

Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg for international scholars and researchers

International Office

MARTIN-LUTHER-UNIVERSITÄT
HALLE-WITTENBERG





Foreword

Dear international scholars and researchers,

Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU), one of Germany's oldest universities, looks back on a 500 year-old tradition of research excellence in the humanities, natural sciences and agricultural sciences. Its core research areas, which include Material Sciences, Enlightenment-Religion-Knowledge, Cultural Heritage, Plant Sciences and Biodiversity, Society and Culture in Motion, and Protein Research, vouch for both the reach and breadth of the university's research activities today. A total of 2,130 scientists conduct their research on one of four campus locations, with full access to MLU's excellent libraries and archives, laboratories and experimental facilities. More than 2,000 young academics from both Germany and abroad are currently pursuing doctoral degrees in Halle. Research at Martin Luther University means scientific training and knowledge creation in a stimulating environment comprising a range of internationally renowned research institutes and in close proximity to the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina (Nationale Akademie der Wissenschaften – Leopoldina).

We'd like you to come to Halle for a research stay! Successful research is founded on international communication and collaboration. That is why our university places great importance on international focus and interdisciplinarity. With more than 50 partner universities worldwide, MLU offers its students, graduate students and professors ample opportunity for active exchange. Halle's scientists collaborate with top-level scientists from around the world, either individually or at the faculty level. The university offers several structured PhD programs as well as one-on-one doctoral advising for those pursuing individual doctorates. This, together, with the support from both the International Office and the International Graduate Academy (Internationale Graduiertenakademie), make MLU an ideal place for PhD candidates.

I hope this brochure inspires you to come to the University of Halle for a research stay. Let yourself be charmed by the green city with its Wilhemian-era houses, diverse cultural scene and friendly people – and see for yourself why our university boasts superb research conditions for its scientists and researchers.

I look forward to welcoming you at Martin Luther University soon!

Prof. Dr. Gesine Foljanty-Jost

Vice-rector for Research and Junior Scientists



Teaching and research at Halle University

The city of Halle and its surrounding area has a rich tradition as a center for science and research, and is an important driver of scientific and intellectual advancement throughout the region and beyond. The centerpiece of this science and research hub is Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU). Founded as a union of the Halle and Wittenberg universities, MLU's history goes back over 500 years, making it one of the oldest universities in the German-speaking world. The reformer Martin Luther, Friedrich Schleiermacher, a leader in the field of hermeneutics, the physician Emil Adolf von Behring and the physicist Gustav Hertz are among the great minds that have made their mark here.

Today, MLU is the oldest and largest university in the German state of Saxony-Anhalt. Since the German reunification in 1989/90, many of the university buildings have been rebuilt and the academic faculties and institutes have been refitted with state-of-the-art technology and equipment. The university library, which also serves as the state library, contains over 5.5 million media items and is the largest general library for science and research in Saxony-Anhalt.

MLU's research profile includes four core research areas in the natural sciences, humanities and social sciences as well as over 15 Interdisciplinary Scientific Centres (Interdisziplinäre Wissenschaftliche Zentren). These research networks bring together researchers from various faculties and work closely with non-university research establishments and facilities.

THE CORE RESEARCH AREAS AT MLU

- ▶ Materials Science – Nanostructural Materials
- ▶ Biological Sciences – Structures and Mechanisms of Biological Information Processing
- ▶ Enlightenment – Religion – Knowledge
- ▶ Society and Culture in Motion.
Diffusion – Experiment – Institution

Scientific Centers (Wissenschaftliche Zentren)

These Interdisciplinary Scientific Centers (Interdisziplinäre Wissenschaftliche Zentren) provide ideal working conditions for researchers from around the world: scientific interaction and exchange and a top-notch technical infrastructure. They focus on interdisciplinary themes such as the European Enlightenment or issues at the interface of medicine, ethics and law. The centers bundle research activity in the life sciences, material sciences and agricultural sciences, and provide state-of-the-art research infrastructure as well as technical service.

Junior researchers/scientists in Halle

Roughly 2,000 doctoral candidates conduct research at Martin Luther University, earning their degrees either in one of over twenty structured doctoral programs or working one-on-one with a PhD adviser of their choosing. The International Office and the International Graduate Academy (InGrA) help make sure that young researchers from all disciplines can conduct their research in the best possible working environment. Graduate students can count on the International Office and InGrA as a source of support for both academic and non-academic matters. InGrA offers seminars and workshops that cover all phases of PhD study.



