

The Faculty
of Human Sciences

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Mediator between Theory and Real Life

The Faculty of Human Sciences

The Faculty of Human Sciences, founded in 1994, is located at the Golm and Neues Palais campuses.

Structurally and in research and teaching, the faculty focuses on cognitive, educational and health sciences. The interdisciplinary academic work concentrates on language, action and behavior, health, recreational and high-performance sports, school and classroom, and life-long learning. The cognitive sciences area focuses mainly on the special research area "Information Structure: The Linguistic Means for Structuring Utterances, Sentences and Texts" and the PhD research group studying developmental risks in children and adolescents. Empirical research is gaining momentum in educational sciences. Many projects relate directly to institutional processes of learning and continue the tradition of teacher education in Potsdam.

The existing potential in health sciences and prevention, for example the close cooperation with the network system between schools and professional sports, will be used to further craft the faculty's profile. Teaching at the faculty is subdivided into the departments psychology, linguistics, sports and health sciences, educational sciences, and teacher education.

The Faculty of Human Sciences plays a central role in the educational training of teachers from all faculties. In addition, a program for primary education teachers specializing in inclusive education was established in the winter semester 2013/14.

The programs European Master in Clinical Linguistics, Experimental and Clinical Linguistics, and Clinical Exercise Science, funded either by the EU or the German Academic Exchange Service, evidence the increasingly international focus of teaching at the faculty.


The faculty mediates between theory and real life in many ways, such as through its various centers for psychotherapy and speech therapy as well as a university outpatient clinic.

Prof. Dr. med. Frank Mayer
Dean



Models of Thinking

Cognitive Sciences



In linguistic communication, one hardly notices how much the brain has to perform: how individual words are recognized, background noise is filtered out, and missing syllables are filled in. Cognitive sciences try to uncover these highly complex processes. Mathematical models of human thinking have brought international recognition to the Interdisciplinary Center for Cognitive Studies at the University of Potsdam.

The cognitive sciences area has developed in cooperation with the linguistic collaborative research center “Information Structure” and has become a preeminent research field at the University of Potsdam. Psychologists, mathematicians, linguists, physicists, biologists, and computer scientists are collaborating in order to better understand the processes of the brain, percep-

tion and memory as well as thinking and language. A prominent example of this intensive cooperation is the large-scale study of eye movement during reading. A camera recorded the path of subjects’ eyes while reading simple sentences on a screen. Straight lines and jumps as well as back movements and curves showed which strategies a reader develops to perceive, understand, and ultimately remember a sentence. By recording the brain activity, researchers are hoping to analyze this extremely complex and dynamic process to improve the ability to compensate for reading difficulties and to facilitate the overall reading learning process.

Early childhood development is at the center of scientific interest in the BabyLab, an interdisciplinary laboratory where developmental psychologists and psycholinguists are studying language and cognitive abilities of young children between the ages of four months and four years. The research team is investigating how innate abilities and learning mechanisms influence the children’s development. Even infants can identify the aims of others’ actions. They also have a detailed knowledge about the characteristics of their mother tongue. In addition to typical courses of development, the researchers are studying early risk factors and indicators for language and cognitive disorders.

Scientists at the Potsdam Research Institute for Multilingualism (PRIM), awarded with an Alexander von Humboldt Professorship, are investigating how multilingual children and adults comprehend

and produce language. By using experimental techniques such as eye-movement monitoring while reading and speaking and electroencephalography, linguists and psychologists are studying speech processing in children and adults who have acquired several languages either since birth or over the course of their lives. Apart from basic research, the institute aims to derive promotion programs from its scientific results and to advise parents who want to raise their children multilingually.

Another area of application for Potsdam's cognitive sciences can be found in patholinguistics. Children with speech and language impairments are to be treated more successfully, and more effective methods are to enable stroke patients to regain their language abilities more quickly.

A PhD research group of young scientists is analyzing psychosocial problems of adolescents. In an extensive, long-term study, the group is investigating child and adolescent development. Cognitive scientists are collaborating with Germanists and Romanists across disciplines to find out how emotions and language influence each other.

Finally yet importantly, this science is concerned with the dialog between humans and machines: computer linguists are translating the rules that humans use to formulate their thoughts into programs. They are facing what is possibly the most difficult challenge for computer scientists: giving machines our language.



A young boy with light brown hair, wearing a dark grey jacket over an orange shirt, sits on the left. He is resting his chin on his hand and looking towards the right. A young woman with long dark hair, wearing a black top, sits on the right. She is also resting her chin on her hand and looking towards the left. They are both sitting at a desk with some papers and a pen visible. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Lifelong Learning

Educational Studies

The motto of a knowledge-based society is “lifelong learning”: children and adolescents at school, young adults in vocational training, and adults pursuing further education. Empirical educational studies develop the theoretical background and methods to empirically verify theoretical models. Academic discussions focus on teaching methods, motivation, training expertise, decisions, and imbalances in education, return on education, and heterogeneity.

Both on a national and international level, numerous contacts with research institutions and a close cooperation with experts in practice enable the analysis of the learning processes spanning from elementary school to adulthood.

Several research projects are investigating the learning process at different ages and educational levels. The advantage of a longitudinal perspective is being

able to identify causal relationships and to consider their effects. This is the only way to assess the various models of learning more efficiently and to understand and influence educational processes.

