The University of Bamberg is both the newest and one of the oldest universities in Bavaria. On November 14, 1647, the Bamberg Prince Bishop Melchior Otto Völt von Salzburg expanded the town’s Jesuit college into the Academia Ottóniana by adding the Philosophy and Theology faculties. In the festschrift, it is referred to as the “Domus Sapientiae”: the House of Wisdom. Prince Bishop Friedrich Carl von Schönborn continued the expansion of the Academia to a fully fledged university by adding a law school; with the later addition of a medical school, the transformation to the classical four-faculty university was complete.

In 1773, it became known as Universitas Ottoniana Fridericana.

During a tumultuous period of secularization and closure during the era of National Socialism, the “House of Wisdom” remained committed to its more than 350-year-old tradition. The “House of Wisdom,” a fully fledged college since 1972, was re-designated a “university” in 1979. And since 1988, the university has once again borne the names of both of its main supporters.

Engraving from title page of the festschrift celebrating the opening of the Academia Ottoniana
Melchior Otto Völt von Salzburg
Friedrich Karl von Schönborn
University Ambience

The University of Bamberg is mainly located in the more than 1000-year-old Old Town. With more than 2,400 historically listed buildings, the Old Town was added to the UNESCO list of World Cultural Heritage Sites in 1993. It is easy to feel at ease amidst Bamberg’s unique mixture of architectural styles from the Middle Ages to the present day. Bamberg, located in a fantastic area between the natural beauty of the Fränkische Schweiz, Steigerwald and the Hassberge, also has a tremendous amount of culture to offer – from the Bamberg Symphony, the E.T.A. Hoffmann Theater, the International Artist’s Villa Concordia, and a range of both large-scale and more intimate events. Summer is the time for outdoor get-togethers in Bamberg’s many beer gardens (called “Keller”), as well as at the Sandkerwa and the University’s Old Town Festival. Student life is key to the culture of this warm-hearted upper-Franconian town.
The university is directed by a board of management consisting of the President, two Vice-Presidents, and the Registrar, and functions much as a cabinet would. Whereas the President as the Chairman represents the university and determines its political guidelines, the Registrar is responsible for all administrative areas, with special attention given to human resources and budgeting issues. The duties of the Vice-Presidents are respectively divided into the fields of “Research and Support for the New Generation of Academics” and “Teaching and Students“.

The board of management is strengthened by the addition of the Deans and the Women’s Representative. The re-organized university board consists of an equal number of external members representing the scientific, cultural, business, and other professional communities, and university representatives (voting members of the academic senate), thus providing checks and balances to the system.
The University of Bamberg is known for its focus on the Humanities. The largest faculty brings together various philologies orientated towards Cultural Studies with subjects such as Archaeology, Building Construction Research, Historic Monument Preservation, European Ethnology, Geography, History, Communication Science, and Philosophy. Social Sciences, Economics, and Business Administration became the second largest focus of study and research in 1978; the Social Studies department is nationally acclaimed for its empirical work.

Human learning, experience, behavior and actions are at the center of the Faculty of Human Sciences and Education – consisting primarily of Psychology and Educational Science.

With the newest Faculty of Information Systems and Applied Computer Sciences, the university has expanded its subject spectrum in the natural sciences and technology to complete its overall profile in the Humanities and Cultural Sciences as well as in the Social and Economic Sciences.
Faculties

**GU**K
Humanities
Kapuzinerstraße 22

**SOWI**
Social Sciences, Economics und Business Administration
Feldkirchenstraße 21

**HUWI**
Human Sciences and Education
Markusplatz 3

**WIAI**
Information Systems and Applied Computer Sciences
Feldkirchenstraße 21

**KTHEO**
Catholic Theology
An der Universität 2
With its current enrollment of 2,800 students, the Faculty of Humanities and Cultural Studies is the largest on campus. Subjects offered range from linguistics and literature in the fields of English, German, Romance languages, Oriental and Slavic studies to Archaeology, Geography, History, and many more. A wide variety of degrees are offered at Bachelor and Master levels as well as a final state examination that leads to qualifications in teaching.

Each department’s profile is highly influenced by the Focus on Cultural Studies of the individual subjects that cover areas such as Monument Preservation, Heritage Conservation, and Art History – as well as Philology, History, European Ethnology and Geography. What is special about the subjects offered here is that the extensive field work component is an integral part of the thorough teaching of scientific theories and methods while preparing students for the future application of their academic knowledge later in life.

The Faculty is known for its intensive cooperation between majors, as well as for its active participation in interdisciplinary institutions, such as in the interdepartmental Center for Mediaeval Studies (ZEMAS), which undertakes mediaeval research within various disciplines in Bamberg. The graduate seminar “Generational Consciousness and Generational Conflict in the Ancient World and Mediaeval Times,” sponsored by the German Research Foundation (DFG), is another forum engaged in interdisciplinary studies.
Social Sciences, Economics und Business Administration

The Faculty of Social Sciences, Economics and Business Administration was founded in 1977. Its particular combination of disciplines allows for a multi-layered perspective of society and its economic, social, and political interrelationships.