Connected – Regionally and Internationally

University Alliance Halle-Jena-Leipzig (Universitätsverbund Halle-Jena-Leipzig)

Since 1995, MLU has worked closely with the Friedrich Schiller University Jena and the Universität Leipzig, particularly in the natural sciences and medicine. The University Alliance (Universitätsverbund) conducts international-level research. Examples of this include protein and biodiversity research, physics of interfaces, and regenerative medicine. In 2009, the three universities jointly founded the Integrated Research Training Group “Protein Science” (Integriertes Graduiertenkolleg Proteinwissenschaften), which provides doctoral candidates in the natural sciences and medicine with support during their doctoral studies. With the research training group, doctoral candidates can also receive additional qualifications through advanced training in the area of structural biology, academic retreats and summer school programs.



MLU and non-university research institutes

Numerous nationally and internationally recognized science and research institutions are located in the immediate vicinity of MLU. Among the most well-known of these institutions is the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina (Nationale Akademie der Wissenschaften Leopoldina). Founded in 1652, it is the oldest academy of science and medicine in the German-speaking world. In the last 20 years, several internationally renowned basic research facilities have also chosen Halle as their home base. These include the Max Planck Institute of Microstructure Physics (Max-Planck-Institut für Mikrostrukturphysik), the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology (Max-Planck-Institut für ethnologische Forschung) and the Leibniz Institute of Plant Biochemistry (Leibniz-Institut für Pflanzenbiochemie).

The Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research/UFZ (Helmholtz-Zentrum für Umweltforschung) also has a branch office in Halle. In Halle you'll also find the Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Central and Eastern Europe/IAMO (Leibniz-Institut für Agrarentwicklung in Mittel- und Osteuropa). Several institutes specializing in applications-oriented research have also made Halle their home, such as the Fraunhofer Institute for Mechanics of Materials (Fraunhofer-Institut für Werkstoffmechanik), the Fraunhofer Center for Silicon Photovoltaics (CSP) and the Fraunhofer pilot plant center/PAZ (Fraunhofer Pilotanlagenzentrum).

MLU and the private sector

MLU cooperates with prestigious companies from around the region to further its research, teaching and promotion of young researchers. Partners include SKW Piesteritz GmbH, Germany's most important ammonia and urea manufacturer, Dow Olefinverbund GmbH, subsidiary of the multinational Dow Chemical Company and largest employer in Central Germany, as well as Bayer Bitterfeld, a large pharmaceutical company. MLU is also partner with Central Germany's largest technology park, TGZ Halle Technology and Founders' Centre GmbH (TGZ Halle Technologie- und Gründerzentrum Halle GmbH) and the Bio-Centre Halle GmbH (Bio-Zentrum Halle GmbH). There, together with companies from the private sector, MLU works to develop new products in the areas of biotechnology, medical engineering and software.

Regional Research Networks – International visibility

Researchers and scientists from MLU's faculties and scientific centers unite with their colleagues from non-university research institutes to form Research Networks (Forschungsnetzwerke), thus increasing Halle's international visibility as a research center. The newest research network is the ScienceCampus Plant-based Bioeconomy (WissenschaftsCampus Pflanzenbasierte Bioökonomie), established in 2011.

BIOECONOMY: FROM MOLECULE TO SOCIETY

At the ScienceCampus Plant-based Bioeconomy (WissenschaftsCampus Pflanzenbasierte Bioökonomie), agronomists, biologists, biochemists and biotechnologists come together with environmental scientists, social scientists and economists to collaborate on research and drive new developments in bioeconomy. They bring together the micro-level of biological processes (genes, proteins and metabolites) with the macro-level, i.e. the social and economic relevance of innovations and innovation potential of a plant-based bioeconomy.

→ www.sciencecampus-halle.de

1 Faculty of Theology

With Luther and Melanchthon among its first professors, the Faculty of Theology at Martin Luther University was the first Faculty of Protestant Theology world-wide, and it has a unique tradition. In 1817, with the unification of the universities of Wittenberg and Halle, the heritage of Luther's Wittenberg was enriched with Halle's spirit of pietism, enlightenment, and progressive thinking, represented among others by such famous theologians like Friedrich Schleiermacher and Wilhelm Gesenius.

Today, the faculty with its ten chairs and an extensive teaching body, covers the different fields of theology. It participates at the Interdisciplinary Centres for Pietism Research, European Enlightenment Studies, and Medicine – Ethics – Law. It also has a close collaboration with the Institute for Oriental studies, and the Faculty of Law.