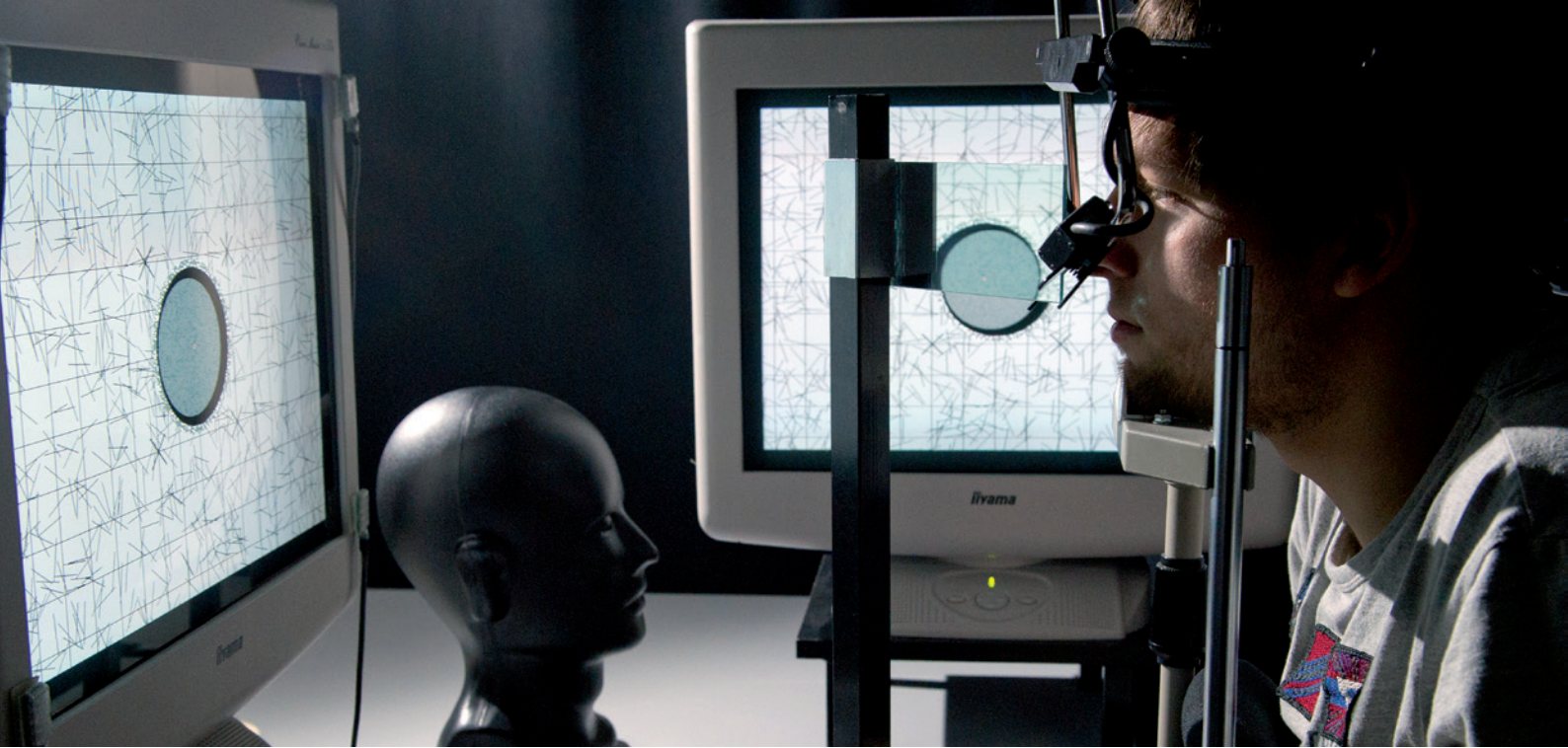
These empirical investigations transgress the boundaries of a single discipline, and it thus goes without saying that education specialists, pedagogues, sociologists, and psychologists conduct collaborative research. Issues in society become issues in scholarship – for example in investigating why so many teenagers in Brandenburg drop out of school, or how children of immigrants can learn German better so they are not excluded from further educational opportunities. Understanding language as a key to all other learning processes has led to collaboration with the cognitive sciences. A joint project is investigating how street speech affects the way students of Turkish background learn in school.

Building on a long tradition of teacher training in Potsdam, many research projects connect directly to institutional learning processes. The focus is currently on two research clusters: “Lifelong Learning”

and “School and Classroom.” With empirically supported knowledge and verified methods, Potsdam scholars want to contribute significantly to the national educational discourse. Collaboration with international partners is being further expanded.

Inclusive education is one of the most recent priorities in research and teaching. The federal state of Brandenburg is committed to an inclusive school system. To this end, five new professors for inclusive education have been appointed. The program for primary teachers specializing in inclusive education was started in the winter semester 2013/14. The collaboration with the research clusters in educational, cognitive, and linguistic sciences has created optimal conditions for this program. Another interesting aspect is the link to the health sciences. Experience gained in disabled sports and rehabilitation, sports, music, and arts provide good therapeutic concepts that are being integrated into teacher training focused on inclusive education. An accompanying study has been started to evaluate counselling and further training at the pilot schools.





From Head to Hand

Research Cluster “Action and Behavior”

The research focus “Action and Behavior” spans the whole range of psychological and cognitive research, including studies on perception, memory, thinking and control of action but also research into the development of cognitive and socio-cognitive abilities during childhood and psychological disorders and physical illnesses.

A sub-project of the DFG research group “**Computational Modeling of Behavioral, Cognitive, and Neural Dynamics**” analyses which cognitive processes are involved in the processing of language. Using new double tracking procedures, neurosci-

entists and psycholinguists record the eye movements of readers and measure the brain activities in an EEG. A new sub-project of the research group will deal with the connection between body signals like heartbeat and respiration, human emotions and perception of time. Experimental psychologists and theoretical physicists are collaborating to map the synchronization of neuronal and emotional processes in mathematical models.

