

University of Erlangen-Nuremberg

Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg (German: *Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg*, **FAU**) is a public research university in the cities of Erlangen and Nuremberg in Bavaria, Germany. The name **Friedrich-Alexander** comes from the university's first founder Friedrich, Margrave of Brandenburg-Bayreuth, and its benefactor Christian Frederick Charles Alexander, Margrave of Brandenburg-Ansbach.^[1]

FAU is the second largest state university in the state Bavaria. It has 5 faculties, 23 departments/schools, 30 clinical departments, 19 autonomous departments, 656 professors, 3,404 members of academic staff and roughly 13,000 employees.^[7]

In winter semester 2014/15 around 39,085 students (including 3,556 foreign students) enrolled in the university in 239 fields of study, with about 2/3 studying at the Erlangen campus and the remaining 1/3 at the Nuremberg campus. These statistics put FAU in the list of top 10 largest universities in Germany.^[8]In 2013, 5251 students graduated from the university and 663 doctorates and 50 post-doctoral theses were registered. Moreover, FAU received 171 million Euro (2013) external funding in the same year, making it one of the strongest third-party funded universities in Germany.^[8]

In 2006 and 2007, as part of the national excellence initiative, FAU was chosen by the German Research Foundation as one of the winners in the German Universities Excellence Initiative.^[9] FAU is also a member of DFG (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft)^[10] and the Top Industrial Managers for Europe^[11] network.

In Academic Ranking of World Universities for year 2014, FAU ranked second among German universities in Engineering/Technology and Computer Sciences group for all four ranking parameters *TOP*, *FUN*, *HiCi* and *PUB*.^[12]^[13]^[14]^[15]

Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg

Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg



Friedrich-Alexander University seal

Latin: *Universitas Friderici Alexandriae*

Former names	Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen
Type	Public
Established	1742 (first) <div>November 4, 1743 (moved) ^[1]</div>
Budget	€ 543.1 million ^[2] ^[3]
Chancellor	Christian Zens ^[4]
President	Joachim Hornegger ^[4]
Vice-president	<div>Prof. Dr. Antje Kley <i>(Vice President for Education of Teachers and Diversity)</i></div> <div>Prof. Dr. Günter Leugering <i>(Vice President for International Relations)</i></div> <div>Prof. Dr. Kathrin M. Mösein <i>(Vice President for Research)</i></div> <div>Prof. Dr. Friedrich Paulsen <i>(Vice President for Teaching)</i></div> <div>^[4]</div>
Academic staff	4,040 ^[5]

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Administrative staff	2,290 ^[5]
Students	39,868 ^[6]
Location	Erlangen and Nuremberg, Bavaria, Germany 49°35′52.5″N 11°0′17.17″E﻿ / ﻿
Campus	Urban
Colors	 Blue
Affiliations	Domestic: <ol style="list-style-type: none">Bavarian State Ministry for Science, Research and Art (http://www.stmw.fk.bayern.de/Start_en.aspx) DFG Excellence Universities International: <ol style="list-style-type: none">Top Industrial Managers for Europe SEFI
Website	fau.eu (http://fau.eu/)



FRIEDRICH-ALEXANDER
UNIVERSITÄT
ERLANGEN-NÜRNBERG

History

The university was founded in 1742, in Bayreuth by Frederick, Margrave of Brandenburg-Bayreuth, and moved to Erlangen in 1743. Christian Frederick Charles Alexander, Margrave of Brandenburg-Ansbach (one of the two namesakes of the institution) provided significant support to the early university. From the beginning, the university



Frederick, Margrave of Brandenburg-Bayreuth, founder of FAU

was a Protestant institution, but over time it slowly secularized. During the Nazi era, the university was one of the first that had a majority of Nazi supporters in the student council. In 1961, the business college in Nuremberg was merged with the university in Erlangen, so now the combined institution has a physical presence in the two cities. An engineering school was inaugurated in 1966. In 1972, the school of education (normal school) in Nuremberg became part of the university.

