At a glance
Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU) is one of the largest universities in Germany and a top research university. Research and teaching at FAU is interdisciplinary and interfaces exist between Natural Sciences, Engineering, Medicine, Cultural Studies, Humanities, Social Sciences, Education Sciences, Economics, and Law. In the spirit of ‘Pushing Boundaries’, the faculties and departments work together to create a virtually-unparalleled range of interdisciplinary degree programmes.

almost 40,000 students
more than 570 professors
14,000 staff
25 clinical departments
28 Interdisciplinary Centres
5 DFG Collaborative Research Centres
5 DFG CRC/Transregios
21 DFG Research Groups
10 DFG Research Training Groups
37 DFG Priority Programmes
1 Cluster of Excellence
‘Engineering of Advanced Materials’
1 Graduate School
‘Advanced Optical Technologies’

www.fau.info/history
www.fau.eu
THE UNIVERSITY AT A GLANCE

Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Theology
Classical World and Asian Cultures
English, American and Romance Studies
Fachdidaktiken
German Studies and Comparative Studies
History
Islamic Religious Studies
Media Studies and Art History
Education Science
Psychology and Sport Science
Social Sciences and Philosophy
School of Theology

Faculty of Business, Economics, and Law
School of Law
School of Business and Economics

Faculty of Medicine
25 clinical departments
19 institutes
21 independent divisions

Faculty of Sciences
Biology
Chemistry and Pharmacy
Geography and Earth Sciences
Mathematics
Physics

Faculty of Engineering
Chemical Engineering and Bioengineering
Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Information Technology
Computer Science
Mechanical Engineering
Materials Science and Engineering

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DEGREE PROGRAMMES

Almost 40,000 students

- 263 degree programmes including
- 80 Bachelor’s degree programmes
- 93 Master’s degree programmes
- 92 State Examination/teaching degree programmes
- 7 Elite degree programmes
- 48 degree programmes with an international focus, including
- 17 degree programmes taught in English
- 7 degree programmes in other languages
- 24 double degree programmes

FAU offers an extraordinary range of degree programmes. Students experience research of the highest calibre, right from the start of their degree programmes.

Several degree programmes reside at subject boundaries; some combine courses taught at different faculties and are strongly interdisciplinary in structure. These include: Molecular Medicine, Molecular Science, Mechatronics, Engineering Mathematics, Business Mathematics, Industrial Engineering and Cultural Geography. In addition, FAU offers degree programmes taught in English, including Chemical and Biological Engineering and Computational Engineering. Students also benefit from the practical focus of degree programmes in subject areas such as Chemical and Biological Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Computer Science, and Materials Science.

University services offer students ideal conditions for success during their studies: hardware and software supplied by the Erlangen Regional Computing Centre provides an optimal technical environment, whilst the University Library is one of the largest in Bavaria, with an almost inexhaustible supply of media for all disciplines and a valuable collection of old manuscripts. For students keen on learning or developing their foreign language skills, the Language Centre’s range of languages is second to none.

The students at FAU shape the surrounding region culturally, socially and economically. They acquire specialist knowledge and academic expertise which they then feed back into educational institutions, industries, service providers and start-up businesses, as well as into the health service and administrative or communications-related industries. These well-trained and highly motivated FAU graduates are much sought after by employers in the Nuremberg Metropolitan Region, Germany and the wider world.
A SELECTION OF THE DEGREE PROGRAMMES

Advanced Materials and Processes
Book Studies
Computational Engineering
Digital Humanities and Social Sciences
Economics
French Studies
German and French Law
History
Information and Communication Technology
Japanese Studies
Life Science Engineering
Medicine
Nanotechnology
Oriental Studies
Pharmaceutics
Romance Studies
Sociology
Theatre and Media Studies

RESEARCH

1 Cluster of Excellence and 1 Graduate School in the German Excellence Initiative
10 DFG Collaborative Research Centres and Transregios
21 DFG Research Groups
10 DFG Research Training Groups
37 DFG Priority Programmes
1 Max Planck Institute for the Science of Light
1 International Max Planck Research School
2 Fraunhofer Institutes
1 Helmholtz Institute for Renewable Energies
6 Bavarian Research Associations
1 International Research Centre funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research

178 million euros in third-party funding (2016)
751 doctorates awarded (2015)
58 post-doctoral habitations (2015)
FAU’s success is based on research that continually crosses boundaries between concepts, subjects, institutions and countries. High-profile national and international academic awards as well as excellent placements in research rankings are proof of its research achievements.

In line with the University’s guiding principle ‘Pushing Boundaries’, each of the eight inter-faculty Major Research Areas (see list on page 12) brings together at least 25 professorships and many diverse research units in order to transcend traditional subject boundaries.

The amount of third-party funding which a university attracts is a key indicator of its performance. Funding provided by the DFG (German Research Foundation) is especially significant, as it is awarded on the basis of particularly strict criteria. In the fields of biomedicine, technology and the sciences, FAU has a particularly strong research constellation. The DFG Collaborative Research Centres and Research Units and the majority of the University’s DFG Research Groups (of which FAU is often the co-ordinating university) are actively engaged in outstanding research in these fields. The Research Training Groups for excellent young researchers cover topics as diverse as the simulation of gas networks and the key signals of adaptive immune response. The Erlangen Graduate School in ‘Advanced Optical Technologies’ and the Cluster of Excellence ‘Engineering of Advanced Materials’ represent FAU success stories within the DFG Excellence Initiative.