Another focus of the research cluster is on the development of cognitive and socio-cognitive abilities in children. Since 2011 the DFG graduate school has



By using experimental studies of behavior and combining state-of-the-art testing methods with new statistical techniques of data analysis, we are able to develop and review quantitative models for cognitive processes.«

been dealing with **“Intrapersonal Development Risks in Childhood and Adolescence”** from a longitudinal perspective. Central aspects of this study are the frequently observed learning and performance problems, aggressive behavior, and eating and weight disorders. Twelve PhD students are investigating the development of about 3,200 children and adolescents in an extensive study over several years. They are pursuing the question whether risk factors lead to development problems and whether these risks remain as the children and adolescents get older.



*Prof. Dr. Ralf Engbert,
Spokesperson of the Research Cluster
“Action and Behavior”*





Got Language?

Research Cluster “Language”



“The research cluster “Language” studies the structural properties of natural language, acquisition, comprehension and production of language as well as machine-based speech production and reception by using an interdisciplinary approach.”«

One of the main research areas within the cognitive sciences concentrates on language. How can we enhance knowledge about the structural properties of natural language and capture it in linguistic theories? How can we understand the mechanisms underlying language acquisition, production, comprehension and their respective disorders? How can they be used for the rehabilitation or promotion of language skills? Can we model linguistic processes? How is it possible to implement knowledge about language into linguistic engineering?

The special research area “Information Structure: The Linguistic Means for Structuring Utterances, Sentences and Texts”, funded by the German Research Foundation since 2003, is currently the only special research area at the University of Potsdam and in the federal state of Brandenburg. The project, based at the Faculty of Human Sciences, brings together scientists from Humboldt University of Berlin, the Free University of Berlin, and the Faculty of Arts from the University of Potsdam studying language and cognition as related to information structure. Research in this field asks how the same kind of information can be “packed” differently depending on context and intention of the participants in the discourse.

Identifying similarities and universal features across languages allows for conclusions to be drawn about the general skills of human cognition and has consequences for research on artificial intelligence, human-machine communication, and speech therapy. In nine sub-projects, scientists at the Faculty of Human Sciences are examining various questions.

Whoever goes to a doctor needs diagnostic findings. Physicians often spend many hours formulating

such findings. This takes time away from direct contact with patients. **SemScribe**, a project developed by computer linguists from Potsdam together with the Clinical Center Ernst von Bergmann, automatically generates texts of diagnostic findings.

Experimental and clinical aspects of language and the brain in impaired adults and children as well as in language in unimpaired children and adults are at the center of the **International Doctorate in Experimental Approaches to Language and Brain**. The program, financed by the European Erasmus-Mundus Program, includes 19 universities and scientific institutions, industrial and other partners worldwide under the auspices of the University of Potsdam.



*Prof. Dr. Shravan Vasishth,
Spokesperson of the Research Cluster
“Language”*



From the Laboratory into the Treatment Room

Research Cluster “Health”

The research focus “Health” links practically relevant research with all-around medical care. The research cluster unifies various approaches of the health sciences – medicine, prevention and rehabilitation, health psychology, and health sociology – as well as the communicating of physical activity to patients and the healthy. One of the large projects fo-

cuses on the “widespread disease of back pain”. The National Research Network for Medicine in Spine Exercise (MiSpEx) – a national research network for the diagnosis, prevention, and therapy of back complaints in sport and society – was founded in 2011 under the direction of Potsdam researchers. Its goal is to develop functional diagnostics, prevention, and





The research focus 'Health' deals primarily with the influence of physical activity, cognitive aspects, and socio-medical influences on prevention and rehabilitation of diseases of civilization, chronic complaints, and injuries.”«

therapy of back pain for top athletes and for society as a whole. The Potsdam sport physicians, sport sociologists, and sport psychologists, together with partners at the university clinics in Dresden and Heidelberg as well as Humboldt University and Charité in Berlin, accompany athletes and non-athletes, patients and the healthy over several years.

Goal of the collaboration between the University of Potsdam and Brandenburg rehab clinics is to transfer the results of the Potsdam health research better and more stably to medical practice. At the same time, the collaboration, begun in 2010, seeks to advance and expand research in rehabilitation medicine, especially of chronic illnesses. The endowed chair for rehabilitation sciences connects the university and the rehab clinics. Rehabilitation science research spans a wide spectrum of subjects, including heart and circulation illnesses, musculoskeletal complaints, and workplace-related anxieties.

The project “Plasticity in Old Age” in the department Social and Preventative Medicine is developing cognitive and sensorimotor training programs for older people. The goal of the research group “Prevention of Mental Illnesses Throughout Life” is identifying risk factors for the emergence and advancement of psychological illnesses and developing appropriate health promotion concepts. In particular, preventative and precautionary programs are being conceptualized that can meet the demands of standard care with regard to practicability and the economic use of resources.



*Prof. Dr. Frank Mayer,
Spokesperson of the Research Cluster
“Health”*





For the Best and Everyone

Research Cluster “Recreational and High-Performance Sports”

Research in the field of sport science is manifold and includes recreational as well as high-performance sports. Thus, the main focus is the investigation of performance in diverse settings, ranging from Olympic athletes to school-age children, healthy adults, and seniors.

The main goal of all researchers in the Department of Training and Movement Sciences is to implement and pursue both fundamental science and its practical implications. Studying biological and physiological aspects of human movements offer the opportunity to examine and validate different theories on motor control and behavior. Furthermore, adaptive processes of the human musculoskeletal system after training can be examined in athletes and recreational sports. For example, the development of movement

profiles in elite judo players can provide a profitable basis to improve individual training methods, durations and contents. Beside this high-performance approach, the “Emotikon Study” annually examines primary school children in Brandenburg to evaluate their motor performance and physical fitness in relation to sport club participation, residential area, and social environment. Findings from the “Emotikon Study” are utilized to develop and evaluate age-specific training programs for children and adolescents. Another major aim of the Research Cluster “Recreational and High-Performance Sports” is the examination of falls and fall risk in old adults. Researchers focus on examining underlying central and peripheral mechanisms in the nervous system that contribute to falls and aim to develop and implement interventions to prevent falls in the elderly.