Timeline

Below is a short timeline of FAU from its inception to its present form:

- 1700–1704: The Schloss of the Margraves at Erlangen is built.
- 1743: Friedrich, Margrave of Brandenburg-Bayreuth, issues an edict whereby the university recently founded in Bayreuth is transferred to Erlangen. It has the four faculties of Protestant Theology, Jurisprudence, Medicine and Philosophy.
- 1769: The University at Erlangen is given the new name of *Friedrich-Alexander-Universität* in honour of Alexander, Margrave of Ansbach and Bayreuth.
- 1818: The library of the University of Altdorf, dissolved in 1809, is moved to Erlangen.
- 1824: The first hospital is built.
- 1825: The university moves into the Schloss.
- 1927: Science is taken out of the Faculty of Arts thus creating the new Faculty of Science.
- 1961: The FAU acquires a further faculty through merger with the Nuremberg College of Economics and Social Sciences (founded in 1919). The university's name is now *Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg*.
- 1966: The Faculty of Engineering is established. (FAU is thus the first of the traditional universities of the old federal republic to incorporate engineering as an independent faculty.)
- 1972: The Teacher Training College in Nuremberg is incorporated into the Faculty of Education.
- 1993: The FAU celebrates its 250th anniversary.
- 1994: The Free State of Bavaria purchases for the university 4.4 hectares of land in Erlangen previously owned by the US military. The area is now called *Röthelheim Campus*.
- 1995: The WiSo Faculty (Business Administration, Economics & Social Sciences) celebrates its 75th anniversary.
- 2000: The Bavaria-California Technology Centre opens its headquarters at the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg.
- 2000: Inauguration of the Research Centre in Clinical Molecular Biology in Erlangen.



Schloss Erlangen



The castle in the center of Erlangen, known to many simply as the *Schloss*, is home to a large part of the university's administration

- 2001: Opening of the *Röthelheim Campus* on the site of the old artillery barracks.
- 2004: Inauguration of the new building at the WiSo Faculty of Business Administration, Economics & Social Sciences in Nuremberg.

Campuses

FAU Busan campus

FAU is the first German university to establish a branch campus in Busan in the Republic of Korea. In November 2009, its campus project received approval from the Korean Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. The FAU Busan Branch Campus offers a Graduate School with a master's degree program in Chemical and Bioengineering and a research center.^[16]

In 2014, the university announced its intention of working toward making the Busan-Jinhae Free Economic Zone an educational hub. To this end, FAU Busan works internationally with various companies and universities.^[17]

Library

The University Library Erlangen-Nürnberg is the library system of the Friedrich Alexander University and is a regional library for the region of Middle Franconia. As an academic universal library, it offers its users a wide range of specialist literature from all faculties and a variety of services. With approximately 5.4 million volumes, it is Bavaria's largest library outside the state capital Munich. Large parts of the media stock are also accessible in interregional lending. The University Library is a member of the Bibliotheksverbund Bayern (Bavarian library union).

Faculties

In February 2007, the senate of the university decided upon a restructuring into five faculties.^[18] Since October 2007, the FAU consists of:^[19]

- Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Theology
- Faculty of Business, Economics, and Law
- Faculty of Medicine
- Faculty of Sciences
- Faculty of Engineering

The following faculties were part of the university (sorted in the order in which they were founded):

- Theological faculty
- Law faculty
- Medical faculty
- Philosophical faculty I (philosophy, history, and social sciences)
- Philosophical Faculty II (languages and literature)
- Science faculty I (mathematics and physics)
- Science faculty II (biology, chemistry, and pharmaceuticals)
- Science faculty III (geography, geology/mineralogy/paleontology)



The *Kollegienhaus*, the historical central building and lecture hall of the University at the borders of the *Schlossgarten*

- Business- and social sciences faculty (1961) in Nuremberg
- Technical Faculty (1966)
- Pedagogical faculty (1972) in Nuremberg

