



**FernUniversität in Hagen –
Germany's only distance teaching university**

“The FernUni was exactly the right solution for me. The way it supports lifelong learning is fantastic. I would enrol there again at any time.”

Bianca Rabe, mother of three children with a Master's degree in education science, psychology and sociology, graduated with distinction in a time well below the regular period of study



FernUniversität in Hagen A university for all who want more

“Here is the only place where this is possible”, says Thorsten Jansen, international handball player and world champion. “I combine university studies with competitive sports. With flexible time schedules, I can handle interruptions in my studies.”

The FernUniversität in Hagen is the only German-language state university worldwide that offers quality-assured, supervised distance teaching with up-to-date, practice-oriented Bachelor's and Master's courses and numerous attractive opportunities for further education. Whoever studies here enjoys maximum flexibility in time schedules and place of residence. Established in 1974 as a university of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, this university was one of the first to go online with teaching, supervision of students as well as administration, thus breaking completely new ground. The goal: high-quality study opportunities, optimally adapted to a great variety of situations in life, for all those who cannot or do not wish to enrol in a campus university, whether for job-related or private reasons, such as persons in employment, trainees or top athletes.

Whoever enrolls for a degree course at the FernUniversität in Hagen is someone who simply wants more. Distance teaching can just as easily be combined with a professional career as

with parental leave, community service or a traineeship – regardless of the location in Germany or abroad. The FernUniversität also offers a genuine alternative to overcrowded lecture theatres and provides study conditions that motivate students, helping them to meet high demands and to actually reach their goals. This is a successful concept – an opinion shared by the more than 69,000 students of the FernUniversität in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and the whole of Central and Eastern Europe.

Prospective students find a wide range of subjects and combinations of subjects for study in the faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences, Mathematics and Computer Science, Business Administration and Economics and Law. Of course, the FernUniversität also offers opportunities to earn doctorates and to take a great variety of further higher education courses.

Moreover, the FernUniversität is already successfully practising today what politicians and the business world have been demanding for a long time: opening the university to more permeability within the educational system. Under certain conditions, it is possible to study at the FernUniversität even without a formal university entrance qualification, since the ability to study is proved by actually studying.



Constanze Schick, FernUniversität graduate and manager of the service centre



Hermine Magueya, visiting the university library

“The degree course at the FernUniversität has been an ideal supplement to my vocational training. I even had time for some ‘student life’.”



Oliver Dusso, graduate from the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science

to study is proved by actually studying.

The innovative multimedia teaching concept developed by the FernUniversität and based on the Blended Learning method combines printed study materials with virtual teaching and phases of on-campus study, to provide students with opportunities for quick, comprehensive success in learning. Simultaneously, it gives them the necessary freedom to reconcile their studies with their personal lives.

The FernUniversität offers excellent opportunities to private enterprises and public institutions to improve the qualifications of their employees at the highest level, by taking part in regular study programmes or on the basis of special agreements. The North Rhine-Westphalian “University Autonomy Act”, which has been active since 2007, gives the University ample freedom of action and scope for direct entrepreneurial responsibility. For the newly established University Board, the FernUniversität has been able to secure the collaboration of nationally and internationally recognized personalities from science, industry and commerce and society, thus underlining its high social profile.

The FernUniversität holds a strong position in research and distinguishes itself by its topclass specialized research activities. The modular degree courses, oriented towards the

demands of prospective students, have been developed on the basis of such research. The university also benefits from a growing network of international contacts due to its unique tradition and experience as a provider of distance teaching courses. In particular, this fosters closeness to practice, which is also a prerequisite for the development of modern, continuously updated degree courses. Here, scientists are much more than just recognized experts in their respective fields of teaching. Everyone who teaches at the FernUniversität is committed to the highest quality in research and teaching, to justice and equality of opportunity in different situations in life. This also means individual and reliable supervision for students, which enables them to realize their full potential and complete their degree courses quickly and successfully.