The professorships affiliated with the research cluster “Recreational and High-Performance Sports” take on the challenges of recreational and elite sport and try to develop solutions for various problems of sport through interdisciplinary research settings.«

Sport sociologists at the University of Potsdam are focusing on the sensation and proper handling of stress and pain under strain, the so-called “stress and rest management”, as well as on dual career development and career options for high-performance athletes, and doping prevention. The study “Sensing Stress” seeks to determine the interaction between psychosocial and physiological stress indicators, and the emergence or persistence of pain and other symptoms during challenging situations and strain. Furthermore, our sports sociologists examine to what degree the 2009 National Doping Prevention Plan has been implemented at German athletic centers and whether there is a significant



*Prof. Dr. Urs Granacher,
Spokesperson of the Research Cluster
“Recreational and High-Performance
Sports”*

improvement in doping prevention. Anti-doping research is an important topic in the area of sport psychology as well. Currently, the division focuses on learning and teaching of ethical and moral responsibilities for doping prevention. Additional focus areas include the topics of health behavior and psychological remarks in top athletes and sports referees. Furthermore, respective research projects investigate sports- and health-related effects of pain and address the psychophysical well-being and performance development of girls and boys attending elite sport schools.

At the intersection of recreational and high-performance sports and public health, various collaborative projects involving the Brandenburg network of schools and professional sports have been established. Psychological issues in the areas of mental training, stress management in high-performance sport, as well as the longitudinal supervision of youth and elite athletes are part of the interdisciplinary and multi-centered research.





Science in the Classroom

Research Cluster “School and Teaching”

The research cluster “School and Teaching” concentrates on theoretical and empirical analyses of educational processes mainly in the context of educational institutions. The research projects investigate the educational system’s role in the success or failure of courses of development related to the individual resources of various actors (pupils, parents, teachers), the institutional conditions of the educational system (type of school, makeup of pupils) and basic contextual conditions (demographic development, urban surroundings). Of greatest interest is the intersection between educational, psychological, and sociological research. This interdisciplinary approach aligns with the diversity of current issues in the educational system and provides various theoretical perspectives and empirical methods.

In modern knowledge-based societies, education is a fundamental prerequisite for economic growth and affluence as well as for managing new demands in a rapidly changing, globalized world. In Germany, the National Educational Panel Study has been set up in order to understand how education is acquired, how it impacts individual biographies, and to describe and analyze major educational processes and life trajectories. The University of Potsdam has been a member of the National Educational Study Panel since 2011.

The research project “**Upper Secondary School and Transition to Higher Education, Vocational Training, or the Labor Market**”, jointly run by scientists at the University of Potsdam and colleagues in Tübingen, focuses on education following Abitur. Among other things, they are examining how students develop competencies (in specific subjects) at the upper secondary level of various school types.

Life courses into early adulthood is the subject of the **Life-Study** carried out by educational scientists at the University of Potsdam in collaboration with the universities in Zurich and Constance. It examines the transition from adolescence to early adulthood

and has followed the life courses of more than 1,600 people between the ages of 12 and 35 since the end of the 1970s.

The current round of surveys from 2012 re-interviews those who are by now 45 years old, i.e. middle-aged. Their children are also included into the survey. Since the parents of the 45-year olds have already been interviewed, three generations have now been integrated into the study. The research is mainly interested in participants’ training and professional careers, health, social and personal development as well as their political and cultural participation.



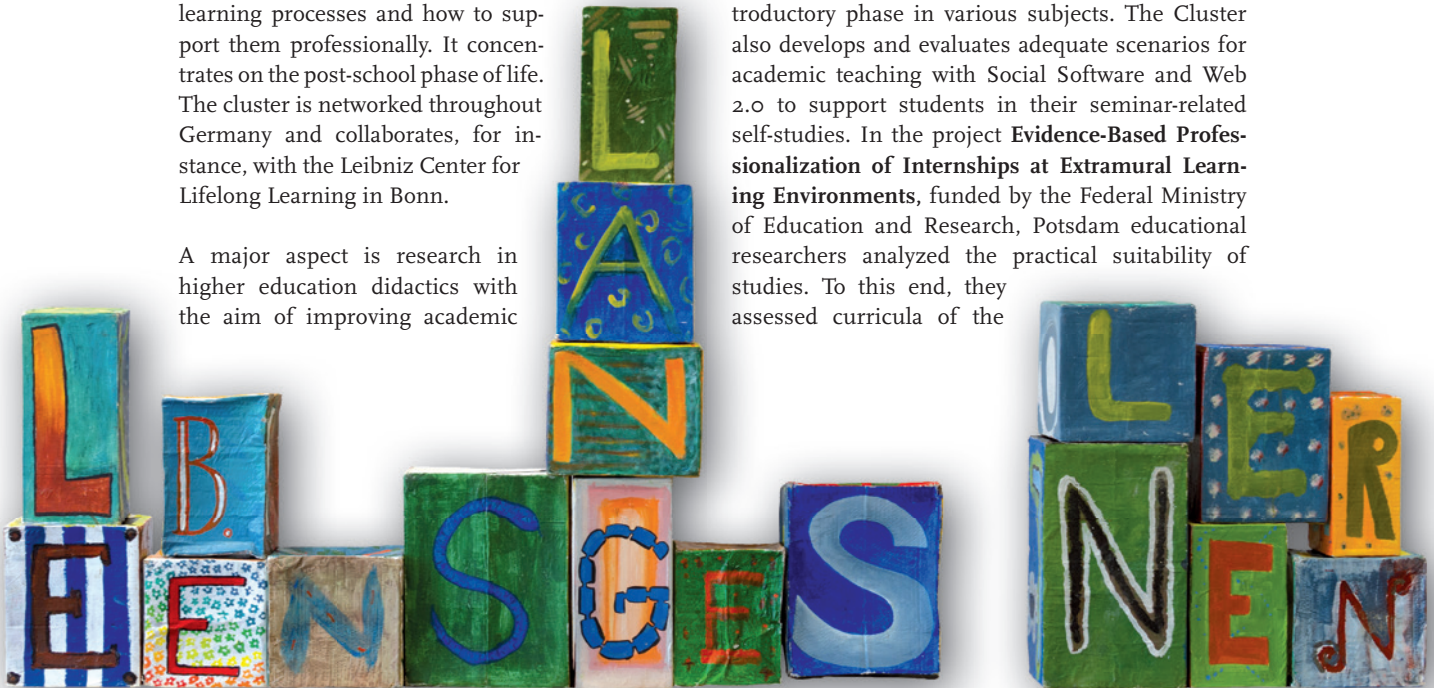
Education, Professionalization, Social Inclusion

