance Oberfranken

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## University and City – Two Habitats in Harmony

*According to survey data, the quality of life and general beauty of the city of Bamberg are consistently rated among the highest in Germany – and not just since the 1993 addition of the 70,000-inhabitant cathedral city to the list of UNESCO World Heritage sites. Even at first glance, Bamberg’s old quarters reveal extensive evidence of university influence and academic life, and the university itself also profits from the flair of the historic city centre. But the university is also aware of the responsibility that comes with the concept of a “university in the city.”*



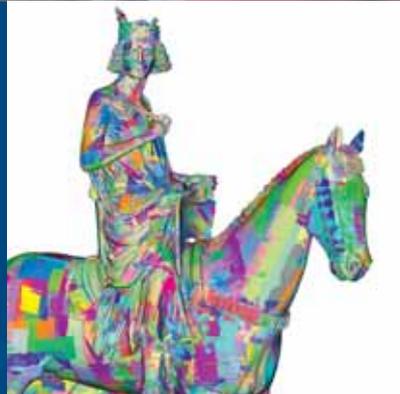
*The university breathes life into many of Bamberg’s ancient buildings – but its intensive research also contributes to the preservation and restoration of these historic structures.*

Listed historic buildings like the former Jesuit college (today *An der Universität 2*) or the Marcus-Haus at *Markusplatz* – now home to the Humanities and Human Sciences faculties – illustrate the philosophy behind the utilisation concept of the “university in the city:” in centuries-old Bamberg, the exuberant students whose energy fills the numerous brewery taprooms, pubs and beer gardens are an inherent part of life in the city –not merely some peripheral phenomenon. And this is what distinguishes the University of Bamberg from many of Germany’s other academic institutions.

The university facilities located in the *Feldkirchenstraße* ((home to the Faculty of Social Sciences Economics and Business Administration) and the former industrial fallow of the ERBA-Island (home to the Faculty of Information Systems and Applied Computer Science) are examples of how well state-of-the-art infrastructure can be integrated into developing urban areas and how the city, the university and the students can all benefit equally from one another.

However, world heritage status is not only an aspect of the university’s campus, but also an object of research for scholars of heritage conservation, art history and other disciplines. They have seized the unique opportunity to apply the cutting-edge methods being developed in their fields to the study of this very heritage – and in so doing, to contribute to its preservation.





*We are proud to be an educational centre  
and university town.*

*With the University of Bamberg, 65 schools and numerous  
other educational institutions, Bamberg is an attractive  
educational hub with a broad sphere of influence.*

Andreas Starke,  
Lord Mayor of the City of Bamberg





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