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“ My name is Fikremarkos Merso Birhanu from Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia). I have had the opportunity to visit Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg on several occasions both for lectures and conferences. With its diverse group of professors with solid research and teaching experience, state-of-the-art research facilities, a diverse group of students and an environment conducive to scientific research, the University of Halle in general and the Faculty of Law, Economics and Business in particular, is certainly an attractive place for researchers and scientists. The city of Halle also offers a very quiet environment that is conducive to scientific research while at the same time providing all the services necessary for daily life. ”

**Dr. Fikremarkos Merso Birhanu, DAAD Visiting Professor in 2013
at the Faculty of Law, Economics and Business**



2 Faculty of Law, Economics and Business

As with the Faculty of Theology, MLU's law program builds on the rich traditions of the universities of Wittenberg and Halle. Reopened in 1993, the law school specializes in business law, medical ethics and medical law. It is one of four departments involved in the Interdisciplinary Centre for Medicine – Ethics – Law (Interdisziplinäres Zentrum Medizin – Ethik – Recht / MER), which was established in 2001.

A reference library with convenient opening hours, WLAN access and numerous legal databases ensure ideal research conditions.

The School of Business and Economics includes 21 chairs in business administration, economics and business information systems. Research is organized into three main areas or Competency Centers (Kompetenzzentren) – each with its own, forward-looking research focus:

- Electronic Business: The use of information and communications technology in management
- Consulting: Various forms of management consulting
- Empirical Economics and Political Consultancy (Empirische Ökonomik und Politikberatung) in cooperation with the Halle Institute for Economic Research (Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung Halle, IWH)

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3 Faculty of Medicine

Along with the faculties of Theology, Law, Economics and Business, the Faculty of Medicine is among the original faculties from the universities of Wittenberg and Halle. It consists of 18 institutes and offers, along with human medicine, dentistry, health sciences and nursing sciences, a Master of Biomedical Engineering in cooperation with the Anhalt University of Applied Sciences. The university clinic, which was expanded and fully renovated, specializes in oncology and vascular medicine, works closely with the Faculty of Medicine.

Research within the Faculty of Medicine consists of two focus areas: Clinical epidemiology and nursing research, as well as molecular medicine and cancer research. Members of MLU's medical faculty cooperate with the Faculties of Natural Sciences I and II, as well as with non-university research facilities. Examples of this include the Interdisciplinary Centre for Medicine – Ethics – Law, the university's Interdisciplinary Centre on Aging in Halle (IZAH), as well as the Competency Network (Kompetenznetzwerk) ProNet-T3 for biological protein research sponsored by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). The faculty is involved in various research training groups (Graduiertenkollegs), including one in the protein sciences.

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4 Faculty of Philosophy I – Social Sciences and Historical Cultural Studies

The Faculty of Philosophy I includes numerous academic disciplines distributed across eight institutes. The faculty covers the social sciences (Sociology, Political Science, Psychology) as well as historical and cultural studies (Classical Studies, History, Art History, Archaeology). It also includes Social Anthropology, Philosophy, Japanese Studies and Oriental Studies (including Arabic Studies, Islamic Studies, Jewish Studies, Armenien Studies or South Asian Studies).

Accordingly, the faculty includes a broad range of possible majors and research projects. Along with their respective areas of specialization, the social and cultural scientists of the Faculty of Philosophy I also participate in cross-disciplinary research projects and collaborate with colleagues from the university's other faculties. In this way, the Faculty of Philosophy I plays an important role in two out of MLU's four core research areas: "Society and Culture in Motion. Diffusion – Experiment – Institution" as well as "Enlightenment – Religion – Knowledge".

The Faculty of Philosophy I is also involved in several of MLU's interdisciplinary centers, including the Centre for Interdisciplinary Area Studies – Middle East, Africa, Asia/ZIRS (Zentrum für Interdisziplinäre Regionalstudien –

Vorderer Orient, Afrika, Asien), which bundles the research activities of the Regional Studies institutions. Historians, philosophers, political scientists and psychologists research learning processes and educational programs in collaboration with the internationally networked Center for School and Educational Research/ZSB (Zentrum für Schul- und Bildungsforschung).

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5 Faculty of Philosophy II – Languages & Literatures, Communication Studies and Musicology

The Faculty of Philosophy II includes primarily humanities and social science disciplines and consists of six institutes covering English Studies, American Studies, German Studies, Romance Studies, Slavic Studies and Speech Science and Phonetics (Seminar für Sprechwissenschaft und Phonetik), as well as Media and Communications Studies and Sports.