Research Cluster “Lifelong Learning“

People learn from the cradle to the grave. European educational policies focus on promoting lifelong learning for innovation and a future worth living. The research cluster studies these learning processes and how to support them professionally. It concentrates on the post-school phase of life. The cluster is networked throughout Germany and collaborates, for instance, with the Leibniz Center for Lifelong Learning in Bonn.

A major aspect is research in higher education didactics with the aim of improving academic

teaching, including at the University of Potsdam. The recently completed project **Restructuring Didactic Concepts for the Introductory Phase** examined and implemented improvements for the introductory phase in various subjects. The Cluster also develops and evaluates adequate scenarios for academic teaching with Social Software and Web 2.0 to support students in their seminar-related self-studies. In the project **Evidence-Based Professionalization of Internships at Extramural Learning Environments**, funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Potsdam educational researchers analyzed the practical suitability of studies. To this end, they assessed curricula of the





*Prof. Dr. Joachim Ludwig,
Spokesperson of the Research Cluster
“Lifelong Learning”*

» Our research cluster studies the basics, promotion and limitations of human learning in social, economic, and political areas. This includes learning, teaching, and consultation processes in youth and university education as well as vocational, political and cultural education.«

practical training of many courses of studies and interviewed about 1,000 students about their internship experiences.

A second research aspect focuses on vocational and continuing in-service training. Physicians are surveyed about what would motivate them to participate in or avoid continuing education programs. As a result, further training opportunities will be optimized. Another project asks about the significance of learning and educational processes for employees during modernization processes of a service provider. Do they rather experience learning as an unreasonable demand and burden or as a way of coping with the situation? The research results will be used to adapt the continuing in-service training to create better working conditions and improve customer service.

A third focus is on functional illiteracy research. In Germany, 7.5 million cannot read and write properly. The conditions and learning strategies that can support people in acquiring reading and writing skills are being examined. The research clearly shows that opportunities of social inclusion in family, job or social networks are an important prerequisite for adults learning to read and write.





Where Knowledge Grows

Studying with Profile and for the Future

Young, modern, oriented towards the future: During the 22 years of its existence the University of Potsdam has already achieved an outstanding position among the universities and scientific institutions in Berlin and Brandenburg. It convinces with its great variety of programs and courses as well as with its distinct interdisciplinary research profile. Teaching at Potsdam's university always links to state-of-the-art research and is driven by the latest scientific findings in and outside the university. Students benefit from the great number of extramural research institutions in Potsdam

that add value to their studies. These institutions also promote the dialog between theory and real life and open up job opportunities for the graduates.

In addition to education in their subjects, students can acquire important skills that help them to start their career. The Career Service, some institutes, the "Centre for Start-Up, Innovation, Knowledge, and Technology Transfer", in short Potsdam Transfer, support them with their expertise in seeking a job or setting up a business.

The university's efforts for more **Excellence in Teaching** do not go unnoticed. The concept was awarded with a first price in the competition of the same name organized by the Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft (the business community's innovation agency for the German science system) and the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany. The University is committed to maintain and expand these high standards. It also focuses on the **Quality Campaign in Teacher Training**, which aims at sustainably improving the quality of teacher education including career entry and continuing professional development.

Potsdam provides the opportunity to experience German history and culture firsthand. This attracts many international students. The personal atmosphere at the University makes it easier to socialize with your fellow students and to find new friends. The Tandem Program of the International Relations Office helps international and German students to get to know each other – a project beneficial for both sides.

The open and tolerant ambiance at the University also creates ideal conditions for students with chronic diseases or for challenged students. We deliberately break with old ways of thinking that were based on the idea of need for help. Instead, students with and without handicaps create a barrier-free university together.

The University of Potsdam is also known as a distinctly family-friendly university with many childcare facilities and playgrounds. It offers a wide range of services that help young mothers and fathers to balance studies and family. Of course, all other students too will find people at the faculties and central institutions who have an open ear for their problems.

Embedded in Potsdam's unique cultural and research landscape, the University of Potsdam has established

itself at three locations: the Campus of the Faculty of Human Sciences and Faculty of Science in the Science Park Golm, the Faculty of Arts opposite the Neues Palais at the Park of Sanssouci and the Law Faculty, the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, and the Institute of Computer Sciences in Griebnitzsee not far from Babelsberg with its historical film studios.

By bus or train, it does not take long to go to the city center or to the other campuses. The so-called "Students Shuttle" between Griebnitzsee, Golm, and Park Sanssouci runs every hour. In the evening, when the city lures, it takes just 30 minutes by city train to get to the center of Berlin. The semester-pass for public transportation means mobility around the clock.



A young woman with long brown hair and bangs is looking down at an open blue book she is holding. She is in a library, with bookshelves filled with books visible in the background. The lighting is soft and focused on her. The text 'Teaching and Studying at the Faculty' is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font.

