



## **Solidarity with Ukraine**

The University of Potsdam is dismayed by Russia's invasion of Ukraine in violation of international law and is extremely concerned about recent developments. We forcefully condemn the fact that a sovereign state was invaded and forced into a war. As part of the international academic and scientific community, we stand for peaceful cooperation with respect and accountability.

Even in difficult political times, it has always been important to us to keep up the dialog with our partners via cultural and scientific bridges in the spirit of science diplomacy. We remain deeply committed to these principles. For the time being, cooperation with Russia is being suspended as a rule. However, we will be careful not to cause any harm to those parts of civil society that oppose the war and are present at universities and research institutions in particular. We have a great deal of respect for the several thousand Russian scholars and journalists who have signed the open letter against the war in Ukraine. We refuse to be hostile to university members because of their Russian background. Universities must remain a place of respectful discourse even in difficult times.

There are currently about 100 Ukrainian and more than 200 Russian students at the university. There are four structured joint study programs, as well as many established partnerships with Russia. In relations with Ukraine, the Faculty of Science has a long-standing partnership with Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. For the past three years, the Law Faculty has been cooperating in the project CRIMHUM: Modernization of Master Programs for Future Judges, Prosecutors, Investigators with Respect to European Standard on Human Rights with Ukraine. The Mathematics Department maintains an institutional partnership with the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in Kyiv. The events are therefore resulting in critical changes for partnership work. We will continue our cooperation with Ukrainian institutions at all levels.

The University of Potsdam is a member of the Scholars at Risk network and will be heavily involved in the relevant initiatives to support Ukrainian scholars. We, the university management, assure our Ukrainian students and colleagues that we will provide any support that the University of Potsdam can offer. We are also looking for ways and means, in cooperation with our partners, to enable at-risk international students and scholars to study or work at the University of Potsdam. Funds for relief efforts will be made available in a timely manner.

The Executive Board of the University of Potsdam

**Full Solidarity with and Support for Ukraine: Statement by the higher education institutions, non-university research institutions, associations for student affairs, and Ministry of Science of the State of Brandenburg:** <https://mwfk.brandenburg.de/mwfk/de/service/pressemitteilungen/ansicht/~03-03-2022-erklaerung-wissenschaft-und-forschung-zu-ukraine> (German only)

**Alliance of Science Organizations in Germany: solidarity with partners in Ukraine – consequences for science and the humanities:**  
<https://www.mpg.de/18369097/alliance-of-science-organisations-in-germany-statement-on-russias-attack-on-ukraine.pdf>

**Solidarity with Ukraine and Ukrainian universities: HRK condemns Russian attack:**  
<https://www.hrk.de/press/press-releases/press-release/meldung/solidarity-with-ukraine-and-ukrainian-universities-hrk-condemns-russian-attack-4888/>

**DAAD appalled by Russian attack on Ukraine:**  
[https://www.daad.de/en/the-daad/communication-publications/press/press\\_releases/pressemitteilung-ukraine\\_24-februar/](https://www.daad.de/en/the-daad/communication-publications/press/press_releases/pressemitteilung-ukraine_24-februar/)