Graduates from the FernUniversität in Hagen have been in demand for a long time as professional and executive staff in industry and commerce, public administration, associations and other organizations. While still studying, they already combine practical experience with theoretic knowledge in a unique way and are immediately able to apply their acquired knowledge and skills to practical tasks. Another mark of distinction: during their studies, they have already demonstrated a great deal of responsibility, discipline and initiative. These are assets which they also bring to their future workplaces.

“The high degree of flexibility and the excellent supervision – especially compared to a campus university – have enabled me to complete my studies without loss of time in spite of my employment. At the FernUniversität, there are no overcrowded courses or changes of schedule at short notice. The on-campus seminars were interesting as well as highly instructive.”

Henrik Lührs, pilot and flying instructor, Bachelor of Arts in Cultural Studies



Prof. Dr. Friedrich Steimann, Chair of Programming Systems at the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science



Christine Eickenboom, Internet tutor, student at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences



Torsten Heymann, research fellow on "Democracy and Development" at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

"Studying – with three children? Many of my friends and acquaintances were sceptical whether this would work. But with the flexible system of the FernUniversität, everything worked out very well. Even though there can be some critical moments – for example when the children are sick – it is worthwhile to keep up. Hagen is well known among employers. They know that whoever has made it through this strenuous programme is a capable person."



Annabell Berger, mathematician, mother and musician

Studying at the FernUniversität Staying independent and flexible

"Enjoy your life as a student", is Simone Berger's success formula. The graduate in Business Administration obtained her diploma at the FernUniversität in Hagen. During her studies, she simultaneously held an executive position at E.ON Ruhrgas AG. With an "elaborate timetable" and "high motivation for learning even on weekends", she managed to get her degree. Some 80 per cent of the students at the FernUniversität are already in employment. Nevertheless, they are simultaneously studying. They have to cope with an above-average workload and are ready to work hard enough to manage it. "In order to succeed in both the degree course and the job at the same time, it is important to enjoy what you do.", Simone Berger emphasizes. "The educational system of the FernUniversität provides the necessary motivation."

Latest expert knowledge is delivered to

the students' homes in the form of printed course books that are excellently prepared from a didactic point of view. Via user-friendly degree course portals with interactive programmes, such as courses, forums, mailing lists or chat rooms, students can communicate with their faculty supervisors and with each other. The FernUniversität develops teaching materials that provide multi-medial variety and thus foster the students' readiness to learn.

In addition, a comprehensive network of study centres, or "branches" of the FernUniversität exists across Germany as well as in Austria, Hungary and Switzerland. Here, students can meet with their mentors for personal consultations. These centres are also venues for seminars and on-campus events as well as joint tutoring to prepare students for examinations. Students receive individual service and competent counselling

in all questions concerning distance teaching. In this way, the university not only acts through the network, but also offers a great variety of attractive on-campus opportunities via the study centres.

Students of the FernUniversität in Hagen expect a supervision concept that fits their great need for flexibility which is caused by their situation in life. With its special educational system, the FernUniversität meets that need to an extent that is almost unequalled among other universities. It thus offers new opportunities in areas where students of traditional universities run into problems.

To an increasing extent, degree courses at the FernUniversität open up opportunities to enrol at other open universities in Europe for virtual semesters abroad. The unique, networkenhanced educational system fosters mobility and worldwide connections.



Jacquelin Schaad,
student at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences



Ruth Mitze, Nathalie Hein, Stefanie Viße, senior secondary school
students interested in studying at the FernUniversität in Hagen



The summer festival on the campus of the FernUniversität is attended by thousands of people every year. This is an ideal setting for cultivating old friendships and building up new networks.