Faculty of Engineering

Inception

In 1962, after lengthy debate, the Bavarian parliament decided to establish a Faculty of Engineering in Erlangen. Then, the University of Erlangen thus won out against the city of Nuremberg, which, for decades, had been demanding the establishment of a college of engineering in Nuremberg. Since the expansive areas of building land required for this project were not available in the center of Erlangen, the foundations for a new university campus were laid in the south east of the town in 1964. The formal establishment of the Faculty of Engineering, then the seventh faculty at the University, took place in 1966. What was unique at the time was that the various engineering departments were subsumed, as a faculty, into the main university rather than constituting an independent university.^{[1][20]}

Universitätsklinikum
Erlangen



Logo of the University Hospital



Old University Library (*Erlangen*)

Present status

The Faculty of Engineering at FAU is a young educational and research institution. Since its foundation in 1966. The Faculty has five departments:

- Electrical, Electronic and Communication Engineering
- Chemical and Biological Engineering
- Materials Science and Engineering (This Department was ranked at 10th best in the world according to the Quantitative Ranking of Engineering Disciplines (QRED).)^{[21][22]}
- Mechanical Engineering
- Computer Science

The Faculty has close connections both with other natural sciences and with traditional subjects at the university. The Faculty of Engineering currently concentrates on the following research fields:

- New Materials and Processes
- Life Science Engineering and Medicine Technology
- Energy Technology and Mobility
- Modeling and Simulation
- Optics and Optical Technologies
- Information- and Communication Technologies
- Micro-/Nano-electronics

Research

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Major research areas

FAU claims leadership in a number of research topics. The current eight such major research areas are:^[24]

- New Materials and Processes
- Optics and Optical Technologies
- Molecular Life Science and Medicine
- Health Technology
- Electronics, Information and Communication
- Energy, Environment and Climate
- Language - Culture - Region
- Cohesion – Transformation – Innovation in Law and Economics

Excellence initiative

^[25] The Excellence Initiative by the German federal and state governments to promote science and research at German universities aims to promote cutting-edge research and to strengthen the higher education and research in Germany to improve its international competitiveness and to make top performers in academia and science visible. As part of this initiative, FAU was awarded the contract for the Erlangen Graduate School in Advanced Optical Technologies (SAOT), which received 1.9 million euros of annual funding for the next five years. The Cluster of Excellence 'Engineering of Advanced Materials and Processes' (EAM) was also established at FAU as part of the initiative and has been approved in the second round. EAM is funded with 40 million euros.^[26]

Cluster of Excellence 'Engineering of Advanced Materials

^{[27][28][29]} The Cluster of Excellence 'Engineering of Advanced Materials – Hierarchical Structure Formation for Functional Devices' (EAM) is the only interdisciplinary research collaboration of its type in Germany to focus on the investigation of functional materials and their processing at all length scales. The main research focus is on the fundamental and applied aspects of designing and creating novel high-performance materials. It is part of the Excellence Initiative of the German Research Foundation.

Erlangen Graduate School in Advanced Optical Technologies

^{[30][31]} The Erlangen Graduate School in Advanced Optical Technologies (SAOT) was founded in 2006. SAOT's scientific focus lies on optics and optical technology, two fields which are considered key technologies of the 21st century. SAOT is currently funded with seven million euros.

Research institutions

Central institutions

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Central institutions

- Cluster of Excellence 'Engineering

of Advanced Materials' (EAM)

- Erlangen Graduate School in Advanced Optical Technologies
- Bavaria California Technology Center (BaCaTeC)
- Central Institute for Research on Teaching and Learning (ZiLL)
- Institute of Advanced Materials and Processes (ZMP)
- Center for Area Studies
- Center for Teacher Education
- Center for Applied Ethics and Science Communication
- FAU Graduate School
- Bavarian Academic Center for Latin America (BayLat)
- FAU Campus Busan
- Central Institute of Healthcare Engineering (ZIMT)
- Center of Scientific Computing (ZISC)
- Central Institute for Anthropology of Religion(s) (ZAR)

