



Ostfalia
University of
Applied Sciences



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Get to know us better!

Dear reader,

Building knowledge and sparking enthusiasm count among our most essential objectives.

As a reliable partner in education and research, we are involved regionally and internationally within a network of diverse members with backgrounds in research and practice. As a result, we are able to jointly expand our professional and personal perspectives and create further innovations.

Learn more about us in the following pages – or come and visit us in person!

Yours
Rosemarie Karger

Prof. Dr. Rosemarie Karger

President of Ostfalia University of Applied Sciences



Facts & Figures

With about 13,000 students, twelve faculties and 29 departments, Ostfalia counts among the biggest universities of applied sciences in Lower Saxony. As a state institution of higher education, it is represented by personnel of around 1000 – including more than 220 professors – at its Salzgitter, Suderburg, Wolfenbüttel, and Wolfsburg branches. Ostfalia also features seven associated institutes.

In 2017 the university's total budget amounted to about 111.3 million €, of which some 7.3 million € were third-party funds (incl. training costs).



1929: Social work training
in Brunswick

The history of Ostfalia University of Applied Sciences and its predecessor institutions dates back to 1853 (Suderburg), 1905 (Braunschweig), and 1928 (Wolfenbüttel).

At the Braunschweig location, the Christian-Social Women's School founded in 1905 evolved to become the Higher Professional School for Social Work of the state of Lower Saxony. Twenty-three years after its foundation, the Wolfenbüttel Technical Institute was established. This private academy offered study programmes as well as state-approved final examinations in the fields of mechanical and electrical engineering. In 1968, the Technical Institute was turned into a state academy of engineering, which attained the status of a university of applied sciences in 1971. The same year it merged with the Higher Professional School in Braunschweig, resulting in the formation of the Braunschweig/Wolfenbüttel University of Applied Sciences with some 850 registered students at that time.

History



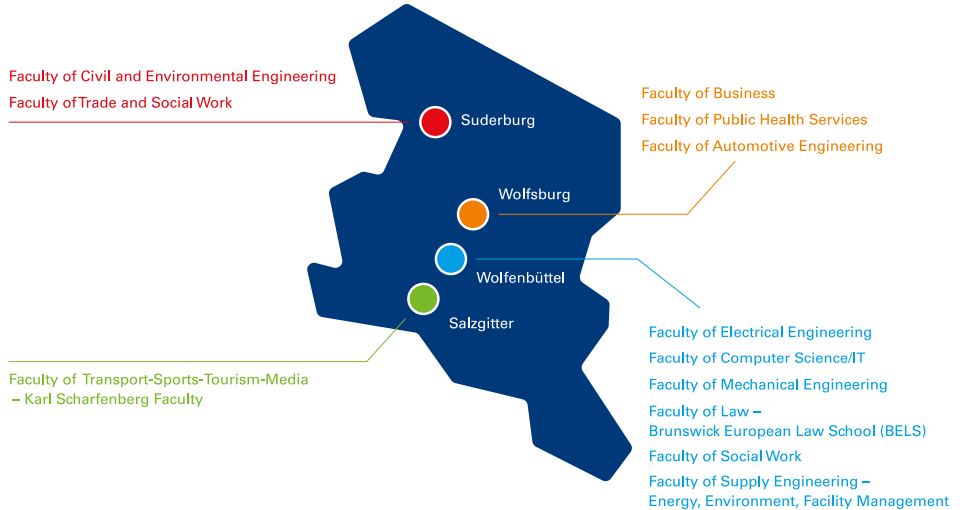
Laboratory building of the former engineering academy in Wolfenbüttel

Increasing student numbers led the University of Applied Sciences to open additional sites: It has been represented in Wolfsburg since 1988, in Salzgitter since 1993, and in Suderburg since 2009. In the fall of 2010, the Faculty of Social Work left its Braunschweig site and moved to larger premises on the “Am Exer” campus in Wolfenbüttel.

Campus & Faculties

The University of Applied Sciences has been operating under the name of „Ostfalia“ since 2009, giving consideration to its continuous growth and its regional identity, as all four sites are located in Eastphalia (Ostfalen), a region of Old Saxony extending between the Weser and Elbe rivers, the Lüneburg Heath, and the Harz range. Metropolitan centres such as Hamburg or Berlin are only a two-hour drive away.

The following illustration shows where each of the university's faculties are located.