Numerous joint ventures involving partnerships between companies and FAU guarantee the rapid transfer of research results. In particular, this applies to progress in molecular biomedicine and medical engineering, expertise for advanced materials and efficient production processes, and basic research for growth industries such as electronics and information technology, or optics and optical technologies. The Max Planck Institute for the Science of Light in Erlangen, the International Max Planck Research School ‘Optics and Imaging’ and International Audio Laboratories in Erlangen are among the high-calibre research institutions close to FAU.

FAU works with numerous companies in collaborative applied research. The University has enjoyed a long-standing cooperation with Siemens AG, which has contributed to the development of the Leading Edge Cluster ‘Medical Valley’ initially financed by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

With the Emerging Fields Initiative (EFI), FAU is moving in a new and promising direction. This funding programme assists interdisciplinary projects showing high potential from their early stages onward, thus allowing FAU to react to emerging research challenges quickly, effectively and with the minimum amount of bureaucracy. In doing so, FAU is in a position to attract outstanding researchers and strengthen alliances with high-ranking partners.
FAU KEY RESEARCH PRIORITIES

The FAU Key Research Priorities play a key role in shaping the University’s research profile. The Research Priorities – which involve at least 25 professors from two or more departments – have excellent academic achievements, a high level of third-party funding and are recognised internationally. Each of the eight FAU Key Research Priorities is based on the contributions of outstanding FAU researchers who have been instrumental in the dynamic development of their respective research fields.

www.fau.eu/research
CENTRAL INSTITUTES

Researchers and industry experts work together on projects which span a broad range of topics at FAU’s Central Institutes in an outstanding example of interdisciplinary and international collaboration. Central Institutes pool expertise and serve all faculties, ensuring that researchers can focus on their key areas of expertise.

INTERDISCIPLINARY CENTRES

Cutting-edge research often requires a level of cooperation that goes beyond the boundaries of each individual faculty or subject. In order to facilitate, intensify and consolidate this type of co-operation, FAU has established interdisciplinary centres which promote and develop a network of connections between fields of research.

INTERNATIONAL

FAU is part of an international network of universities and maintains close ties with 500 partner universities in more than 70 countries. It is also active in several international research co-operations and works closely with leading universities throughout the world. FAU is one of the most attractive German universities for visiting academics from abroad. Every year Humboldt scholars and prize-winning researchers choose to spend some time as a visiting academic at FAU.

AFRICITY is an example of a successful international collaboration, which is funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). Researchers at FAU and the universities of South Africa, Malawi and Tanzania are working together to secure sustainable livelihoods within an urban infrastructure. Another example is the cooperation agreement with FAPESP, São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP) in São Paulo, Brazil, which allows FAU researchers and their colleagues from this region to apply for transnational projects. A particularly promising project in the area of international student mobility is an exchange agreement with the Canadian province of Quebec, which allows FAU students to complete a stay abroad at one of the prestigious universities in this region.

www.fau.eu/research/research-institutions

www.fau.eu/international
UNIVERSITY COLLECTIONS

FAU owns numerous collections covering a wide variety of disciplines. Some of them still play an important role in teaching and research today. Others are primarily of historical importance.

- Anatomical Collection
- Antique and Classical Collection
- Astronomical Collection
- Botanical Garden
- Ethnological Collection
- Herbarium Erlangense
- Geological Collection
- Computer Technology Collection Erlangen (ISER)
- Martius-Pharmacognostic Collection
- Mathematical collection
- Medical Collection
- Medical Moulage Collection
- Collection of Musical Instruments
- Palaeontological Collection
- Pathological Collection
- History of School Education
- University Archive
- University Library
- Pre- and Early History
- Zoological Collection

www.fau.info/collections

THE REGION

Both Erlangen with its population of 100,000, and the half-million strong metropolis of Nuremberg have their very own special charm. Opera, theatre and museums, cabaret and street performances and a vibrant night life offer diversity and excitement after a long day in a laboratory or library. Highlights among the events in Erlangen are the Comic Salon, Poetry Festival (Poetenfest) and the student theatre festival, Arena. Countless cultural venues open their doors for the annual Blue Night in Nuremberg. Every other year, the research institutions in Erlangen, Nuremberg and Fürth hold the ‘Long Night of Sciences’. For those who enjoy outdoor activities, Fränkische Schweiz, a paradise for climbers and walkers, is right on our doorstep and water sports enthusiasts will find the Fränkische Seenland and the University’s own watersports centre a temptation hard to resist.
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STUDYING, RESEARCH AND LIVING IS BEST AT FAU

The presence of Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU) in all disciplines is key to the University’s academic excellence. Thanks to the close collaboration of individual subjects, the University has succeeded in establishing innovative and internationally recognised key fields of research with its Major Research Areas. FAU also co-operates closely with many non-university research institutions and industry. As one of Germany’s largest universities, it has a pioneering role in developing the technology of tomorrow.

At the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg, research and teaching go hand in hand. FAU students benefit from excellent study conditions and gain first-hand knowledge of state-of-the-art research in their subject. After their studies, FAU graduates have excellent prospects for successful professional and career development.

While having an international outlook, the University is also firmly rooted in the Nuremberg Metropolitan Region.