Interdisciplinary centers

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Interdisciplinary centers

- Interdisciplinary Center for Digital Humanities and Social Sciences
- Interdisciplinary Center for Public Health
- Interdisciplinary Media Research Center
- Interdisciplinary Center for Islamic Religious Studies
- Interdisciplinary Center for Gerontology
- Interdisciplinary Center for Dialects and Language Variation (IZD)
- Interdisciplinary Center Old World
- Interdisciplinary Center for European Medieval and Renaissance Studies (IZEMIR)

- Interdisciplinary Center for Clinical Research (IZKF)
- Interdisciplinary Center Aesthetic Education
- Emmy-Noether Center for lgebra representation theory with emphasis
- Interdisciplinary Center Literature and Contemporary Culture
- Interdisciplinary Center Embedded Systems (ESI Embedded Systems Institute)
- Interdisciplinary Center for ophthalmic Preventive Medicine and Imaging
- Interdisciplinary Center Erlangen Catalysis Resource Center (ECRC)
- Interdisciplinary Center for Science Edition
- Interdisciplinary Center for Neurosciences (IZN)
- Interdisciplinary Center for Research on Lexicography, Valency and Collocation
- Interdisciplinary Center for Interface-Controlled Processes (IC-ICP)
- Erlangen Center of Plant Science (ECROPS)
- Interdisciplinary Center for Molecular Materials
- The Labor and Socio-Economic Research Center (LASER)
- Emil Fischer Center
- Medical Immunology Campus Erlangen (MICE)
- Erlangen Center for Infection Research (ECI)

Research centers and centers of excellence

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Research centers & centers of excellence

- Engineering of Advanced

Materials (Cluster of Excellence)

- Erlangen Graduate School in Advanced Optical Technologies
- Transfer Centre for Research and Development in Electronic Production (FOWEP)
- Cluster mechatronik & automation
- Bavarian Lasercenter (BLZ)
- Bavarian Center for Applied Energy Research (ZAE Bayern)
- Fraunhofer Institute for Integrated Circuits (IIS)
- Fraunhofer Institute for Integrated Systems and Device Technology (IISB)
- Research Association for Molded Interconnect Devices 3-D MID e.V.
- FAU Ingolstadt Institute
- Department of European Commercial Law
- Interdisciplinary Center for Clinical Research (IZKF)
- Center of Excellence New Materials

Partnerships

FAU is the first German university to establish a branch campus in Busan in the Republic of Korea. FAU has contacts with approximately 500 universities all over the world, including many of the world's top universities like the [University of Cambridge](#), [Duke University](#), [UCL](#), [Imperial College London](#) and many more.^[35]

Academic ranking

Global academic rankings of FAU can be seen in the table on the right. Additionally FAU ranks particularly high in: Engineering/Technology and Computer Sciences (4th in Germany), Clinical Medicine and Pharmacy (6th in Germany) and Natural Sciences and Mathematics (7th in Germany).^[40] For the third year in succession, FAU is ranked as the academic institution that has produced the most widely cited publications in Germany. This is one of the findings of the recently published QS World University Rankings 2018 (global 21st).^[41] Reuters mentions FAU as the 50th most innovative university globally (2nd Germany, 6th in Europe).^[42]

University rankings	
Global	
ARWU World ^[36]	151-200
Leiden World ^[37]	160
Times World ^[39]	162
QS World ^[38]	287

Awards

Alexander von Humboldt Professorships

In 2010, the newly announced professor of physics and co-director of the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Light, Prof. Vahid Sandoghdar was awarded an Alexander von Humboldt Professorship,^[43] Germany's highest-endowed international research award, endowed with €3.5 million. In the year 2011, the second in a row, FAU communications engineer and researcher Prof. Dr.-Ing Robert Schober (born 1971) was awarded an Alexander von Humboldt Professorship, entailed with €3.5 million,^{[44][45][46]} for an algorithm developed by him which is found in many modern phones today. In 2013, Prof. Oskar Painter received an Alexander von Humboldt Professorship as well. Prof. Painter is another new co-director of the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Light.