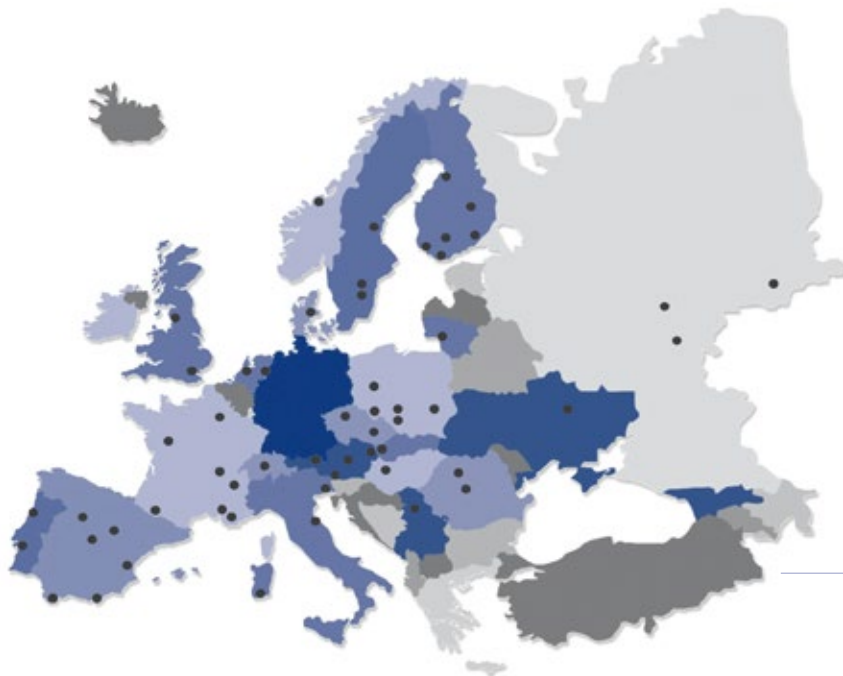


Global Partner Universities

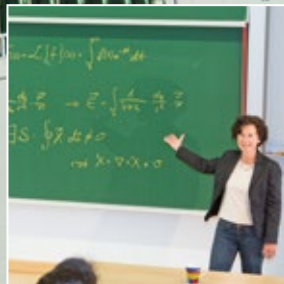
Ostfalia cooperates with more than 100 universities all over the world, offering its students and teaching personnel an opportunity to gain international experience. The International Relations Office's qualified liaison personnel are Ostfalia's point of contact for (partner) universities seeking to arrange and shape such partnerships.



Europe-wide



Ostfalia's partner universities across Europe



Ostfalia counts ...

... among the roughly 400 state-approved higher education institutions in Germany. There are three types of higher education institutions in Germany: universities, universities of applied sciences, and colleges of art, film, and music.

While universities have a strong academic focus, study programmes at universities of applied sciences – including Ostfalia – are very much practice-oriented and training closely matches the demands of professional life. Research conducted at universities of applied sciences is far more application-oriented than university-based research. Colleges of art, film, and music offer degree programmes in their corresponding fields of art and often require prospective students to demonstrate their skill in entrance examinations. Like most higher education institutions in Germany, Ostfalia is government-funded. Only about five percent of students in Germany attend private higher education institutions, some of which charge high tuition fees. Despite offering the same level of education and training, costs – e.g. for administrative charges and student public transport passes – are relatively low here.



Fields of Study and Degree Programmes

The fields of study offered at Ostfalia include engineering/computer science, media, design, social work, and public health as well as business and law.

Dual degree programmes or degree programmes combining academic qualifications and business-based vocational training complete the range of study options, which comprises more than 80 undergraduate and graduate degree programmes. Flexible study schemes such as remote or part-time study offer suitable qualification options for many different stages of life.

Ostfalia degree programmes are practice-oriented. Courses are taught in small groups and with a focus on practical application, putting real-life and interdisciplinary projects at the heart of our students' education and training. The university's diverse network and its close contacts with business and external establishments ensure that course contents are in line with the demands of the labour market. At the same time, this approach provides students with an opportunity to hone their skills in a practice-based environment. More than 75 percent of our graduates find a job that matches their education and training within three months of graduating. Many of them even get to sign an employment contract prior to formally concluding their studies.



International Summer Universities

Summer schools provide German and international engineering and economics students with an opportunity to work and study together in their areas of specialisation while focusing on international topics.

Our International Summer Semester (Business Management Faculty) and Intensive Summer Programme in Environmental Engineering (Supply Engineering Faculty) follow a similar approach by offering courses taught in English.



Other Programmes Conducted in English

International Academic Year

Offered by Ostfalia's Faculty of Business, the International Academic Year is a programme for international undergraduate students. In order to cater to students' different study schedules and individual needs, the programme is kept flexible: Students may choose whether they want to spend the spring semester, fall semester, or both semesters in Wolfsburg.

Automotive Service Technology and Processes (Master of Engineering)

This three-semester programme is offered by the Faculty of Automotive Engineering in Wolfsburg. Students will acquire skills enabling them to successfully take on leading positions in companies that operate at the local and global levels of the after-sales industry.



Services

The International Student Office serves as a first point of contact for our international students. It provides advice and assistance to prospective and visiting international students from the very first time they make contact with the university until they arrive or complete their studies at Ostfalia. The International Student Office also acts as a link between different outside bodies and students and other university members. The International Relations Office is the division in charge of any matters related to international (partner) universities.

