1.1 People-centred – cosmopolitan – high-performance

Ruhr-Universität Bochum (RUB) is a progressive campus university and one of the leading research universities in Germany. In just one location it uniquely spans the entire spectrum of major scientific areas. Its strengths and dynamic cohesion are the product of its mission to be a “modern universitas” (a community whose members learn from one another) and are based on values that are “people-centred – cosmopolitan – high-performance”.

Embedded in the dynamic, hospitable Ruhr Metropolitan Area at the heart of Europe, Ruhr-Universität with its 20 faculties is home to 5,600 staff and more than 42,000 students from more than 100 countries. All the major academic disciplines are united on one compact campus.

The spectrum of subjects taught at RUB covers almost all disciplines from the humanities and social sciences through the natural sciences and medicine to the engineering sciences. Thanks to the compactness of the campus and the alliance with the universities in Dortmund and Duisburg-Essen (Universitätsallianz Ruhr, UAR; see Chapter 1.2) there are almost no limits to the possible combinations of subject. Nearly all courses lead to Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees.

RUB has made an international name for itself with its excellence programmes: the research cluster RE-SOLV (Ruhr Explores Solvation) was selected as a location of excellence in chemistry, investigating processes in solvents. Cross-faculty, cross-disciplinary Research Departments, which collaborate closely amongst themselves as well as at national and international level, also enhance the profile of Ruhr-Universität. And at the international Research School we offer a structured doctoral research programme in the life sciences, natural and engineering sciences as well as the humanities and social sciences.
Our mission
And what breathes life into all of this are the people from across the globe who come together on the campus and help to shape Ruhr-Universität. The values, people-centred – cosmopolitan – high-performance, determine the essence of life at Ruhr-Universität. Being people-centred and cosmopolitan means respecting other cultures and offering guests a home. Being people-centred and high-performance means working together to develop creative potential and tackling new challenges with enthusiasm and ambition. The Ruhr-Universität Campus is a community in which the focus is firmly on people.

Research and teaching
At Ruhr-Universität, research and teaching are intrinsically linked. This close interrelationship also reflects the principle of universitas: a community of teachers and learners and the free and open interaction between people across subjects and hierarchies.

Research Departments
Internationally-competitive, major research fields at RUB are organised in interdisciplinary Research Departments (RD):
- Research Department Centre for Religious Studies (CERES)
- Materials Research Department
- Research Department Interfacial Systems Chemistry
- Protein Research Department
- Research Department of Neuroscience
- Research Department Plasmas with Complex Interactions
- Research Department Subsurface Modeling and Engineering

Research School
The RUB Research School (RUB-RS) is a campus-wide graduate school. It offers RUB’s doctoral students an innovative platform for practising scientific independence, international mobility and collaboration at an early stage as well as for developing interdisciplinary expertise and leadership skills whilst concentrating on their doctoral project at the same time (see Chapter 2.4).

Promotion of junior researchers
One particular focus area is the promotion of junior researchers: RUB develops novel, unique formats to smooth junior researchers’ path to cooperation and independence (such as the Mercator Research Groups).

International research
It goes without saying that RUB’s research is globally connected with an international outlook, as demonstrated by the Research Departments. Doctoral students from all over the world conduct research at several international Graduate Schools, supported by the Research School, with direct links to world-class research. The Welcome Centre provides intensive assistance for international researchers whilst preparing their stay at RUB as well as once they have arrived (see Chapter 2.1).
Internationally well connected
Ruhr-Universität Bochum sees itself as part of a global community of universities. University activities are independent of national boundaries, origin and culture. Bringing together people from all over the world to achieve outstanding results.

At the heart of RUB’s strategic vision, Research Campus RUB, is its determined policy of internationalisation. RUB continues to build on its successful research and teaching strategies with a particular eye to the international dimension. At an early stage, for example, junior researchers at RUB are integrated in international research collaborations. And, in their turn, RUB’s researchers and guests from abroad participate in international activities that take place outside their immediate research areas.

International campus
People from more than 100 countries are involved in studying, research and learning on the campus – more than 4,000 international students, some 500 international doctoral candidates and several hundred other international researchers. Every year, about 500 students come to RUB from abroad for a semester, whilst roughly the same number of RUB students do part of their studies in other parts of the world.

International connections
RUB is a member of the Utrecht Network as well as other international networks in teaching and research. Cooperation agreements exist with numerous distinguished partner universities, which thrive on active exchange of students and researchers as well as diverse projects. In the context of the university alliance (UA Ruhr, see Chapter 1.2), RUB maintains liaison offices in New York, Moscow, Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo together with its neighbouring universities in Dortmund and Duisburg-Essen.

Equal opportunities, diversity and inclusion
Equal opportunities for women and men are a key element of the university development strategy pursued by the Rectorate of Ruhr-Universität Bochum (RUB). It sees equality as a cross-sectional task which is inherent in all its decision-making structures and administrative processes. Diversity and inclusion are also concepts that are implemented at the university as part of the mission of universitas. See Chapter 5.6 for more on this topic.

Family-friendly university
Ruhr-Universität takes special care to implement measures designed to improve the work-family balance – with considerable success: ever since 2006, RUB has officially qualified for the title “family-friendly university”. The portfolio of measures includes on-campus child care, an advisory and mediation service for parents, “ProKids – Der Familienservice”, and a fund to support single-parent students. See Chapters 2.4 and 10 for more on the topic of families.

Management and committees
Ruhr-Universität is a corporation under German public law. It is governed by a Rectorate. Together with the other governing bodies it bears responsibility for the organisation and continued development of research and teaching at RUB.

The University Council
RUB University Council is the highest body. It is composed of six external members who are high-ranking representatives of academia, business and industry.

The Rectorate
The Rectorate is composed of the Rector, the Registrar and three Vice-Rectors. It manages the university and determines its direction.

The Senate
The Senate is elected by the members of the university and represents all status groups within the university. It is the university’s governing body.

The Council of Deans
The Council of Deans advises the Rectorate and the University Council on fundamental matters relating to research, teaching and studying.

University Committees
Permanent committees prepare Senate decisions and advise the Rectorate, the Senate, the Deans and other institutions.

Equal Opportunities Committee
The committee advises and supports the university in all aspects of equal opportunities.
Under the slogan “Better Together”, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, TU Dortmund University and the University of Duisburg-Essen formed the University Alliance Ruhr (UA Ruhr). Since 2007, the three major universities in the Ruhr region have been enhancing their performance by pooling their skills and strengths.

The following figures convey the diversity and the level of their combined performance: between the three universities, more than 110,000 young people and nearly 10,000 scientists study, research and work together in a range of subjects that covers all disciplines, from the humanities and social sciences to natural and engineering sciences as well as medicine. The Mercator Foundation generously supports collaboration within the University Alliance Ruhr.

Its 12 German Research Foundation (DFG) research centres, one cluster of excellence, numerous graduate schools and research groups make the University Alliance Ruhr one of the largest and most high-performance research locations in Germany. A total of 5 universities, 16 universities of applied sciences and numerous non-university research institutions demonstrate the transformation of the Ruhr region from a coal and steel district into a new and unique science region.

And the development of this science hotspot is in full swing. For example, the three universities in the Ruhr region jointly operate the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (KWI) in Essen as well as joint liaison offices in New York, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo and Moscow. From these hubs in the US, Latin America and Russia, the alliance promotes academic exchange with the Ruhr region and networking at the global level.