The faculty’s strengths lie in its empirical approach to economic, political, and social research. Issues that relate to the growing together of Europe and globalization are analysed, in particular, within the postgraduate program “Markets and Social Systems in Europe” supported by the German Research Foundation (DFG).

Both Bachelor and Master’s degree programs benefit from the faculty’s interdisciplinary and international approach. Majors in “European Economics” and “European Economic Studies” accentuate the importance of the European cultural landscape. The number of students who spend one or two semesters studying abroad is well above average when compared with the numbers at other German universities.

www.uni-bamberg.de/sowi
Human Sciences and Education

The Faculty of Human Sciences and Education, the university’s third largest, is home to the subjects of Pedagogy and Psychology, as well as to various degrees culminating in students gaining teaching qualifications.

Pedagogy in the form of Education Science is concerned with theories and empirical research in the areas of teaching, learning, and socialization at different age levels, as well as with schools and extra-curricular areas such as youth work, the family, both adult and continuing education, to name but a few. The processes of education throughout the course of life are a central theme.

Psychology is the study of human experience, behavior, and action. The University of Bamberg offers Psychology as both an empirical and theoretical subject with a focus on the relaying of psychological content (development, thought, motivation, mind, social influences, personality, mental disturbances, and diverse applications) and the research methods of experiment, psychological diagnoses, systematic observation and statistics.

Theoretical and empirical approaches are coordinated within the faculty. The addition of empirical education research has added a further significant profile characteristic to the Faculty. This interdisciplinary approach leads to an unusually varied amount of majors and courses available to students.
Information Systems and Applied Computer Sciences

The newest faculty at the University of Bamberg, Information Systems and Applied Computer Sciences (WIAI), has an interdisciplinary mission unique among German-speaking countries. It combines information systems founded on business sciences and information technology with applied computing in the cultural, historical and geographical sciences, and the classical fields of theoretical and practical computer science.

Thus, the WIAI faculty also explores another world of computing not focused primarily on applications in physical sciences and technologies: the processing of information in business, society and culture. In these areas, following the highly successful development of business information technology in the past decades, new and exciting fields of applied computer sciences are emerging with excellent job prospects. That is why the innovative degree programs of WIAI are also particularly interesting for high school graduates who have not yet considered taking up studies in information technology.

www.uni-bamberg.de/wiai
Anchored in its almost 1000-year history, the Faculty of Catholic Theology directs its attention to contemporary discourse. The traditional subjects of concentration such as the Old Testament, New Testament Sciences, and Church History deal with the historic roots of the system of Christian symbolism and its development. The systematic subjects of Fundamental Theology, Dogmatics, Moral Theology, and Christian Social Ethics are approached in their dialogue with Philosophy and Cultural Studies. The practical subjects of Pastoral Theology, Liturgical Science, Canonical Law and Religious Pedagogy serve to reflect their practical application in church and society.

Optimal, goal-oriented prerequisites for successfully completing their studies await students here. A particular point of emphasis of courses offered is the teaching program for all school types. New Bachelor and Master courses are being planned. Excursions to sites key to the monotheistic religions enhance the program.

In exchange with Judaic and Islamic Studies and supported by the Center of Interreligious Studies (ZIS), research and theory examine questions pertaining to dialogue with Judaism and Islam. A four-semester M.A. course of study, “Interreligious Studies: Judaism – Christianity –Islam”, is offered through the Center for Inter-Religious Studies.
Bamberg is a small, yet energetic university city with a sense of its history and a marked cultural life. Travelling or walking through the picturesque Old Town - which has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1993 - is easy for the 9,000 students, and the quality of life is enhanced by the intimate nature of the city. Counseling and good organization are of great priority; the student-teacher ratio for the majority of subjects is favorable. This is why students can complete their studies more quickly here than at other universities. Thus, the university has been ranked as offering a “fast track for the determined.”

Aside from the historical ambience and the comfortable size of the urban university, the numerous charming apartments and the low cost of living also contribute to the quality of life. A lively student culture has developed in the Old Town with bookshops, restaurants, bistros, and cafes.
Degree Courses: Bachelor

The following subjects may be studied at the Bachelor level as single subject/honour degrees:

- Applied Computer Science
- Archaeology
- Business Administration & Management
- European Business Studies & Management
- European Economic Studies
- History
- Information Systems
- Medieval Studies
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Sociology

The following subjects may be studied at the Bachelor level as joint subject/honour degrees:

- Art History
- Business Administration & Management
- Classical Greek Language, Literature and Culture
- Education
- English and American Studies
- German Language, Literatures and Cultures
- History
- Islamic Studies
- Latin Literature
- Philosophy
- Romance Studies
- Slavic Studies

Additional subjects (available only as minors in conjunction with Bachelor programs)
Degree Courses: Master, Qualifications in the Teacher Training Programme

Master’s Degree

- Adult and Further Education
- Applied Computer Science
- Business Administration & Management
- Greek and Latin Studies
- Communication Science
- Economics & Business Education
- Education in Business and Information Systems
- Educational Science
- English and American Studies
- European Business Studies
- European Economic Studies (EES)
- German: Linguistics
- German Literature
- Heritage Conservation
- History
- Information Systems
- Interreligious Studies
- Joint Master’s Degree English and American Studies
- Medieval Studies
- Political Science
- Romance Studies
- Slavic Studies
- Sociology
- Internet-based Further Education: Master’s Programme in Information Systems

Qualifications in the Teacher Training Programme
Courses leading to teaching qualifications for all types of school
Science and the Field

Research at the University of Bamberg is clearly characterized by its interdisciplinary and interconnected approach. For example, the Center of Mediaeval Studies (ZEMAS) brings together all research and events pertaining to mediaeval subjects in Bamberg. The Center for Interreligious Studies (ZIS) helps further understanding of the religious systems of symbols and inter-religious relationships.