Teaching and Studying at the Faculty.

Teacher Education Department

The faculty's teaching majors are pooled in this department. The training follows an integrative concept, emphasizing the close connection between the field of study and its teaching methodology as well as aiming for a developmental-psychological and cognitive-psychological foundation of didactics. Potsdam's teaching training places special value on practical relevance and the integration of theory and practice.

Training teachers for primary education is one of the department's focal points. This focus uniquely contributes to the educational sciences and seeks to build a network with the cognitive sciences. Music

and physical education can be studied at every grade level. Since the winter semester 2013/14, all teaching majors have covered inclusionary pedagogy – the basis for implementing Germany's inclusionary educational system. The major primary education with a special focus on inclusionary pedagogy even breaks new ground. In this major, future elementary school teachers are taught how to diagnose their students' special educational needs and implement the appropriate assistance measures. This inclusionary pedagogical training covers the special needs fields of learning, language, and emotional-social development.



Education Department

The educational majors center on theoretical knowledge of educational, developmental, and learning theories. Their goal is to further students' understanding of educational and personal development in the context of school and family as well as professional courses of action in pedagogical contexts. All education students receive research-focused

training, based on essential theories, methods, and principles and the educational sciences, which can be used to solve problems in various occupational fields. This enables them to analyze complex educational questions and to shape pedagogical processes within a societal framework.





Department of Sports and Health Sciences

Various fields can be studied at the department: sports management and sports therapy, prevention and the international MA/PhD program Clinical Exercise Science. The study of sports management centers on sports-management related theories as well as paradigms to cope with academic and occupational problems. Sports therapy and prevention focuses on the communication of physical activity, the practical orientation in the occupational sphere, the creation of diagnosis-related sports therapy and

diet plans as well as patient counseling and guidance.

The international and English-based MA/PhD program Clinical Exercise Science addresses the research-oriented differentiation between clinical applications on patients and the use of physical activity for prevention and rehabilitation within sport done for health reasons, recreational sport, and high-performance sport.

Linguistics Department

“How does language work?” is the central question of the study of linguistics. Students become acquainted with the traditional fields of linguistic science: morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, phonology, and phonetics. More recent branches of linguistics are also studied: the automatic processing and production of language and texts, first vs. second language acquisition, and the cognitive mechanism of human language processing.

The field of computer linguistics studies the development of computer systems able to understand, produce, and automatically translate human language. Computer linguistics also looks at the mathematical characteristics of natural and artificial languages and researches their different formalisms. Patholin-

guistics, on the other hand, studies language, speaking, and swallowing disorders in adults and children in research, teaching, and practice. The focal point is the development of diagnostic and therapeutic approaches based on the newest neurolinguistic and psycholinguistic research results and models.

Through its international MA and PhD programs, the department offers integrated training in theoretical and experimental neurolinguistics and psycholinguistics with a clinical orientation, aiming towards researching linguistic knowledge across disciplines and according to internationally recognized academic standards. Students benefit from state-of-the-art laboratory equipment, which enables research-oriented experimental training.





Psychology Department

The Potsdam psychology department is organized around psychology's fundamental science and traditional fields of application, such as clinical psychology and health sciences, labor and organizational psychology, and pedagogical psychology. The training concept emphasizes research-oriented teaching. Computer pools for students, a professionally

equipped video studio, and numerous laboratories and experimental rooms are available to students. Associated institutions are the psychological- psychotherapeutic walk-in clinic, a patient training and counseling room, a center for teaching therapy, and a state-approved educational institution for child and adolescent psychotherapy.



Speaking Properly

Research and Therapy of Speech and Language Disorders at the Potsdam Center for Applied Patholinguistics



The foundations of language acquisition are laid during very early childhood. This does not always happen smoothly. Speech and language disorder comprises many different symptoms and is diagnosed when a child's vocabulary remains limited, words or sounds are mispronounced, or grammar is misused. The linguists at the University of Potsdam who deal with such disorders collaborate with the Potsdam Center of Applied Psycho- and Patholinguistics. Students, researchers, speech therapists and, of course, patients benefit from this collaboration.

The center tests and evaluates new diagnostic and therapeutic methods. Its close collaboration with the University keeps the staff abreast of the latest sci-

entific findings. In their joint team meetings, they discuss research results as well as diagnostic and therapeutic methods.

The partnership, started in 1996, gives students of patholinguistics the opportunity to gain practical experience. Each year the Center for Applied Psycho- and Patholinguistics treats about 300 patients, about 60 of them as part of the students' training. The students need direct contact to the patients to be able to diagnose and treat language, speaking, and swallowing disorders. The center is both a doctors' practice and a contact point for patholinguists-to-be. Students have the chance to learn from practical examples. Therapy with students is complimentary for the patients.

When Eating Becomes a Problem

Assistance and Research
at the Patient Training and
Advisory Center





Not enough exercise, an unhealthy diet, genetic predisposition – there are many reasons for obesity. The **Patient Training and Advisory Center**, which falls under the auspices of the professorship of counseling psychology, studies efficient therapeutic methods and creates a place where theoretical foundation and practical application meet.

Since 2004 the center has assisted children and adolescents suffering from chronic diseases. Its work focuses on the treatment of overweight and obesity. Over the course of 15 months, psychologists, sports therapists and dieticians teach obese children and adolescents how to lose weight in groups of with up to eight other children of the same age. What is the yo-yo effect? What kind of weight reduction is realistic? Which foods are fattening? These and other questions are answered age-appropriately. They practice eating slowly using, for example, a carrot or a slice of bread. A piece of butter or a weight belt

for diving show them how much weight they have already lost. On a shopping tour they learn which foods are fattening and find healthy alternatives. They also learn how to say no. Avoiding chocolate takes practice.