Virtuality meets humanity The FernUniversität close to home

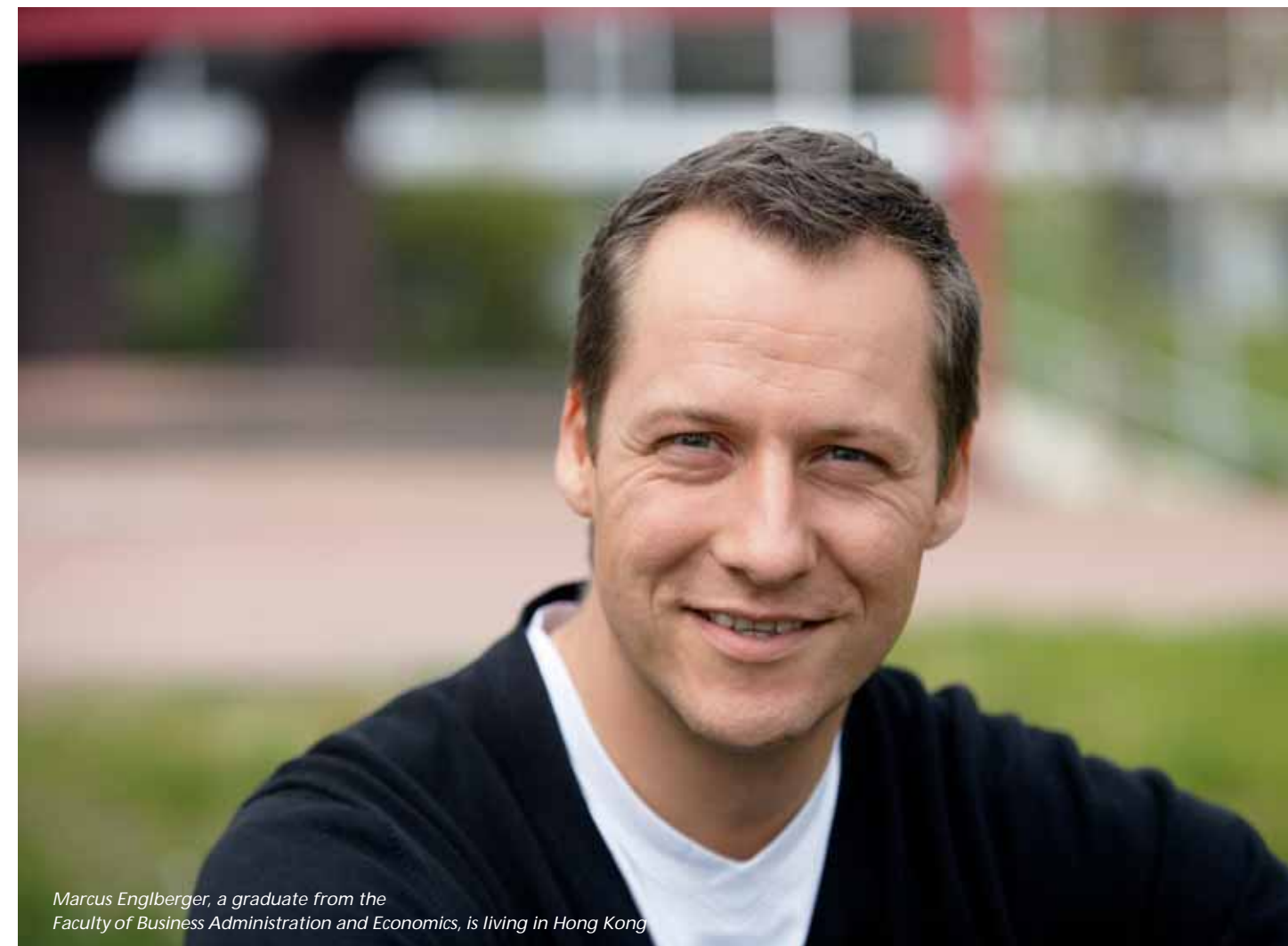
Oliver Dusso rejects the prejudice about “loneliness in distance teaching”: after all, there is the study centre as a meeting point. “What helped me to succeed was my close contact with other students”, he remembers.

From the very beginning, local activities have been an integral part of the FernUniversität’s successful concept. In addition to supervising its students, the FernUniversität presents current topics from science and society to the general public via its regional study centres.

