

Fact sheet – Justus Liebig University Giessen

University profile

Founded in 1607, Justus Liebig University Giessen (JLU) is a research university rich in tradition that attracts almost 26,000 students. In addition to a broad range of courses - from the classical natural sciences to law and economics, social and educational sciences to linguistics and cultural studies - it offers a spectrum of life sciences subjects that is unique not only in Hesse: human and veterinary medicine, agricultural, environmental and nutritional sciences as well as food chemistry. Among the great personalities who have conducted research and taught at JLU are a number of Nobel Prize winners, including Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen (Nobel Prize for Physics 1901) and Wangari Maathai (Nobel Peace Prize 2004). Since 2006, research at JLU has been continuously funded by the Excellence Initiative and the Excellence Strategy of the German federal and state governments.

University history

Justus Liebig University Giessen has a varied history. In the course of more than 400 years since its founding in 1607, the university in Giessen has grown from a small state university to a full-scale university with a broad range of study programmes and various fields of excellence. On more than one occasion over the years, it has proved able to pull through a crisis and to reassert itself. It has ultimately emerged stronger than before from various periods of crisis. Over the centuries, it has produced a number of outstanding personae. After the university's turbulent beginnings in the 17th century, its stabilisation and establishment as a small state university in the 18th century, it entered a period of modernisation and began to adopt an international outlook in the 19th century. Further crises awaited it, however, in the 20th century. Today, in the fifth century of its existence, Justus Liebig University is a high-performance university that is fit for the future.

Higher education system of Germany

Germany's higher education system boasts diverse options. Two main types exist: universities (Universitäten) and universities of applied sciences (Fachhochschulen).

Universities offer a broader range of subjects, including theoretical and research-oriented programmes, leading to Bachelor's, Master's, and doctoral degrees.

Universities of applied sciences focus on practical skills and professions, offering Bachelor's and Master's degrees in specific fields.



Entry typically requires the "Abitur," a rigorous school-leaving exam, or equivalent qualifications. Public universities are dominant, known for low tuition fees, attracting over 90% of students. Private universities offer alternative options, often with higher fees. The system is decentralised, with each state having some control over its institutions. This fosters diversity in programme offerings and structures. Overall, German higher education is renowned for its affordability, quality, and diverse options, making it a popular choice for international students.

Faculties

- Faculty 01 - Law
- Faculty 02 - Economics and Business Studies
- Faculty 03 - Social Sciences and Cultural Studies
- Faculty 04 - History and Cultural Studies
- Faculty 05 - Language, Literature, Culture
- Faculty 06 - Psychology and Sports Science
- Faculty 07 - Mathematics and Computer Science, Physics, Geography
- Faculty 08 - Biology and Chemistry
- Faculty 09 - Agricultural Sciences, Nutritional Sciences and Environmental Management
- Faculty 10 - Veterinary Medicine
- Faculty 11 - Medicine

Research Centres and Facilities

- Biomedical Research Centre Seltersberg (BFS)
- Centre for Competence Development (ZfbK)
- Centre for International Development and Environmental Research (ZEU)
- Centre for Media and Interactivity (ZMI)
- Centre for Sustainable Food Systems (ZNE)
- College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (CLAS)
- Giessen Centre for East European Studies (GIZO)
- Giessener Graduiertenzentrum Kulturwissenschaften (GGK) / International Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture (GCSC)
- Icar3R – Interdisciplinary Centre for 3Rs in Animal Research, 3R-Centre JLU Giessen
- International Giessen Graduate Centre for the Life Sciences (GGL)
- Giessen Graduate Center for Natural Sciences and Psychology (GGN)
- Giessen Graduate Centre for Social Sciences, Business, Economics and Law (GGS)
- Laboratory for materials science (LaMa)
- Research Centre for BioSystems, Land Use and Nutrition (iFZ)
- Research Centre for the Study of Culture (RCSC)
- Service Point University Didactics

- Teacher Training Centre (ZfL)

Student involvement at Justus Liebig University Giessen

The Students' Parliament is the elected body representing all the students of the university. It is the highest decision-making body within the student organisation. The 29 members elect and control the Students' Union (AStA). They make the statutes of the student body and other stipulations and set the budget. The Students' Parliament is also the debating chamber for university political topics and student matters.

The General Students' Committee/Students' Union is the acting executive board and the external representing agency of the (constituted) student body. It is the student government and student representative organisation.

The 27 Student Councils as administrative organisations of students in different educational departments help to share ideas, interests, and concerns with teachers and departmental administrative authorities.

The Student Council Conference (FSK) is the joint body of the student councils at university level. At the meetings of the FSK, decisions are made on the motions of the student councils.

Research focus & number research groups

JLU's profile as a differentiated comprehensive university encompasses the entire spectrum of subjects from law and economics to the humanities and social sciences, psychology and sports sciences through to the natural and life sciences.

JLU considers itself to be a medium-sized, differentiated, comprehensive university with a clear commitment to the breadth of its subject areas and to profile development in individual excellent - also application-oriented - research areas and to the dynamic development and occupation of emerging fields. JLU's third-party funding strength is based on a large number of individual research projects as well as on a wide variety of large collaborative research projects, which are often carried out in cooperation with strong regional, national and international partners. These coordinated projects are also proof of JLU's excellent networking.

With its long-term profile development, JLU was successful in both rounds of the Excellence Initiative of the federal and state governments: Since 2006, the International Graduate Center for the Study of Culture (GCSC) and the Excellence Cluster Cardio-Pulmonary System (ECCPS; co-spokesperson university: Goethe University Frankfurt) have been funded in two funding rounds. In 2018, JLU was able to position itself as the most successful Hessian university in the Excellence Strategy of the federal and state governments.

Research Profile Areas: https://www.uni-giessen.de/en/research/research_profile/profile_areas

The research profile of Justus Liebig University Giessen is currently divided into three levels with two internationally visible focus areas, five leading potential areas in collaborative research and 28 accent areas in the departments. In terms of research, JLU is characterised by both very large areas with strong collaborative research activities and smaller units with strong research activities. JLU's collaborative research profile is characterised by the focus and potential areas with national and international visibility in cutting-edge research. These areas are being continuously expanded.

JLU's focus areas fulfil the classic performance indicators of cutting-edge research, they have outstanding performance and special international appeal. They encompass:

- Cardiopulmonary system (Heart/Lungs)
- Mechanisms of perception and adaptation

JLU's Areas of potential are research alliances with strong external cooperation partners that fulfil the key performance parameters of internationally visible cutting-edge research. They encompass:

- Bioresources
- Infections, inflammations and active ingredients
- Smallest particles
- Culture—Conflict—Security (Focus: Eastern Europe)
- Material and Energy (Focus: storage materials)

Number of Research Groups:

Projects/Research groups funded by the German Research Foundation: 31

<https://www.uni-giessen.de/de/forschung/aktuell/verbund/dfg-verbund>

Projects/Research groups funded by the Federal State of Hesse (LOEWE programme): 10

<https://www.uni-giessen.de/de/forschung/aktuell/verbund/hessen-verbund>

European research groups/projects: 28

<https://www.uni-giessen.de/de/forschung/aktuell/verbund/eu-verbund>

Information in English: Research Profile: https://www.uni-giessen.de/en/research/research_profile

Research projects: <https://www.uni-giessen.de/en/research/current-research>

More information

- List of study programmes: <https://www.uni-giessen.de/finder/>
- Course catalogue <https://studip.uni-giessen.de/evv/extern.php>
- Research results <https://www.uni-giessen.de/de/forschung>

