



# The German research landscape and funding opportunities

PhD Workshop China, 17.-18.11.2022



AN INITIATIVE OF THE



Federal Ministry  
of Education  
and Research

Research in  
Germany



Land of Ideas



# Facts and figures



approx. 1,000 publicly funded research institutions



expenditure on R&D: €110bn = 3.2% of GDP



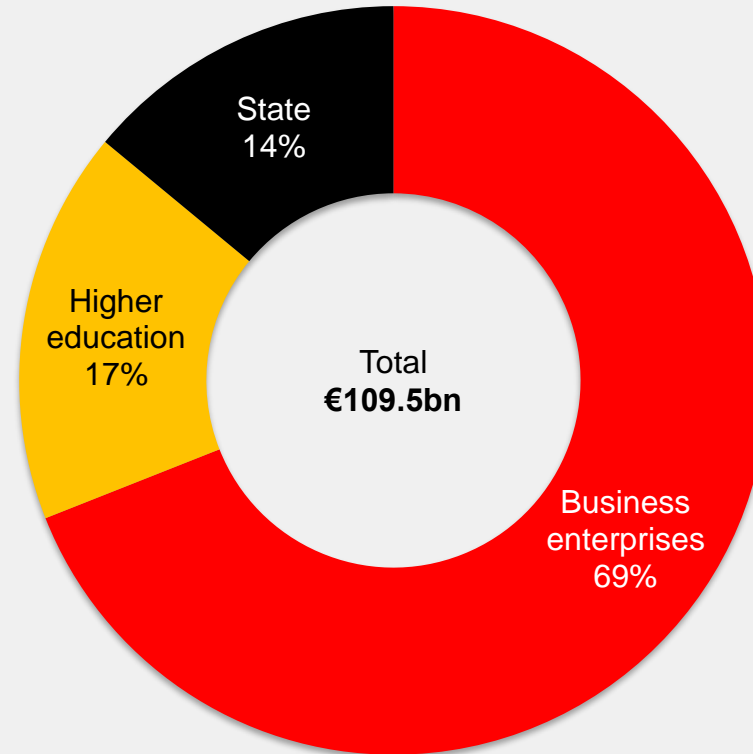
736,000 staff in R&D



38,000 university collaborations with 163 countries



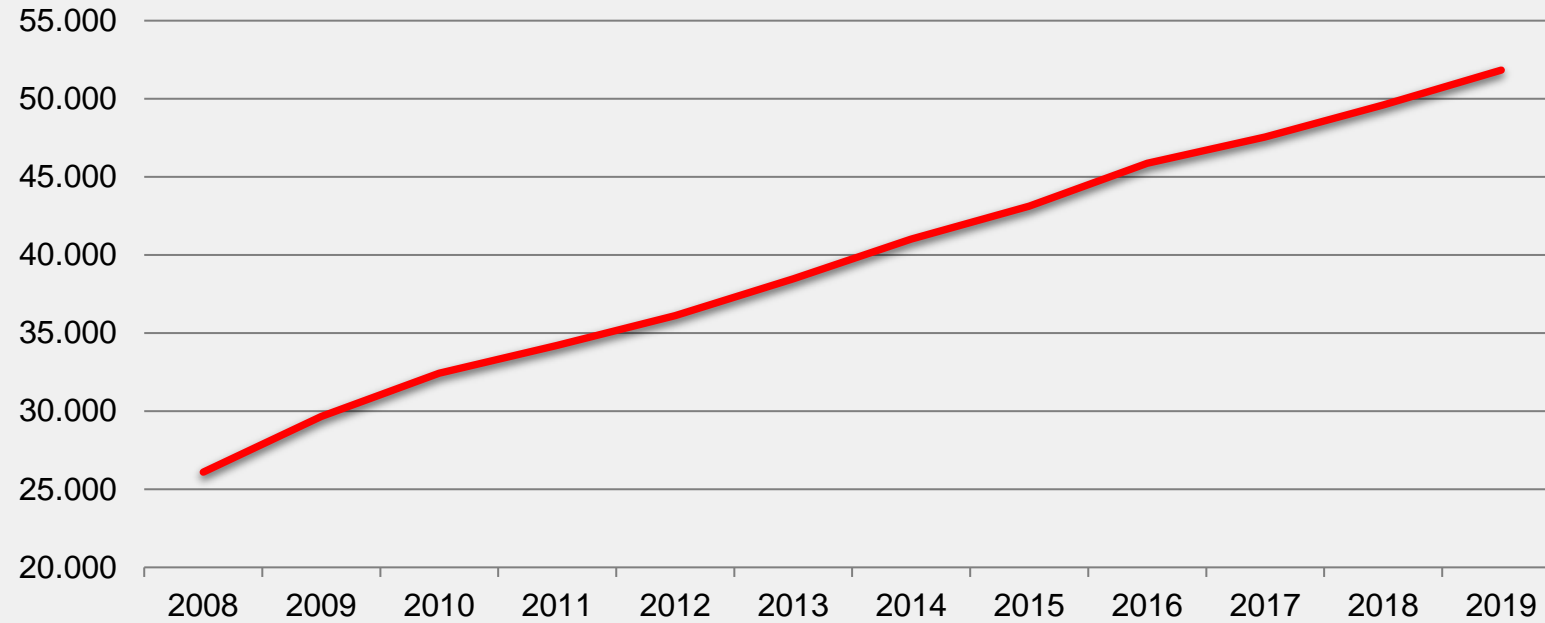
# Research expenditure by sector



2019; internal expenditure on R&D by sector  
Source: Federal Statistical Office