It offers seminars that are open to private citizens on a regular basis in many study centres. For instance, the “Coesfelder BürgerUniversität” focuses on current sociological topics that are discussed in direct dialogue between scientists and society in general. The main focus of the “Lüdenschheid discourses” is on topics relating to history. Participants include famous names such as Ernst Gottfried Mahrenholz, former Vice President of the Federal Constitutional Court, and Ignatz Bubis, the former Chairman of the Central Council of Jews in Germany. With these innovative programmes, the FernUniversität not only reaches ordinary citizens, but also has a great impact on decision-makers in politics, industry and commerce.

The official ceremonies to honour outstanding young scientists and alumni and the official presentation of graduation certificates take place in the study centres as well as in Hagen. This is another occasion where the FernUniversität brings its graduates together with partners from industry and commerce. Academic talents are thus supported and fostered, and the partners from industry and commerce benefit from direct access to latest research findings.

The FernUniversität needs no special reason to celebrate a roaring party with its students, graduates, staff and friends at its annual summer festival on the Hagen campus. “We will be back next year”, they say, and the FernUniversität looks forward to it.



Marcus Englberger, a graduate from the
Faculty of Business Administration and Economics, is living in Hong Kong

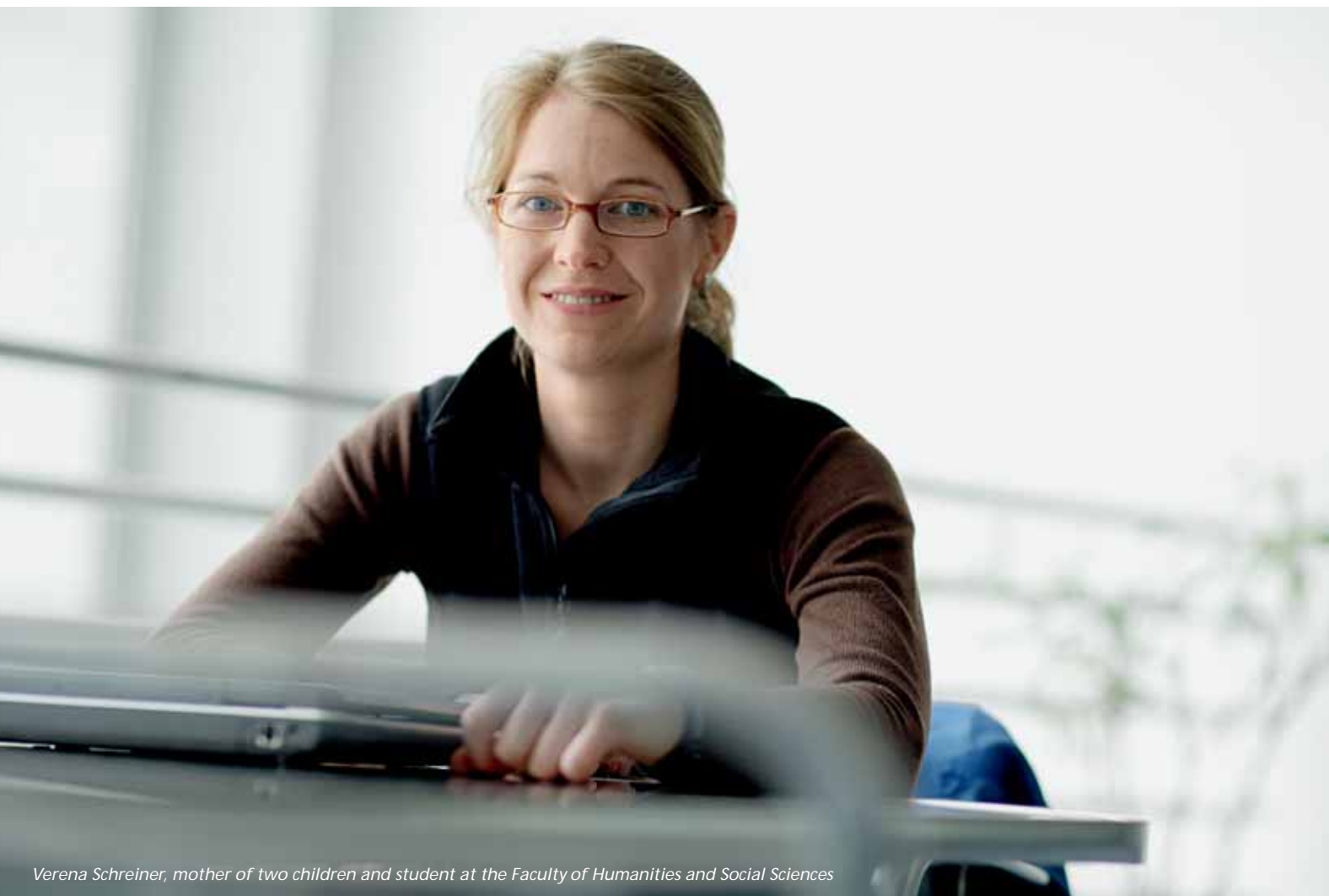
“As an international player, we need employees with a top-class education, who are fluent in foreign languages and capable of handling different cultures. Here, the dual graduation programme of the FernUniversität is an optimal solution.”