The DFG supports an interdisciplinary research group entitled “Educational processes, skills development, and formation of selective decisions in pre- and elementary school-aged children” (BiKS), combining pedagogical and social perspectives of educational processes. Interdisciplinary thinking is particularly sought after when it comes to supporting young researchers: Three graduate colleges conduct decidedly interdisciplinary research and cooperate closely with other universities, research institutions, and businesses.
The University of Bamberg plays its part helping to solve problems in the field.

For BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, the University of Bamberg creates scientific and academically sound solutions for problems in a wide range of areas such as Information Technology, Business Management and Controlling, Logistics, Strategic Management, Business Finance, Banking and Insurance, and Market Research and Strategy.

In the fields of EDUCATION, POLITICS, and SOCIAL ISSUES, the University of Bamberg offers a variety of skills and services pertaining to analysis and consulting as well as innovation and development of individualized concepts.

The Humanities and Cultural Studies departments of the University of Bamberg provide the basis for the university’s participation in intellectual and cultural life at large. They offer countless impulses for public discourse on current challenges.
University International

The University of Bamberg has a strong European and international focus in its course curricula and research programs, for which it was awarded the Europe-Medal of the European People’s Party in 2001. It has over 40 partner universities in Western and Eastern Europe and North and South America as well as in the Middle East and Asia.

More than a third of students complete a part of their studies at a foreign university and participate in one of over 140 exchange programs, which is well above the average for German universities, while young people from all over the world comprise about seven per cent of Bamberg’s total student population. The international orientation of the university is also demonstrated by the many courses it offers with an international emphasis, such as “European Economic Studies.” In addition, research in many other disciplines in all faculties is devoted to European issues. All these are brought together in the Bamberg Centre for European Studies (BACES).
The Bavarian University Administration is faced with huge challenges. The central administration of the University of Bamberg has thus been re-structured for the future and has developed strategies for meeting standards while conserving restricted financial resources. Nonetheless, the university administration continues to see itself as a service provider requiring both friendly people and optimal processes, and has thus recently modernized its informational infrastructure. As the first university in Bavaria to do so, personalized chip cards were first introduced at the Otto-Friedrich-Universität in time for Winter Semester 2005/06. Both the university library and computer center have placed great value upon modern equipment. With the introduction of the registration system FlexNow!, the University of Bamberg made the change early on to online self-service in the fields of both teaching and study.

In 2006, the University of Bamberg was awarded the “Family-friendly University” Certificate by the Hertie Auditing Commission. It is one of the few universities that makes concerted efforts to solve issues pertaining to the concerns of children and family problems. Creating and improving upon family-friendly learning and working conditions is the designated goal of the responsible project group.
University Goes Public

The University of Bamberg offers hands-on academia, science, and culture on a variety of occasions: Each year during the early summer, Bamberg philosophers host the BAMBERGER HEGELWOCHE. Lectures and panel discussions with prominent guests from the fields of academia, politics, and culture create a forum for encountering current societal issues of relevance. Guests in Bamberg have included Hans Georg Gadamer, Heiner Geißler, and Karl Friedrich von Weizsäcker.

The interested and curious may participate in the NIGHT OF RESEARCH or in university events such as the MS SCIENCE and thus have the chance to have a look behind the scenes of the work carried out at the university. There are also special events at the Otto-Friedrich-Universität for children and young people: At the KINDERUNI BAMBERG (KIBA) and the KOLLEGIATENUNI, children at all school levels have the chance to see what university is like.

The concert series MUSIC AT THE UNIVERSITY provides
students with an open forum. In larger ensembles such as the choir, orchestra, big band, or in chamber music or solo performances during lecture evenings, Dixie band concerts, a “Volxmixgruppe,” or the annual “Irmler Music Competition” all give the university’s up-and-coming musicians a chance to prove themselves.

LITERATURE AT THE UNIVERSITY is a series of literary readings that has changed the perception of literature in the local population as renowned many authors have read and discussed their works in Bamberg during the last 30 years. Recent participants have included Klaus Böldl, Christoph Hamann, Thomas Meinecke, Matthias Politycki, Ralf Rothmann, Ingo Schulze, and Martin Walser.

The Bamberger POETICS PROFESSORSHIP aims to create dialogue between students of literature, authors, and the public. Marcel Beyer, Jan Koneffke, Hans Wollschläger, Adolf Muschg, Uwe Timm, and Hanns-Josef Ortheil have been Poetics Professors at the University of Bamberg.