There are also preventive courses for parents of preschool children. The younger the child, the more important is the support of parents against obesity. The professorship of counseling psychology focuses on the development and evaluation of school programs. The researchers analyze how psychological aspects influence eating and kinesic behavior, which then forms a basis for new therapeutic approaches. The data collected by the center and the accompanying studies show that the obesity training has been successful. About 80 percent of the participants are able to maintain or even reduce their relative weight over a longer period and this noticeably and sustainably improves their quality of life.



Focus “Cognitive Behavioral Therapy”

The Academy of Psychotherapy and Intervention Research

The **Academy of Psychotherapy and Intervention Research** is dedicated to childhood and adolescent mental problems ranging from depression to eating and sleep disorders to learning difficulties and truancy. It seeks to balance deficits in the treatment of children and adolescents as well as their families in scientific training, therapeutic research, and outpatient care.

As an affiliated institute of the University of Potsdam, the academy trains child and youth therapists focusing on behavioral therapy. The professorship for clinical psychology and psychotherapy at the University provides the necessary scientific affiliation. The academy researches the development and evaluation of new instruments for diagnosis, therapy, and prevention.

The professor of clinical psychology also heads the academy's outpatient clinic. A team of about 60 therapists attends to the needs of the patients and their parents. In addition to licensed psychotherapists and a psychiatrist for children and adolescents, the team consists of therapists completing their practical training after graduation. Their qualification can be compared to prospective medical specialists. Close-meshed professional instruction ensures a high level of treatment.

The outpatient clinic is accredited for outpatient psychotherapeutic treatment by the Brandenburg Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians. It provides comprehensive diagnostic services and behavioral therapy. Depending on the specific problem, this is either done with a child individually or in groups using only diagnostic instruments and treatments that have been scientifically examined and proven effective. All treatment is based on the current state of research and connects therapeutic work with interventions in family, kindergarten, or school.





Knowledge Transfer for More Health

Collaboration with Rehab Clinics in Teaching and Research

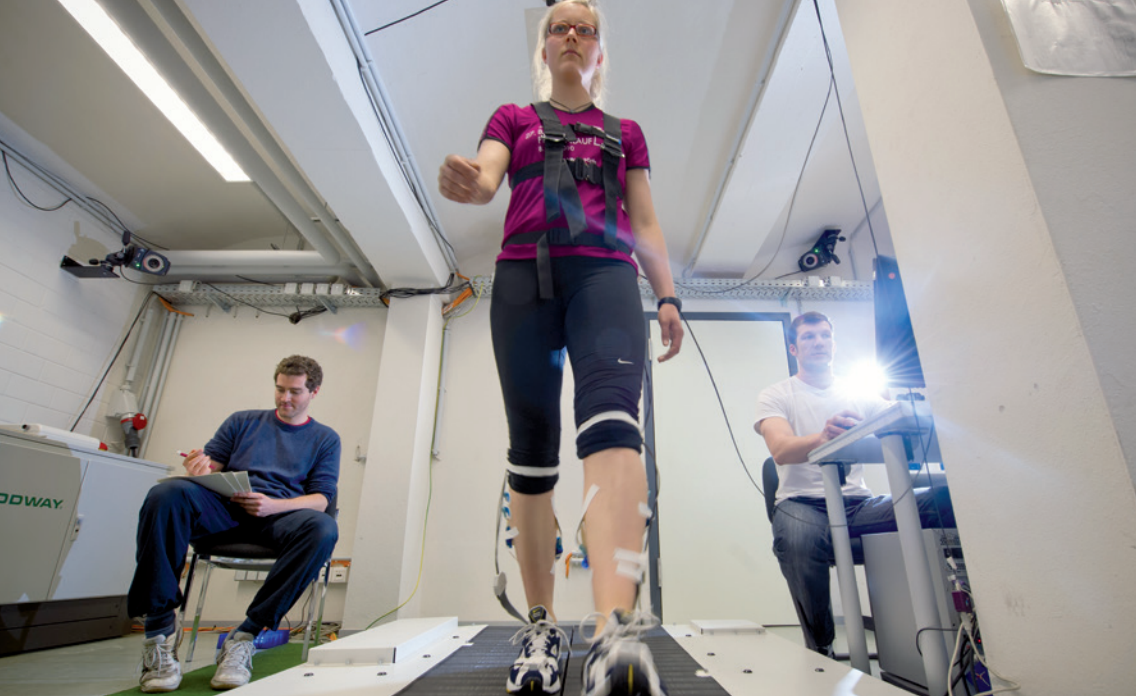
The University of Potsdam collaborates with rehab clinics in Berlin and Brandenburg for its clinical research and academic training of medical rehabilitation. This collaboration was made possible by an endowed chair of rehabilitation sciences at the University.

This chair is the first of its kind in Brandenburg. The endowing companies -Brandenburg Klink Bernau-Waldsiedlung, Klinik am See Rüdersdorf, and the MEDIAN Kliniken GmbH & Co. KG – collaborate with the University to pursue the goal of promoting and extending research in rehabilitation medicine and focusing on chronic diseases. One of several projects already under way deals with socio-therapeutic guid-

ance of those seeking reintegration into working life after long-term illness. Other projects focus on patients' mental and physical activities. They study exercise and sports therapies that provide long-term help in cases of vascular disease or during rehabilitation after a heart attack.

Physicians and scientists of the networking rehab clinics meet regularly to exchange their experiences and scientific findings, which are in turn integrated into the University's teaching. The respective courses in patholinguistics, psychology, sports therapy, and prevention are all based on research. The graduates who studied or did their continuing training in health care at the University then apply this know-how in their professional practice.





