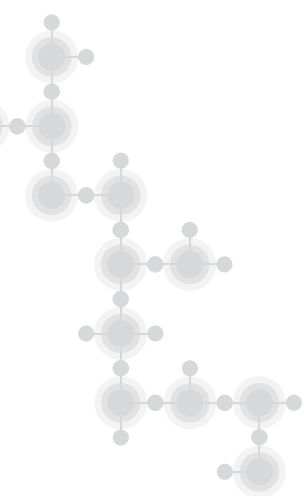




Today
for
Tomorrow

U N I K A S S E L
V E R S I T Ä T



The University's especially high level of achievement is characterized by academic competence in matters of nature, technology, culture and society. There is scarcely another German university that has this special network of engineering, natural sciences and mathematics as well as liberal arts, social sciences and art at its disposal, which offers extraordinary opportunities for interdisciplinary cooperation and appropriate solutions to problems. With its clear orientation toward sustainability and practical applicability in research and teaching as well as vocational direction and personal development in the course of earning a degree, the University of Kassel has distinguished itself as a very future-minded institution:

today for tomorrow.

University of Kassel

Today for Tomorrow





An innovative
network
of
competencies



Nature

Research down to the
smallest detail



The strength of natural sciences at Kassel, with the classic disciplines physics, chemistry and biology, lies in interdisciplinary cooperation. The University has created a home for the joint research focus on nanostructure science and technology in the “Center for Interdisciplinary Nanostructure Science and Technology” (CINSaT): here scientists cooperate with electrical, mechanical and civil engineers. Applications in material sciences, information technology, bio-sensor systems, molecular biology or medical diagnostics play an important role in this connection. Excellent and in some cases one-of-a-kind competence centers have been established in cooperation with a very wide range of disciplines at the University of Kassel, such as various branches of engineering, agricultural science or architecture, urban planning and landscape planning. When it comes to fields such as energy and the environment, environmentally responsible construction, environmental systems research and ecological agricultural science, the University of Kassel is one of the leading universities in Germany and indeed throughout Europe.

There is a long tradition of engineering competence in Kassel. One of the first polytechnic institutes in Germany was founded here in 1832. Its faculty included famous scientists such as Woehler and Bunsen. In the Schools of Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Information Science in Kassel, but also in adjacent fields such as architecture or agricultural science, current problems are addressed both practically and in terms of basic research: The spectrum of topics runs the gamut from waste engineering and materials science to thermo-mechanical processes and simulation of technical systems, mechatronics, mobile Internet, multimedia learning environments and software engineering. Simultaneously, when it comes to technology, it is also in connection with the environmental topics that the University of Kassel's academic competence is in especially high demand.

Technology

From basic science to
applications



Culture

Science meets art

The arc that characterizes art and culture at the University of Kassel spans the space between historical origins and thoroughgoing modernity. Here, science meets art and its unique way of observing and interpreting the world, an approach every bit as valid as the scientific one. At the University of Kassel College of Art, founded in 1777, work focuses on visual worlds. In fine and visual arts, art history and theory, visual communications and product design, art frequently intersects with science and technology. Thus the University of Kassel offers unique opportunities for networking and creative encounters, also within the framework of teacher training. Linguistics, literature and media studies, philosophy, architecture, music, psychoanalysis or history open up a broad field for cultural/historical research and interdisciplinary explorations of the growing edges between fields.



Complex radical changes in the transition from the industrial society to the knowledge-based society and from local to global structures also pose a challenge to science: Kassel research is tackling the essential issues of this development – in education, business or engineering, in the professional and occupational world, in the structural transformation of the cities and regions, the structuring of human coexistence or international cooperation. They have garnered special recognition for their research into education and higher education, learning and school-centered teacher training. In addition, however, the University of Kassel's reputation in the field of social sciences is also founded on research projects on topics having to do with public governance, international cooperation and globalization, issues pertaining to the structural transformation of European cities and regions, changes in the world of work and women's studies and gender studies.

Society

For mankind and the
world



A strong team
of
people





From Hanoi to Kassel

Bui, Yen Thuy

student of the master's degree programme

German as a foreign language



„I was an instructor in German for five years at Hanoi National University and at the Goethe Institute. In order to further my qualifications, I decided to embark on a master's degree programme in Germany – in part because my father also studied here. Through friends and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), to which I applied for a scholarship, I became acquainted with the University of Kassel and its master's programme "German as a Foreign Language". The programme is world renowned. The lecturers are excellent and experienced. The atmosphere in the seminar is very personal and the professors are always available to us, their students. The campus is modern, in the heart of the city and cosmopolitan. We have already made many friends here, although they say that Germans are somewhat reserved. My family lives here now, too. Bao Ngoc, my little girl, is well taken care of at the playschool on campus and can even speak her first words of German. I discover new things every day in these beautiful surroundings in the heart of Germany. I will take my exam a year from now. Then I can refine and pass along my new knowledge in my work at Hanoi National University.“

