German Rectors’ Conference (HRK)

Tasks and structure
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 268 member institutions, in which around 94 per cent of all students in Germany are enrolled.

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

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Key Research Priorities
The HRK’s Research Map presents the key research priorities of German universities:
- in a standardised format
- in two interactive databases
  - one for universities and
  - one for universities of applied sciences ('Fachhochschulen').

The universities use the Research Map to provide information about their key research priorities. They present their key research priorities in non-specialist language to a wide international audience.

The bilingual Research Map – produced in English and German (“Forschungslandkarte”) – supports the universities’ marketing and internationalisation strategies.

The Research Map is therefore a helpful introduction for anyone either in Germany or abroad who wants to find out about important research activities of German universities.

The universities combine the Research Map with an invitation to contact them in order to make use of their expertise and to explore possibilities for collaboration.

The Research Map
- covers all disciplines
- does not imply any rankings or ratings
- is neutral with regard to sources of funding
- contains links to the institutions’ websites
- is based on information from the institutions themselves
- is continually updated
- is available in English and German
  (with the possibility of toggling between them).

Research Map: Content and Options

Database of Universities: Up to eight key research priorities are listed for each institution. A key research priority involves the cooperation of at least 25 professorships.

Database of Universities of Applied Sciences: Up to three key research priorities are listed for each institution. The selection is based on an evaluation by a working group of the Universities of Applied Sciences Member Group in the HRK. Listing a fourth and fifth key research priority is possible under special conditions.

For each key research priority, the following information is entered:
- title
- short description (300 characters max.)
- content classification under 14 subject areas (covering the full academic spectrum)
- technical/academic key terms.

Users can search the databases:
- by entering a sequence of characters in a search box
- by selecting (individually or combined) subject areas and/or locations/states.

www.researchmap.de