*Uwe Durchfeld,
Director of Controlling at
SARIA Bio-Industries GmbH & Co. KG,
Selm*



Andreas Fey, student at the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science



Verena Schreiner, mother of two children and student at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

International studies The FernUniversität opens up new perspectives

Some 5,000 students are currently making use of the opportunity to take a degree course at the FernUniversität in Hagen from outside Germany – most of them living in Austria, Switzerland or Hungary. Many of them are simultaneously studying for a degree from a university in their own country. To make this possible, the FernUniversität has developed several attractive dual graduation programmes in cooperation with foreign partner universities, for instance in St. Petersburg (Russia) and Pécs (Hungary). It maintains a network of successful local study centres together with Austrian and Swiss universities and in cooperation with the “Friends of the FernUniversität” in Hungary. Places of contact for students and/or study centres have also been established in Riga (Latvia) and Smolensk (Russia).

In particular, internationally oriented

German companies prefer employees with a top-class education under the German system who are at the same time capable of handling different cultures. The flexible education system, which enables German-speaking students to study at the FernUniversität from abroad, provides ideal conditions to this end. The university’s dual graduation programmes prepare students adequately for bilateral and international business processes. Outstanding achievements of foreign students at the FernUniversität in Hagen are honoured with awards from the German Academic Exchange Service.

Foreign students can, for example, prove their command of the German language, which is necessary for studying, by taking a TestDaF test, a test of German for non-native speakers which is globally recognized and in use at many German-language universities. The Test-

DaF-Institute, which evaluates and continuously further develops this language test, is only one of the highly efficient associated research institutes of the FernUniversität. As mediators between scientific research and practice, these institutes transfer scientific expertise flexibly and in a solution-oriented way to the places where it is needed and applied.

“My wishes and expectations have been entirely fulfilled in my studies at the FernUniversität. The dual graduation programme is an ideal supplement to my Russian diploma. It has provided me with ample opportunity for further personal development.”



Ekaterina Gorelchenko, St. Petersburg, who has completed the dual graduation programme with universities in Central and Eastern Europe; Faculty of Business Administration and Economics



Mokanis Pantellis, student assistant at the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Our society is its concern

The second largest faculty of the FernUniversität includes subjects such as political science, education and the media, psychology, sociology, history, literature and philosophy. 28 fields of teaching deal with the mechanisms, history and knowledge of our society from a great variety of aspects. For example, the Ernst-Ing's Family Endowed Chair of Social Diagnoses of the Presence. This field of teaching investigates and analyzes the structure and dynamics of contemporary societies, the change in predominant moral concepts and the consequences of activities of occupational and educational organisations. Among others, the question of what ultimately holds people and societies together is examined.

The Institute for Educational Science and Media Research focuses on interactive media and innovative educational technologies. How do weblogs, wikis and other Web 2.0 applications open up new

ways of reflection and writing? In what way do electronic learning environments or computer-based collaboration increase the efficiency of groups in companies? It is not surprising that a substantial contribution to the further development of distance teaching and learning systems on the university level is made here.