# Internationality of German universities



International academic staff at universities in Germany

Sources: Federal Statistical Office, *Wissenschaft weltoffen 2021*





# Pillars of the German research sector

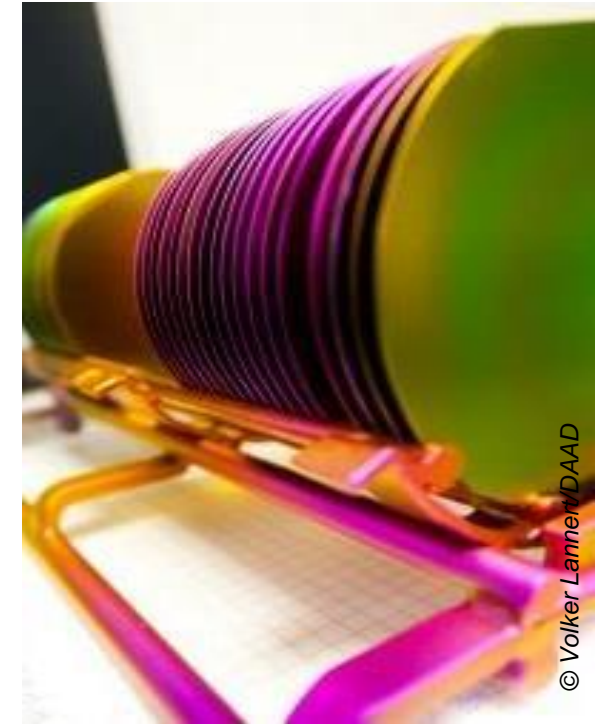
## Higher education institutions



## Non-university research institutes



## Companies and industrial research





# Higher education institutions

- 420 universities and other higher education institutions
- 156 entitled to confer doctorates
- more than 43,000 international doctoral students
- around 55,000 international academics
- Excellence Strategy: €533m per year for top-class research