“At our Institute for Nanostructure Technology and Analysis, we combine basic research in nanotechnology, microsystems engineering, sensor systems engineering, medical engineering and photonics with industrial application of the research results. This is typical of us here in Kassel. This is borne out by numerous scholarly publications and patents. My institute cooperates in an interdisciplinary manner with other schools and departments and is anchored in the Center for Interdisciplinary Nanostructure Science and Technology at the University of Kassel and in the NanoNetzwerkHessen. Our institute greets researchers with superior research conditions, for example, what is possibly the cleanest cleanroom at any German university. At the same time, we orientate ourselves to top research nationally and internationally and cooperate with the leading international research institutions. Our team spirit and entrepreneurial spirit is very important to me personally. This year alone, three new businesses in the field of nanophotonics have been founded from within our institute. This is also typical of us. This is also why my colleague and I were very happy about the “European Grand Prix for Innovation Award” presented to us in 2007.”

From research
to
patent

Prof. Dr. Hartmut Hillmer

Director of the Department of Technical Electronics



From University to global market

Dipl.-Ing. (Engineer) Günther Cramer

Chief Technology Officer (CTO),

SMA Solar Technologie AG

“We were students of the founding generation at the University of Kassel. We were fascinated by all things new and were searching for alternatives, both in society and in our studies. This led us to renewable energy. We were pioneers in our studies and had professors who were themselves pioneers. As young engineers with DM 5,000 startup capital each, we founded a new business from within the university in 1981 so that we could work independently on a brand new technology: smart, computer-based control systems on the basis of sun, wind and water – a system technology intended to revolutionize existing power supply technology with networked, decentralized producers. Today, with more than 1,300 employees, SMA is a world leader in this sector and a global player. Together with the university and its research institutes, we have established a competence network of decentralized energy technologies. Thus we are using engineering to solve societal problems. And thus this topic is evolving into an economic and social paradigm for the entire region. Our ambition is to create an additional 20,000 new jobs in this network by 2020 in cooperation with the university, industry, skilled trades and the political sector.”



“The University of Kassel is a strong team: Students, researchers, technicians, managers and service providers around the research and teaching operations cooperate to make them successful. It is working on this team that gives me pleasure. First as a librarian at the University Library, and today as director of the publishing company kassel university press GmbH, I am fascinated by the possibility to think entrepreneurially and translate long-term services around academic publishing into practice. I stand behind the University of Kassel’s goal of promoting and simplifying academic publishing. We also use “electronic publishing” to disseminate research worldwide and help within the scope of the university’s publication portal to maintain „open access” to scientific results.

“kassel university press” is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the university. We are successful because we point out publishing alternatives, support our authors, and adapt to special situations with our service. In this way we have evolved into one of the leading university publishing houses in Germany.”

From shelf marks to open access

Beate Bergner

*librarian and director of the university publishing
house kassel university press GmbH*







A special
local
flair

A University campus in the heart of town

Today a place where cannons and locomotives were once forged is now a place where careers and high-tech projects are forged instead: Since 1989, a lively university campus has sprung up right in the heart of Kassel. The conversion of the former industrial area into the central university campus is a splendid example of a successful transition from the legacy industrial society to a modern knowledge-based one. The appealing and open architecture makes the Kassel campus one of the most beautiful university facilities in Germany. It attests to the idea that a campus should not be just a place for students, employees and researchers to work, but also a space for development: Characterized by a cosmopolitan attitude, respect for varying life plans and cultural origins as well as the opportunity to become educated and grow in terms of overall personality. Numerous foreign students contribute to the international flair of the university district.



It is housed in one of the university's oldest buildings and preserves the precious legacy of the university library: The "Murhard Library". Rare and precious manuscripts like the Lay of Hildebrand, written down more than 1,000 years ago, are housed in the former library of the landgraves, founded in 1580. As librarians, the brothers Wilhelm and Jacob Grimm already handled the holdings of the manuscript department, which include manuscripts from the migration period, scores by Heinrich Schütz or the largest collection of 16th and 17th century alchemical manuscripts in Germany.

The neoclassicist library building, created as a civic foundation, is the favourite library and an attractive learning centre and venue for today's students, townspeople and researchers – a preferred place for reading and reflection, but also for participation in unusual cultural events in the worlds of literature and music.