Ostfalia's Centre for Successful Teaching and Learning (ZeLL) supports faculty lecturers and students in achieving their goals in the best way possible. Coaches regularly provide new input and insights related to the field of higher education didactics by offering activities at each of the faculties and on an individual basis. Preparatory courses support students at the very beginning of their studies. They are an integral element of the range of courses offered at Ostfalia and include a writing workshop as well as numerous workshops aimed at building key skills.

The Entrepreneurship Centre offers a comprehensive range of courses and information on starting one's own business after graduating or even during the course of study. This includes personal coaching, free office spaces and assistance with raising seed capital and acquiring business contacts within the centre's comprehensive network.



Campus Life

Student working groups, where students acquire and consolidate interdisciplinary skills as part of a team, are part of Ostfalia's academic culture. One example is the "wob-racing" team, which takes part in the international Formula Student competition each year, driving racing cars the students have constructed themselves. Ostfalia's RoboCup team "WF Wolves" even won a world championship with their robots. The "Campus Open Air" is another popular student initiative, which turns the campus into a giant stage for numerous bands.

Student groups such as "Namaste friends" provide assistance to international students at the beginning of their stay in Germany by introducing them to life on a German campus. They also made it their mission to try to give Germans an understanding of their own cultures.

"Expect!", a recruiting fair organised by students, is a standing annual event for companies as well as (prospective) Ostfalia graduates and alumni. Networks of students and alumni such as SPO-MAN, the Ostfalia media network, and the ImPuls student sports consultancy provide support to committed students as they transit into professional careers.



Research at Ostfalia ...

... is application-oriented and characterised by close research collaborations with business and industry. Our professors work in seven research areas and four research centres in a cross-disciplinary way on socially relevant challenges. The wide range of research activities helps to foster interdisciplinary collaborations.

Taking part in the “EU-Strategie-FH” project funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Ostfalia expands its potential to the European Research Area. This project provides favourable framework conditions for Ostfalia to raise and sustain a strong profile at the European level.

Our research areas are:

- **Digitization and Industry 4.0**

The aim of expanding the competitive and employment-intensive economy formulated in the federal government's high-tech strategy is described by means of the Industry 4.0 future-oriented project. This area is closely connected to digitization, digital transformation and the Internet of Things and is the focus of the research area.

- **Automotive Engineering, Synthetics and Material Sciences**

The research area is mainly concerned with the development of methods and competences for increasing the efficiency of buildings, districts, production facilities and processes, with particular reference to sustainability and environmental compatibility. Energy and building technology systems, energy-efficient and resource-efficient production methods as well as the use of biomass to produce materials and energy are thematic focal points.

- **Vehicle Construction, Polymers and Materials Science**

The research area is dedicated to future automotive engineering. Key aspects include sustainability and reduction of CO₂ emissions. Equally important topics are weight-reducing structures, the increased use of natural fibre-reinforced composites (biopolymers), composite and conceptual lightweight construction, recycling as well as simulations based on the finite element method (FEM).

- **Data and Communication Management**

Data and communication management are important tools for internal and external corporate communications. Our research deals with data modelling, the optimum use, monitoring and control of data streams, analysing and improving the quality of information as well as the development of comprehensive communication strategies.

- **Integrated Water and Soil Protection**

Research activities focus on the protection and sustainable use of the natural resources of soil, water and vegetation. The emphasis is on water and wastewater infrastructure, agricultural irrigation, wastewater and sewage sludge treatment, use of organic residues and wastes, soil protection as well as reduction of nutrient surpluses.

- **Intelligent Systems for Energy and Mobility**

The object of research is intelligent systems for managing integrated system components in the area of energy management and supply, vehicle dynamics, electrical drives, driver assistance and integral vehicle safety. In the energy area, the focus is on the use of renewable energies.

- **Research on Societal Participation and Health Services Research**

The research area is characterized by interdisciplinary research in the fields of social services, technology, health, law and the economy. Particular research priorities are health services (structures, processes and outcomes), as well as technological and social solutions for supporting opportunities for vulnerable persons and organizations to participate in society.

From 2015 to 2017, Ostfalia had on average a total of 5.5 million Euros of third-party research funding and contract research available per year. It is our objective to expand and consolidate third-party funded research in order to maintain and further evolve the research structures established at Ostfalia in the mid and long term.



Knowledge and Technology Transfer

Our Knowledge and Technology Transfer unit supports access to academic know-how generated at Ostfalia. As a central point of contact for companies, associations, institutions and research establishments, it promotes the exchange of experiences and informs them about different options for collaboration and funding support.

In detail the service includes:

- Providing support for collaborative ventures in the context of contract and grant-funded research
- Providing information about the research priorities and projects at Ostfalia
- Arranging contacts to Ostfalia's professors
- Providing advice on funding possibilities for projects – at regional, national and international levels
- Providing advice on invention disclosures, patents and property rights
- Organizing events with a view to initiating collaborative ventures and exchanging ideas and knowledge

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