The largest institute is the Institute for Music (Institut für Musik) with the departments Music Education and Musicology. The oldest among them – the Institute for Speech Science and Phonetics, founded in 1905 – offers the only consecutive BA/MA program in speech science in all of Germany.

The faculty is focused primarily on teacher training, but also offers Master's programs such as Applied Sports Psychology (Angewandte Sportpsychologie) or Intercultural European and American Studies (Interkulturelle Europa- und Amerikastudien) as well as the doctoral program Language – Literature – Society (Sprache – Literatur – Gesellschaft).

Along with the research conducted within their own departments, members of the faculty also take part in numerous collaborative research projects, for example the Interdisciplinary Centre for European Enlightenment

Studies (Interdisziplinäres Zentrum für die Erforschung der Europäischen Aufklärung), which combines research conducted in this area by the three faculties Theology, Philosophy I and Philosophy II. The Center for United States Studies (Zentrum für USA-Studien), founded in 1995, conducts research on American history, culture, politics and society. As part of the faculty's own internal research projects, its specialists in language/literature and communication studies examine traditions of knowledge and transformation processes, socio-cultural processes, as well as the optimization and the mediativity of modern mass phenomena.

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6 Faculty of Philosophy III – Educational Sciences

The Faculty of Philosophy III offers a full-fledge degree program in the educational sciences and is MLU's faculty responsible for teacher education/training. As such, research within the faculty covers both basic research in the educational sciences as well as application-oriented and development-oriented research. Its six areas of research focus are

- ▶ Childhood studies; youth studies
- ▶ Professions in education
- ▶ Educational and social welfare system institutions
- ▶ Educational interactions
- ▶ Cultural education research
- ▶ Prevention, rehabilitation and health

The interdisciplinary Research Unit on Mechanisms of Elite Formation in the German Educational System (Forschergruppe "Mechanismen der Elite-bildung im deutschen Bildungssystem") was established in 2011, together with the Center for School and Educational Research (Zentrum für Schul- und Bildungsforschung).

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6



“I moved my lab to MLU in 1998 after five fruitful years in a CNRS institute for plant science near Paris. The university provided new and well-equipped laboratories and a stimulating scientific environment with plenty of colleagues working in the fields of plant sciences and molecular genetics. The graduate students who work in our lab have always been excellent and have contributed largely to our advances in understanding bacterial pathogenicity mechanisms.

Halle is a great place to do research, and has become even more so since the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina moved into their new headquarters.

We are part of a Collaborative Research Center (SFB 648), funded by the German research foundation (DFG), which brings together scientists from the university and the two Leibniz institutes IPB (Halle) and IPK (Gatersleben). Visiting scientists from abroad and international collaborations have given the CRC 648 a great reputation in the area of plant-microbe interactions and signaling in plants.

My times abroad as group leader and visiting scientist are invaluable and have always been very exciting and inspiring, both scientifically and culturally. I therefore encourage every young researcher to spend some time abroad in a good lab.”

Prof. Dr. Ulla Bonas – recipient of the Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize in 2011, Molecular Phytopathology, Martin Luther University

7 Faculty of Natural Sciences I – Biological Sciences

The Faculty of Natural Sciences I comprises the Institute of Biochemistry and Biotechnology, the Institute of Biology and the Institute of Pharmacy. All three institutes are located on the all new science campus, together with the other natural science faculties. The campus' modern building facilities and outstanding infrastructure offer excellent research conditions and an environment that fosters scientific exchange and interdisciplinary collaboration. The close proximity of the Weinberg Campus Technology Park (Technologiepark Weinberg Campus) and its numerous non-university research institutes provides great opportunities for high-level, international research collaborations.