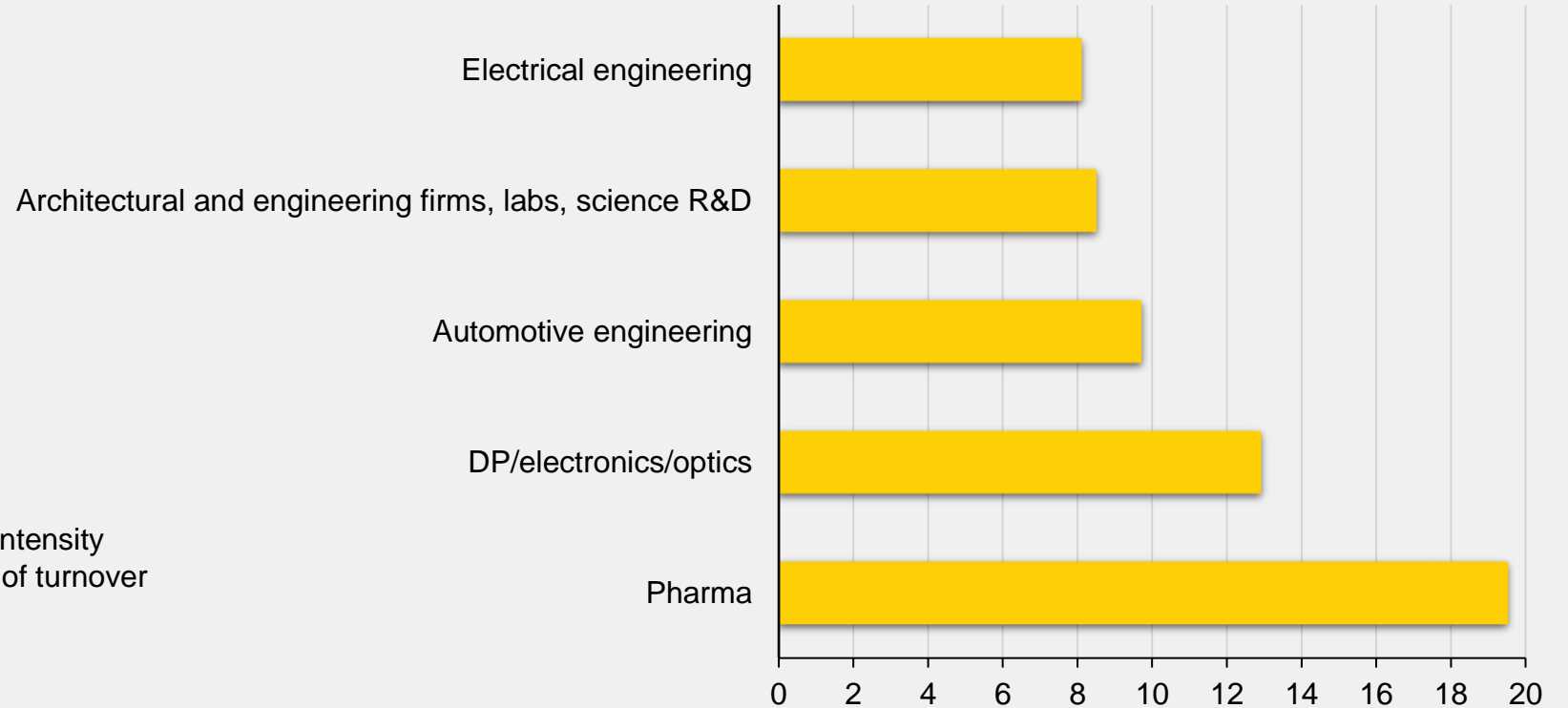


# The big four

Institution	Institutes	Budget	Staff in total
Helmholtz Association	18 research centres	€5.0bn	43,000
Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft	75 institutes	€2.8bn	29,000
Max-Planck-Gesellschaft	86 institutes	€2.6bn	24,000
Leibniz Association	97 institutes	€2.0bn	21,000



# Intensive innovation



2019; sectors with highest innovation intensity  
Innovation expenditure as percentage of turnover  
Sources: ZEW – Leibniz Centre for  
European Economic Research, Mannheim  
Innovation Panel, special evaluation





 scholarships & grants for all disciplines

 more than 30,000 funded projects per year

 €3.3bn

 5 offices abroad





# Alexander von Humboldt Foundation



Alexander von Humboldt  
Stiftung/Foundation

 approx. 1,000 scholars funded per year

€ €131.4m

 more than 30,000 Humboldtians worldwide

 109 alumni associations in 73 countries



# German Academic Exchange Service

 more than 111,000 scholars funded

 €549m

 scholarships & grants for all disciplines, at all stages

 68 offices worldwide



# Paths to a PhD

## Individual PhD vs. structured PhD

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### Individual

- individual research accompanied by supervisor
- supervisor must be found by doctoral student
- subject chosen by doctoral student
- optional courses or other forms of teaching/learning