A craving for books and a cosmos of knowledge



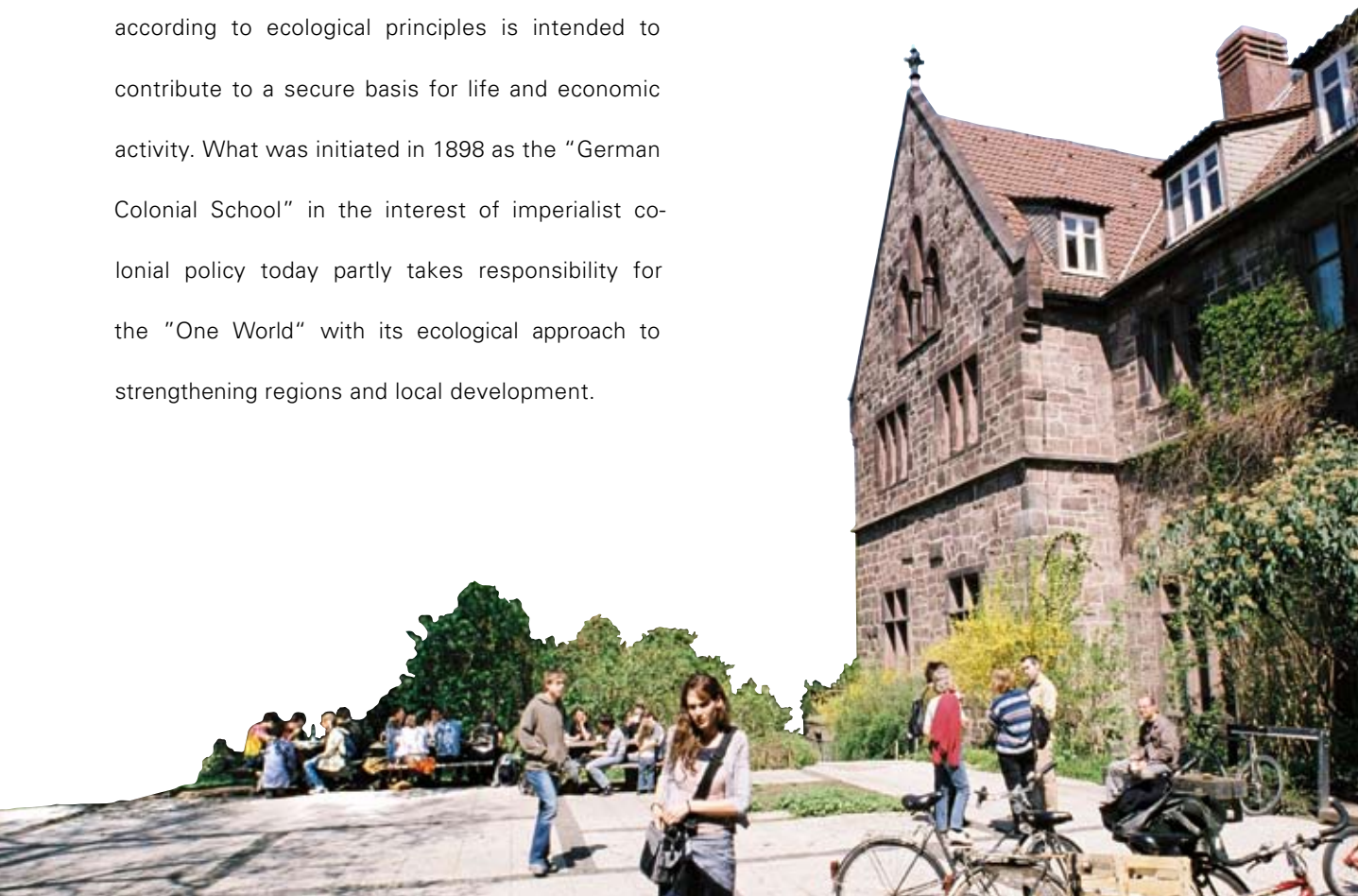
The cradle of the documenta

Unusual for Germany: the University of Kassel includes a College of Art. Its roots date to its founding in 1777 as the Landgrave's Academy of Painting and Architecture. Its faculty included such important artists as Johann Tischbein the Elder. The Kassel College of Art is one of the few German academies to unite artistic freethinking with scientific rationality and skilled trades craftsmanship in the Bauhaus tradition. The documenta, the world's largest exhibition of modern art, which is held every five years in Kassel, is an outgrowth of the Kassel College of Art. The documenta was founded in 1955 by Arnold Bode, an instructor at Kassel's Werkakademie, a forerunner of the College of Art. Many Kassel art professors have exhibited their work at one of the documentas. Some graduates number among the world-renowned artists of today, take Hans Haacke, for example. The art college building designed by Paulfriedrich Posenenske is idyllically located next to an extensive baroque park known as the Karlsau.



The University of Kassel's School of Agricultural Science in Witzenhausen, located 35 kilometers away from the main campus in a former cloister building, has meanwhile been expanded into a modern campus and a world-renowned centre for ecological agricultural science. The first professorship for alternative farming in Germany was established here already in 1981. This resulted in the first and only university department of agricultural science in Europe that focuses entirely on ecological issues in research and teaching. Ecological agricultural science at the University of Kassel is dedicated to an agriculture that aims to ensure sustainability in the securing of food and the use of natural resources. Interaction between humanity and nature oriented according to ecological principles is intended to contribute to a secure basis for life and economic activity. What was initiated in 1898 as the "German Colonial School" in the interest of imperialist colonial policy today partly takes responsibility for the "One World" with its ecological approach to strengthening regions and local development.

Ecological agricultural research and cloister walls



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