The Faculty of Natural Sciences I has two core research areas: Protein Biochemistry/Proteomics, which is being expanded to form the focus area "Biomedical Life Science Halle" together with the Faculty of Medicine, and Plant Research. Both research areas are strengthened by a strategic network that includes the Leibniz Institute of Plant Biochemistry Halle (Leibniz-Institut für Pflanzenbiochemie Halle), the Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research Gatersleben (Leibniz-Institut für Pflanzengenetik und Kulturpflanzenforschung Gatersleben), the Universities of Leipzig and Jena,

the Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Central and Eastern Europe/IAMO (Leibniz-Institut für Agrarentwicklung in Mittel- und Osteuropa), the Julius Kühn-Institut (JKI), Federal Research Center for Cultivated Plants in Quedlinburg (Julius-Kühn-Institut (JKI), Bundesforschungsinstitut für Kulturpflanzen in Quedlinburg) and the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research Halle/Leipzig (Helmholtz-Zentrum für Umweltforschung UFZ Halle/Leipzig). Researchers from across disciplines work in close collaboration by way of DFG-funded Collaborative Research Centers (Sonderforschungsbereiche) and working groups and in the Interdisciplinary Centre for Crop Research/IZN (Interdisziplinäres Zentrum für Nutzpflanzenforschung) and the new ScienceCampus Halle (WissenschaftsCampus Halle; see page 7). Protein Chemistry/Proteomics is seated firmly in an application-based approach and is therefore linked to several companies in the region.

The Faculty of Natural Sciences I is involved in several large-scale projects within the university. The newly planned center for protein research – "Proteinzentrum Halle", scheduled to open in 2015 – will provide working groups focused on Protein Chemistry/Proteomics ideal conditions for fruitful collaboration: a facility with state-of-the-art research equipment and the

convenience of proximity. Faculty I scientists also belong to Central Germany's Leading Edge BioEconomy Cluster (Spitzencluster Bioökonomie), with MLU responsible for teaching and training within the cluster. The faculty also collaborates with the universities of Leipzig and Jena as well with non-university research institutions in Central Germany in Germany's one and only German Centre of Integrative Biodiversity Research – iDiV (Deutsches Zentrum für integrative Biodiversitätsforschung / iDiv).

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“ I grew up in New York State (USA), and I have moved to Halle from Colorado State University where I attended graduate school. At Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU) I am a post-doctoral researcher in the Zoological Institute studying how social animals may respond differently behaviorally and physiologically to energetic stress in comparison to solitary individuals. I have chosen MLU because my interests overlap nicely with the world-renowned research that is being conducted in the areas of insect physiology, disease, and behavior at this university. In addition, there are quality facilities and there is a supportive research community to carry out cutting-edge molecular techniques, which are necessary to investigate my questions of interests. The university staff has been very helpful with the move to Halle and the town itself is just the right size – it is big enough to have character and history, but small enough to be more relaxed than a big city. ”

Dr. Christopher Mayack, Alexander von Humboldt Postdoc Fellow at the Faculty of Natural Sciences I

“ Before I came to Halle in 2009, I had been at the University of Birmingham as a postdoc, and it was quite a change to go from a big Mathematics department to a rather small institute. But this size has its advantages: we know each other well within the research groups and there is a lot of direct contact with the students, particularly the postgraduate students. The classes in advanced courses are small, which gives room for discussion. At the same time the institute is lively in the sense that we host conferences and we frequently have international guests for collaboration. ”

Jun.-Prof. Dr. Rebecca Waldecker, Martin Luther University, Institute for Mathematics



8 Faculty of Natural Sciences II – Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics

The Faculty of Natural Sciences II comprises the Institute of Chemistry, the Institute of Physics, and the Institute of Mathematics. Research and teaching within and between the three disciplines are strongly linked. With Materials Science being one of Martin Luther University's main research fields, the faculty's primary focus is research related to Nanostructural Materials, pursued in four different topical areas, with many links to MLU's other main research field, Molecular Biosciences:

- ▶ Functional Solid Interfaces
- ▶ Nanostructured Polymers and Soft Matter
- ▶ Photovoltaics/Renewable Energies
- ▶ Biorelevant Materials and Molecules

While the Institute of Chemistry focusses on the synthesis and characterization of complex materials and on the chemistry of biorelevant substances, the Institute of Physics is generally specialized in condensed matter physics research. The Institute of Mathematics' focus is on modeling, analysis and simulation of complex systems.

In each area, the individual groups' research is complemented by large-scale collaborative projects funded by the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG), the Ministry of Education and Research (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, BMBF), and the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) of the European Union. The faculty's dedication to educating young scientists and school teachers is reflected in a number of undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate study programs. A significant part of the faculty's research is performed in collaboration with the external partner institutions located on Halle's Weinberg Campus. These include the Max Planck Institute of Microstructure Physics (Max-Planck-Institut für Mikrostrukturphysik), the Interdisciplinary Center of Materials Science (Interdisziplinäres Zentrum für Materialwissenschaften), three Fraunhofer institutions, the Leibniz Institute of Plant Biochemistry (Leibniz-Institut für Pflanzenbiochemie) and the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research/UFZ (Helmholtz-Zentrum für Umweltforschung). The close proximity enables quick and efficient exchange and personal interaction.