### Structured

- guidance by a team of supervisors
- dissertation subject must fit in with research programme
- mandatory, fixed supporting curriculum (interdisciplinary)
- defined application process
- offered by research training groups/graduate schools





# Financing your PhD

- no tuition fees, only administrative per-semester charges
- average living costs:  
approx. €867 (\$975) per month
- funding opportunities:
  - scholarship
  - paid PhD position
  - research associate contracts (part-time)
  - research job in a company
  - part-time job (as waiter/waitress or other casual work)





# Funding for PhD students

## Graduate and research schools

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- DFG-funded Research Training Groups (research programmes with a thematic focus)
- Graduate School Scholarship Programme (GSSP): DAAD-funded programmes at universities or non-university research institutions
- International Max Planck Research Schools (IMPRS)
- Helmholtz International Research Schools and Helmholtz Graduate Schools
- Max Planck Schools (joint initiative of German universities and non-university research institutions)
- structured programmes offered by universities and other higher education institutions



# Funding for PhD students

## Individual funding

- individual doctoral projects at universities
- individual doctoral projects at non-university research institutes:
  - Fraunhofer Institutes
  - Leibniz Institutes
  - Max Planck Institutes
- DLR-DAAD Research Fellowships
- ...



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# DAAD-scholarships for Chinese researchers

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- **CAS-DAAD joint scholarship program** (duration: 12-22 months)  
Chinese researchers get the chance to carry out part of their PhD in Germany  
Value: EUR 1.350,- (1st year) EUR 1.200,- (2nd year)  
+additional allowances
- **Sino-German (CSC-DAAD) Postdoc Scholarship Program** (duration: 6-24 months)  
Value: EUR 2.050 +additional allowances
- **DAAD Research Grant (Duration: max. 48 months)**  
Value: EUR 1.200 + Travel allowance +insurances+ annual research allowance +  
German language course
- More information: [daad.de/go/en/stipa57135739](https://daad.de/go/en/stipa57135739)





# Individual doctoral projects at Fraunhofer Institutes

- 🌻 **In brief**      Doctorate at a  
Fraunhofer Institute
- 🌻 **Who?**      PhD students
- 🌻 **Duration?**      3 years
- 🌻 **Value?**      Work contract



[www.fraunhofer.de](http://www.fraunhofer.de) > Jobs



# Individual doctoral projects at Leibniz Institutes

- 🌻 **In brief**      Doctorate at a Leibniz Institute
- 🌻 **Who?**              PhD students
- 🌻 **Duration?**        2–3 years
- 🌻 **Value?**             Work contract



[www.leibniz-association.eu](http://www.leibniz-association.eu) > Careers



# Individual doctoral projects at Max Planck Institutes

- ❁ **In brief**                      Doctorate at a Max Planck Institute
- 🌺 **Who?**                              PhD students
- ❁ **Duration?**                      3 years
- 🌻 **Value?**                              Work contract: approx. €2,000 – 3,000 /month



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[www.mpg.de/jobboard](http://www.mpg.de/jobboard)



# Helmholtz Research Schools and Graduate Schools

- 🌻 **In brief**      Structured doctoral programmes in partnership with universities
- 🌻 **Who?**              PhD students
- 🌻 **Duration?**        3 years
- 🌻 **Value?**            Work contract or scholarship



**HELMHOLTZ** SPITZENFORSCHUNG FÜR GROSSE HERAUSFORDERUNGEN

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[www.helmholtz.de/phd](http://www.helmholtz.de/phd)





# International Max Planck Research Schools

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-  **In brief**      Structured doctoral programme in cooperation with universities; degree awarded by German university or home university
-  **Who?**              PhD students
-  **Duration?**        3 years
-  **Value?**            Work contract: approx. €2,000 /month





