

## **HIGHER EDUCATION IN GERMANY**

### Introduction

Higher education and its links with research and innovation play a crucial role in individual and societal development and in providing the highly skilled human capital and the engaged citizens that Germany needs to create jobs, economic growth, and prosperity. Higher education institutions are crucial partners in delivering German's strategy to drive forward and maintain sustainable growth. German universities, like most universities around the world, maintain a broad network of international partnerships.

### The purpose of the article

The purpose of the given article is to analyze the system of higher education in Germany and the main directions of its development as well as the role of the government in it.

### The main part

Higher education in Germany attracts foreign students due to several reasons:

- it is prestigious to study at German universities and colleges;
- tuition in higher educational institutions in the vast majority of states in Germany is free;
- the opportunity to study in addition to German English as well;
- the ability to combine study and work;
- the prospect of finding a job in Germany after graduation.

The higher education organization in Germany is affected by the fact that the country is a federal state and therefore there are different conditions of study at universities in different states.

Higher education in Germany is characterized by a binary system, which means that there are many higher educational institutions along with universities.

Management of higher education in Germany is carried out by the federal government in cooperation with the governments of the federal states. The vast majority of the country's higher educational institutions are state-owned. They are funded by federal and local (state) budgets. The teachers of German universities are civil servants.

Higher education in Germany has a long history. Numerous German universities were established during the Middle Ages. They reported to landowners, most often directly to a prince. Universities of the Middle Ages were proud of their autonomy. Autonomy of the university was a system of internal self-government, but the funding was still provided by a prince whom the professors had taken the oath.

Higher education in Germany is now being addressed by the Education Planning Commission. In addition, there is the Federal Ministry of Education and Science, the Council of Rectors, the Scientific Council and other Federal bodies, each of which performs its functions. The head of the higher educational institution in Germany is the rector and his deputy (vice-rector). The supreme authority is the Senate. The Senate discusses issues of planning, development of scientific work, educational process, but does not deal with the organization of current work. This function is performed by the board of directors, which usually includes committees on educational issues, student matters, finance, property and construction, and the human resources department.

In German universities there is no division into faculties. They were replaced by so-called specialties. The research institute is a separate structural unit within the specialty, its employees are not related to teaching, they are only engaged in science.

To enter the university an applicant needs to have only one document - the school certificate. The admission quota is set by the central office, determining the number of places for studying by establishing a passing grade based on the school certificate. Shortlisting is quite strict. The main principle of university education is to shortlist the most prepared applicants. The term of study is

calculated not by years, but semesters. Semesters also count the number of credits, the term of classes, their beginning and end. For example, in Hamburg, the first (winter) semester starts from October 1 and ends in March, and includes 10-12 days of Christmas holidays. Summer semester starts on April 1 and ends on September 30.

After enrollment a student makes his working plan for his study, independently plans his academic life. A student chooses the disciplines and the specialty he is going to study, the term of the study and also teachers and professors. A student also has a choice to take final exam or defend a master's degree (diploma). He can change the plan himself. All semesters of study at the university are divided into two periods: primary education and basic education.

The term of study at the university depends on the number of specialties. There are usually 4 semesters for each specialty. If a student has chosen three specialties, the study will take 12-14 semesters.

Forms and methods of study at German universities are close to Ukrainian universities. There are also lectures, seminars, practical training. A student independently plans work for a week. The main objective of the seminar is to teach a student to have his or her point of view and to defend it.

In general, a modular system is preferred when making educational programs at universities in Germany. The structure of the modules is a combination of topics of a particular focus on a particular professional activity. The modules present various forms of active student learning.

### Conclusions

In general, German university education combines scientific research with educational process paying much attention to the formation of a student's personality. Germany protects the rights of citizens who hold a secondary school certificate for free education without passing the entrance exam. This article analyzes the development of access to higher education in Germany and, at the same time, considers the specific German situation and its development.

### References

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