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9 Faculty of Natural Sciences III – Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences, Geosciences and Computer Science

The Faculty of Natural Sciences III is home to three institutes and a total of 38 professors: the long-standing and tradition-rich Institute of Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences, the oldest of its kind in Germany, the Institute of Geosciences and Geography and the Institute of Computer Science.

The Institute of Agricultural Studies collaborates with cross-disciplinary partners both within MLU and outside the university in projects on agronomy and as well as basic research in molecular and physiological processes. Like the Faculty of Natural Sciences I, the Faculty of Natural Sciences III is involved in the ScienceCampus (WissenschaftsCampus Halle) research network, which was established in 2011 (see page 7). This network also includes the Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Central and Eastern Europe/IAMO (Leibniz-Institut für Agrarentwicklung in Mittel- und Osteuropa) and the Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research in Gatersleben (Leibniz-Institut für Pflanzengenetik und Kulturpflanzenforschung Gatersleben).

The application-focused Institute of Geosciences and Geography works with local enterprises, engineering firms, construction, mining and minerals companies as well as companies from the environmental sector. Several joint professors are appointed in the field of water, soil and environment in cooperation with the UFZ Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (Leipzig).

The Institute of Computer Science specializes in Applied Computer Science and Bioinformatics. MLU was one of the very first universities in Germany to offer a course of study in Bioinformatics. The institute works in close collaboration with the Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research in Gatersleben (Leibniz-Institut für Pflanzengenetik und Kulturpflanzenforschung Gatersleben).

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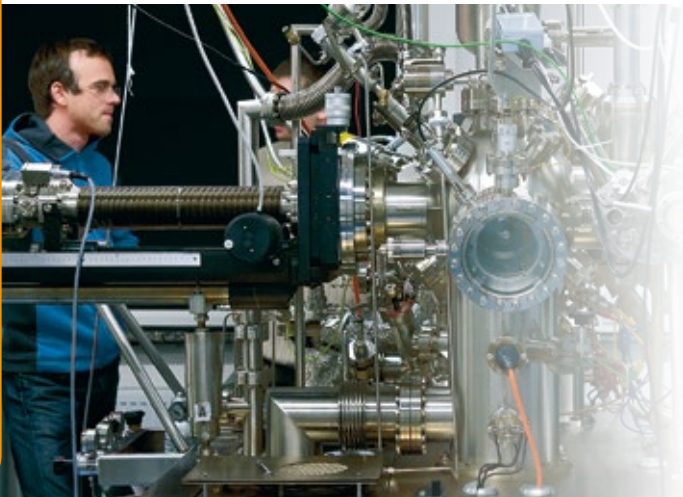
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9



Center of Engineering Sciences



The Center of Engineering Sciences has five departments: Mechanical and Thermal Process Engineering, Materials Diagnostics, Plastics Engineering and Environmental Engineering. The center collaborates with various research institutions both on and off campus in the areas of polymer materials engineering and process technology solutions in the food and nutrition sciences. The center also operates the Plastics Competence Centre (Kunststoffkompetenzzentrum) in cooperation with the Hochschule Merseburg – University of Applied Sciences and conducts research together with the Faculty of Natural Sciences II in the “Nanostructural Materials” core research area.

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MLU International

Over 50 partner universities

Martin Luther University (MLU) is both international and diverse, two very important and long-standing aspects of the institution best exemplified by two of its graduates Anton Wilhelm Amo and Dorothea von Erxleben. The philosopher Amo, who studied and taught at the University of Halle between 1730 and 1740, was the first African to have attended a German university. Dorothea von Erxleben made history in 1754 when she became the first woman to earn a university degree in Germany – in medicine at the University of Halle.

Today MLU is an active member of the international university and research community. It has over 50 partner universities worldwide and offers several study programs taught in English or other languages, including the double-degree programs with universities in Milan (Italy), Nanterre (France), Bratislava (Slovakia) and Tokyo (Japan).

International University Community

Over the years, MLU's community of researchers, professors and students has grown increasingly international. Approximately ten percent of its student body of 20,000 comes from abroad, and nearly one out of every five of its 2,000 PhD candidates comes from a country other than Germany.

And each year, hundreds of the university's students and scientists leave Halle to pursue studies and research abroad.