# Marie Skłodowska-Curie Doctoral Networks

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-  **In brief**      Positions and structured doctoral training within Innovative Training Networks (formed jointly by different European institutions)
-  **Who?**              PhD students
-  **Duration?**        3 months – 3 years
-  **Value?**            Work contract: €3,450 /month + €600 mobility allowance and €660 family allowance (if applicable)



[www.euraxess.de/en](http://www.euraxess.de/en) >Jobs



# Research Training Groups

- ❁ **In brief** Focused research programme as part of a DFG Research Training Group (*Graduiertenkolleg*)
- ❁ **Who?** PhD students  
Postdocs / junior researchers
- ❁ **Duration?** 3–4 years
- ❁ **Value?** Work contract or scholarship

[www.dfg.de/gk/en](http://www.dfg.de/gk/en)



**DFG**





# Need more information?

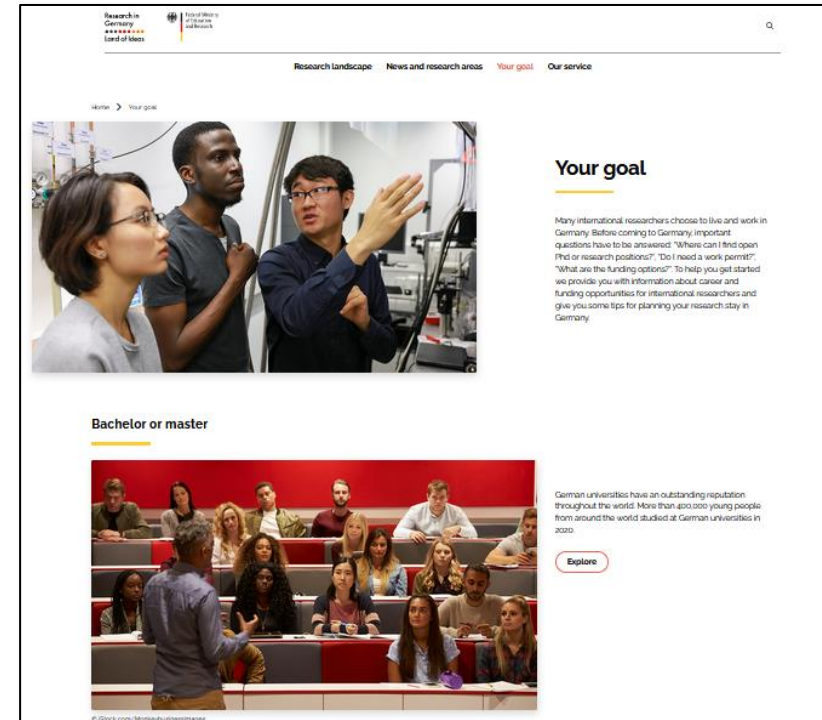
## Brochure “Funding your research in Germany”



PDF download:

<https://www.research-in-germany.org/downloads>

## [www.research-in-germany.org/funding](http://www.research-in-germany.org/funding)





# Useful links

## Finding a doctoral position

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- PhDGermany  
[www.phdgermany.de](http://www.phdgermany.de)
- Research in Germany  
[www.research-in-germany.org/career](http://www.research-in-germany.org/career)
- EURAXESS  
[www.euraxess.de](http://www.euraxess.de)
- Academics  
[www.academics.com](http://www.academics.com)
- DFG  
[www.dfg.de/en/service/jobs](http://www.dfg.de/en/service/jobs)





# Websites and databases

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- [www.research-in-germany.org](http://www.research-in-germany.org)
- [www.funding-guide.de](http://www.funding-guide.de)
- [www.euraxess.de](http://www.euraxess.de)
- [www.gerit.org](http://www.gerit.org)
- [www.higher-education-compass.de](http://www.higher-education-compass.de)
- [www.dfg.de/excellence\\_strategy](http://www.dfg.de/excellence_strategy)



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Research in  
Germany



Land of Ideas





# Thank you!

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