German Excellence Initiative

The University of Erlangen-Nürnberg was successful within the German Universities Excellence Initiative in competing for a "cluster of excellence" and a graduate school.^[47] The Cluster of Excellence 'Engineering of Advanced Materials' (EAM)" focuses on interdisciplinary developing new materials, joining engineering and natural sciences. The Erlangen Graduate School in Advanced Optical Technologies emphasizes a strong focus in optical and photonics technology in the natural sciences, in engineering and the medical sciences and aims for a concise doctoral education. It is supplemented with a Master's degree program in the same topics.

After an in-depth evaluation, both programs were extended for the third phase of the German Excellence Initiative in 2012 until 2017. They contribute significantly to the research funding of the University, including five new research buildings, permanent new technical facilities and research and teaching staff. They also aim to increase the international perception of the contributing fields of research in Erlangen.

Notable alumni and professors

- Johann Christian Daniel von Schreber (1739–1810), naturalist, studied mammals.
- Samuel Hahnemann (1755-1843), founder of homeopathy
- Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859), Geographer and Explorer, attended lectures in Chemistry and Physics.^[48]
- Otto Friedrich Ranke (1899-1959), physiologist
- Friedrich Rückert (1788 – 1866), orientalist and poet.^[48]
- Georg Simon Ohm (1789–1854), physicist, Ohm's law, named after him.
- Justus von Liebig (1803–1873), chemist, "father of the fertilizer industry".
- Ludwig Andreas Feuerbach (1804–1872), philosopher, associated with the Young Hegelians, an atheist.
- Karl von Hegel (1813-1901), historian, father-in-law to Felix Klein and son of the philosopher Hegel
- Felix Klein (1849 – 1925), Mathematician
- Hermann Emil Fischer (1852-1919), chemist, Nobel Prize in Chemistry 1902
- Eduard Buchner (1860-1917), chemist, Nobel Prize in Chemistry 1907
- Emanuel Lasker (1868-1941), world chess champion, mathematician, philosopher.
- Emmy Noether (1882–1935), mathematician, Noether's theorem, named after her.
- Hans Geiger (1882-1945), physicist, Geiger counter
- Ludwig Erhard (1897-1977), Chancellor of Germany 1963-1966
- Erik Flügel (1934-2004), Founder of the Institute of Palaeontology, and world respected carbonate petrologist.

- Alma Adamkienė (1927-), First Lady of Lithuania 1998-2009
- Harald zur Hausen (1936-), virologist, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2008
- Heinrich von Pierer (1941-), former CEO of Siemens AG (1992-2005).
- Karlheinz Brandenburg (1954-), audio engineer, developer of the MP3 audio codec.



Johann Christian Daniel von Schreber



Samuel Hahnemann



Alexander von Humboldt



Friedrich Rückert



Georg Simon Ohm



Justus von Liebig



Ludwig Andreas Feuerbach



Felix Klein



Hermann Emil Fischer



Eduard Buchner



Emmy Noether



Hans Geiger



Ludwig Erhard



Alma Adamkienė



Harald zur Hausen



Heinrich von Pierer



Karlheinz Brandenburg

Gallery



FAU Faculty of Engineering campus



Department of Computer Science



Department of Electrical, Electronic and Communication Engineering



Property for good thoughts designed by Marian Bogusz, on the Faculty of Engineering campus



Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Theology and central lecture hall



Regional Computing Centre

Points of interest

- Botanischer Garten Erlangen, the University's botanical garden

See also

- [List of early modern universities in Europe](#)
- [Recktenwald Prize](#)
- [Top Industrial Managers for Europe](#)
- [Fraunhofer Society](#)
- [Max Planck Institute for the Science of Light](#)
- [Erlangen](#)
- [Botanischer Garten Erlangen](#)
- [Nuremberg](#)

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External links

- Official website (<http://fau.eu>)
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