Especially for international researchers

All-around service

The International Office is there to support the university's international scholars and researchers in all aspects of their research stay in Halle to make them feel at home, from advice on funding possibilities, acquiring a visa to signing up for health insurance and finding a place to live.

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A house for academics and researchers

The Georg-Forster-Haus, the international guesthouse of Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg and the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina (Internationales Begegnungszentrum der Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg und der Leopoldina – Nationale Akademie der Wissenschaften/IBZ), named after the scientist and world traveler Georg Forster (1754–1794), is open to international scholars and researchers who have journeyed to Halle for a research stay. The guesthouse offers accommodation – apartments of various sizes for rent – to the university's guests. The Georg-Forster-Haus also serves as a venue for meetings and seminars.

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Heading to Halle for a PhD

PhD candidates at MLU can pursue their degrees either by way of the individual doctorate under the academic supervision of a so-called “Doktorvater” (doctoral father) or “Doktormutter” (doctoral mother), or within one of the university’s more than 20 structured academic programs, many of which are offered in cooperation with external research institutions.

Doctoral work means research, which is why the International Office and the International Graduate Academy (InGrA) have made it their mission to support the university’s PhD students in all aspects of their research pursuits. InGrA works to assure that MLU’s young scientists and scholars have access to an environment that fosters their academic success. While at MLU, PhD students are provided comprehensive support in all areas – from research-related issues to non-academic matters. The support from the International Office and InGrA includes financial advice, matching with an academic supervisor, checking certificates from the home country, German language courses, excursions, workshops on presentation skills, scientific writing and getting published and courses on soft-skills, such as time management, and alumni activities.

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The campus

Universitätsplatz – Where tradition and modernity come together

In the heart of the old city lies one of the most beautiful spots in Halle: The University square, a unique architectural ensemble of both historic and modern buildings. At the center of the square is the Lion Building (Löwengebäude), which dates back to the first half of the 19th century and houses the university museum, lecture halls, the matriculation office and student guidance counseling services. Other Universitätsplatz buildings include the Rector’s Office, the Melanchthonianum (named after the reformer Philipp Melanchthon), which houses the offices of the three vice deans and 16 lecture halls, as well as the Juridicum with its seminar rooms and library for legal studies. Just a few buildings away is the Robertinum, which houses the university’s archaeological museum and the Institute of Classical Studies (Institut für Klassische Altertumswissenschaften). The Auditorium Maximum (AudiMax), whose completion coincided with the university’s 500 year anniversary celebration, provides a contrast to the square’s historical buildings. The AudiMax houses three lecture halls, the largest of which can accommodate over 500 visitors.



While it’s easy to spend time and enjoy the charm of the Universitätsplatz, it is also within walking distance to many other university departments and facilities. Still in the historic city center and just a few hundred meters from the Universitätsplatz are the Faculty of Business Economics, the “Harz” dining hall with adjacent student dormitories, as well as numerous institutes and seminars within the Faculties of Philosophy I and II, including the Institute for Music and the Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology. The University and State Library (ULB) and the theoretical institutes within the Faculty of Medicine are also located in the immediate vicinity.



NEW CAMPUS FOR THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

In the spring of 2012, construction began on the new Steintor campus. Located in the immediate vicinity of the Universitätsplatz, the Steintor campus is the university's new Center for Humanities and Social Sciences (Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaftliches Zentrum / GSZ), complete with lecture halls, offices, laboratories, seminar rooms and a library. When the GSZ opens in 2014, seventeen university institutes, which have been spread out at various locations across Halle, will come together at the single Steintor campus location.

Weinberg Campus and Heide Süd – Connecting city and countryside

Research, learning and living also co-exist happily on the Weinberg campus and the university's Heide Süd site. Located at the edge of the city forest but still only fifteen minutes from the center of Halle, Weinberg was established as a campus as early as the 1950's. Named after the Weinbergweg (vineyard road), the name recalls the vineyards that dominated the landscape here up until the 18th century.

A center for science and research for several decades, the campus has been further developed and expanded since the Fall of the Wall in 1989. Along with the main facilities such as the computer center, the gymnasium and dining hall, the Weinberg Campus and the university's Heide Süd site are also home to eight departments within the Natural Sciences Faculties as well as numerous non-university research institutes, including the Max Planck Institute of Microstructure Physics (Max-Planck-Institut für Mikrostrukturphysik). Companies from growth industries such as biotechnology, environmental technology and computer technology have established offices here, making the area one of the largest research and technology parks in eastern Germany. Immediately adjacent to the Weinberg Campus and Heide Süd site is Halle's Kröllwitz district, home of the University Hospital (Universitätsklinikum Halle) and one of the city's most beautiful residential areas featuring villas from the turn of the 20th century.