Between Sports and Medicine

Research, Training, and Medical Practice at the University's Outpatient Clinic

Training alone does not make a top athlete. Brandenburg's top-ranked junior and high-performance athletes appreciate the special medical attendance they receive at the University of Potsdam's outpatient clinic. Physicians and physiotherapists look after the athletes during competitions and training. The athletes receive the whole nine yards during their examinations at the outpatient clinic: blood withdrawal, a stress EKG, and nutrition counseling. The

clinic attends to about 300 athletes on German national teams and youth athletes at elite sport schools.

The outpatient clinic is a licensed Medical Examination Center of the German Olympic Sports Federation and has departments for sports orthopedics and traumatology, internal and general medicine as well as physiotherapy, and sports and medical training therapy. Consultations and examinations



are also available to other patients and University staff who want to benefit from the latest scientific findings on exercise. It is not only for their jobs that people will have to stay physically and mentally fit for longer. Like in sports medicine it is important to coordinate prevention and therapy with individual needs. In addition to sports done for health reasons, recreational sports, and high-performance sports, the outpatient clinic also addresses exercise

among the general population and at work. Scientists, physicians, and therapists pass on the latest research results directly to students. The courses include the basics of anatomy, physiology, and adjustment responses to physical activity. Later in their studies, students deal with different disciplines of sports medicine, sports and training therapy, sports done for health reasons as well as recreational and high-performance sports.

Potsdam

An Inspiring Place for Living, Studying and Working



Potsdam is considered one of the most beautiful cities of Germany. Surrounded by lakes, rivers and forests, with its many palaces and gardens, the capital of Brandenburg is an inspiring place for living, studying and working. The Palace Sanssouci, once the summer residence of Frederick the Great, the large park with its Church of Peace based upon Italian models, the Roman Baths and the Orangery Palace convey a Mediterranean atmosphere. The architecture of the city reveals many different European influences. There are, for instance, the Dutch Quarter with its shops and restaurants, the Russian Colony Alexandrowka with its orchards

and the Bohemian Weavers' Quarter of Babelsberg. Potsdam is a lively city marked and influenced by many cultures. For more than a hundred years, it has been also home to the sciences. Proof of this is the historical ensemble of research buildings on the Telegrafenberg with the large refracting telescope as well as the Einstein Tower from 1920 that houses a solar telescope. Nowadays, Potsdam is a modern city of sciences with the largest university of Brandenburg, the Babelsberg Film and Television University "Konrad Wolf", the Potsdam University of Applied Sciences and numerous extramural institutes, a city of science with a new education forum in its midst.



Approaching Potsdam from the waterside, you will see the red “shell” of the Hans Otto Theater directly situated on the Tiefer See lake. At Schiffbauergasse (Shipbuilder’s Lane), there is a unique area of cultural facilities that include modern drama, experimental dance, and contemporary art. Right in the middle, there is the Waschhaus with a rock and pop arena and some smaller stages for jazz and world music. It is also a place for readings, movie nights, and parties. In the center of Potsdam there is the “KuZe” Student Cultural Center and the Pub-à-la-Pub. If you prefer a more classical ambience, you can go to the Nikolaisaal where the University’s

choir and orchestra give concerts. Students from Germany and abroad feel at ease in Potsdam. People of many different cultural backgrounds meet in the dormitories that are close to the campus. If you have to balance studies, career and children, you can get special support from the family service of the University. The University Athletic Department provides a lot of facilities and fitness courses to balance mental and physical activities. No matter whether you travel by bike, bus or train, you can always move around Potsdam easily and quickly, to enjoy its green surroundings or go into bustling Berlin.



Against a Historical Backdrop

Campus Am Neuen Palais

The central campus of the University of Potsdam is situated vis-à-vis the palace Neues Palais in the Park of Sanssouci, which was the former royal guesthouse of the Prussian kings. The eighteenth century baroque buildings with staircases, porticos, cupolas, and rich ornamentation, whose former purpose as the Palace's offices and service rooms is scarcely recognizable, are also home to the presidential office and administration of the University founded in 1991. Looking at the new library, it is apparent that one of the youngest and most modern German universities has been established against this breathtaking backdrop. A floating, ring-shaped structure creates an architec-

tural contrast but blends harmonically with the green courtyard of the southern Communs.

Undoubtedly unique is the auditorium maximum located in the former imperial stables. Finished in 1894, this riding hall was once used by Emperor William II for representative parades.

A symmetrically constructed building inspired by the stables is home to the faculty's Department of Sports and Health Sciences. It includes the outpatient clinic that looks after high-performance and recreational athletes during training and competition.

State of the Art in a Rural Idyll

Campus Golm

Nowhere else is the contrast between old and new, between countryside and city as obvious as in Golm.

The largest campus of the University of Potsdam is located on a place surrounded by meadows and pastures and not far from the quiet village center of Golm. The campus Golm is home to the Faculty of Science and the Faculty of Human Sciences.

The new research buildings are interesting architectural highlights. They are equipped with the most modern laboratories and devices. The faculty's head office is the lofty, black-and-white building 14.

About 9,000 students head for the two faculties every day, places where research work that determines the profile of the university is closely linked with teaching. A central site for studies is the Information, Communication, and Media Center providing more than 900,000 books and other media. Golm has developed into one of the largest sciences parks of the region. Three institutes of the Max Planck Society and two of the Fraunhofer Society as well as the start-up center GO:IN are in the University's immediate vicinity. This close network of internationally renowned institutions provides a wide range of possibilities, in particular for young academics.





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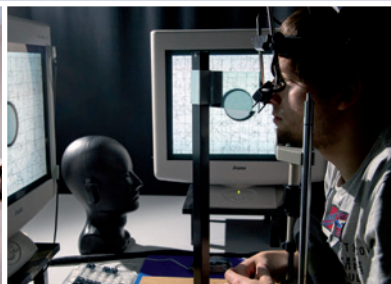
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