Francke Foundations in Halle

The Faculty of Philosophy III and the Faculty of Theology are housed in the Francke Foundations in Halle, the historic group of buildings established in 1695 by the theologian and educator August Hermann Francke. Originally an orphanage and school for the poor, the Francke Foundations today comprise a unique educational facility that spans all educational levels, from nursery school through to university. The Francke House, the German Federal Cultural Foundation (Kulturstiftung des Bundes) and the German Youth Institute (Deutsches Jugendinstitut) are also a part of the Francke Foundations, which is on the German proposal list as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



The city of Halle

Halle – Small city, big feel

With a population of 230,000, Halle is comparatively small among Germany's major cities. But with the historic university, numerous additional research and educational institutions, numerous museums, its vibrant arts and cultural scene, and its role as an important business location and transportation hub, Halle's impact and reach extends far beyond the region. Halle can look back on over 1,200 years of illustrious history, as many poets and philosophers have left their mark on Halle over the centuries.

The city's most famous son is the composer Georg Friedrich Handel (1685–1759). His birthplace, the Händel-Haus, is today a music museum and a Handel memorial. The Händel-Haus hosts the annual Handel Festival. Each summer, internationally renowned singers, instrumentalists and conductors come to Halle to bring Handel's legendary work to the stage and to celebrate his music together with audiences from around the world.

Cosmopolitan yet “gemütlich”

The diversity of Halle, which combines a lively and diverse cultural scene with a delightful landscape and natural beauty, makes it hard to describe in just one word. And then there are the open-minded, good-natured people that give this colorful city its flavor – somewhere between cosmopolitan and cozy (“gemütlich”).

Music and theater lovers can enjoy concerts, drama or cabaret theater on one of Halle's many stages. The Staatskapelle orchestra and the opera house offer a world-class musical program. Among Halle's most important museums are the Moritzburg Castle art gallery (Gemäldegalerie) and the State Museum of Prehistory (Landesmuseum für Vorgeschichte), home of the famous Nebra Sky Disc.

Out on the town, the many pubs and restaurants packed into the old city's narrow alleyways make for lively and convivial evening hours. And there is plenty for nature lovers, too. The Saale River winds its way through the city forming several attractive islands. The Peißnitzinsel landscape park is perfect for relaxing and taking long walks, as are the meadows on the banks of the Saale or the Heide city forest. For those looking for more than just leisure activity, Halle's many sport clubs offer something for every kind of sports enthusiast.

Halle – The affordable city

Compared to other big cities in Germany, Halle has a lot to offer – and usually at lower prices. The cost of living in Halle is moderate; even in one of Halle's attractive Jugendstil quarters, affordable housing is not hard to find. And from there, the city is very easy to navigate. Whether it's the Universitätsplatz, Halle's historic city center, the opera house or city park – just about everything is but a few minutes away, either on foot, by bicycle or with Halle's public transport system. And Halle itself is centrally located in Germany. Many attractive cities such as Berlin, Leipzig, Dresden, Jena, Erfurt and Weimar are less than two hours away by car or train.



Links

Information for international doctoral students at MLU

→ www.international.uni-halle.de/international-office/promovierende

Information for international researchers at MLU

→ www.international.uni-halle.de/international-office/wissenschaftler

Guide for international doctoral students and scientists at MLU

→ <http://wcms.uzi.uni-halle.de/download.php?down=26668&elem=2619561>

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

→ www.daad.de/en

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH)

→ www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/home.html

German Research Foundation (DFG)

→ www.dfg.de/en/index.jsp

EURAXESS: Germany for Researchers – information and assistance to mobile researchers

→ www.euraxess.de/portal/home_en.html

“Research in Germany” portal

→ www.research-in-germany.de

Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF): Scholarship database (in German)

→ www.stipendienlotse.de

HRK Higher Education Compass

→ www.hochschulkompass.de/en.html

The European Liaison Office of the German Research Organisations (KOWI)

→ www.kowi.de/en

THESIS – Interdisciplinary Network for PhD students and postdocs (in German)

→ www.thesis.de

Portal for research and teaching run by the weekly DIE ZEIT (in German)

→ www.academics.de

KISSWIN – Information and consulting for academic careers

→ www.kisswin.de

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