Besides the highly successful degree course in psychology, the students of the Bachelor's course in cultural studies deal with cultural and societal developments and the evolution of the media in European history, literature and philosophy. This degree course aims at preparing students especially for the challenges they will meet in the broad practical field of cultural work, where a high level of specialist qualification and trans-disciplinary competence are required.

Moreover, the Institute for History and Biography has implemented "German Memory", another unique project: an archive of personal histories from subjective memory. In this way, more than 1,500 autobiographical testimonies of men and women from both East and West Germany have already been made available to researchers, teachers and the general public.

"I have never regretted my choice of the FernUniversität. I already knew from hearsay that the Hagen university has a good name. With the knowledge gathered from my studies, I made rapid progress towards my dream of becoming a professional writer. The degree course was a turbo trip through three thousand years of intellectual history. So I was able to broaden my horizon and even get an academic degree."

Beatrix Kietzmann, professional writer, holding a Master's degree in literature and social behavioural science at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences



"I am retired and engaged in voluntary work. With a little discipline, I can integrate my distance teaching course into my time schedule, which is also possible for free-lance workers or self-employed persons. I appreciate not only the freedom at the FernUniversität, but also the opportunity to take part in seminars all over Germany, which again fosters interactive communication."

Barbara Zittlau, student at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences



The scientists of this faculty have won international renown as pioneers of e-learning. Current interdisciplinary research continues to focus on technology-enhanced teaching and learning scenarios.



Christiane Bazynski, prospective student at the FernUniversität

Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science Applied research and innovation

"The degree courses are very well organized and the course books are easy to understand", says Liliana Alupoaei about the Bachelor's degree course in Mathematics. The Romanian worked as an accountant for an Arabian-Canadian company in Dubai. She now lives in Moscow, where she intends to establish her own business after completing her studies. "A sound knowledge of mathematics will be a great asset for me", she emphasizes.

In addition to modern Bachelor's and Master's programmes in Mathematics, Computer Science, Electrical Engineering and Information Technology, the faculty is now offering a Bachelor's degree course in business informatics in cooperation with the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics; a Master's degree course will be added in the near future.

Applied research in cooperation with industry is one of the faculty's main areas of activity. Software engineering, database and information systems, distributed systems, computer networks and the Internet are topics in computer science.

Mathematics concentrates on applied probability calculation and statistics as well as applied numerical and discrete mathematics. Electrical engineering focuses on mechatronics, embedded systems, photonics and renewable energies. One prerequisite for the top-class research regularly carried out are the excellent results achieved in basic subjects.

The faculty's researchers have won international renown as e-learning pioneers. Its interdisciplinary research focuses on technology-enhanced teaching and learning scenarios.

Apart from developing e-education concepts for teaching and distance study, innovative didactic concepts are being explored. The "Pocket University" stands out as an example of "mobile learning", which has already been designed and tested in the form of a prototype. Projects for the general public, such as the "virtual city hall" concept, which was developed and successfully tested in cooperation with the Municipality of Hagen, have won numerous national and international awards.



"I had no problems with the scripts and with distance study. My cooperation with the professors was also excellent."



David Schiess, holding a Bachelor's degree in mathematics and a Master's degree in "Mathematics – Methods and Models"

Fenglu Cui, visiting researcher in the teaching field of information technology at the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science



Ralf P. Schulz, student at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences



More than 8,500 students are enrolled at the Faculty of Law. This means that the FernUniversität in Hagen has one of the largest legal faculties in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Faculty of Law Innovative and practice-oriented

"I appreciate above all the combination of legal content with business administration topics. I have abilities in both areas, and this degree programme covers them neatly". This is how Betty Heidler, hammer throw world champion in 2007, describes her studies for a Bachelor of Law at the Faculty of Law at the FernUniversität in Hagen.

This faculty welcomes a particularly high number of students. This success is also due to the fact that the traditional education of lawyers has been significantly extended and supplemented by an innovative concept of studies oriented towards the demand of industry and commerce.

The Master of Law course, which follows the Bachelor's course, but also lends itself to studying at the FernUniversität during legal traineeship, is highly recognized and meets with a very posi-

tive response among decision-makers in the practical field and students of other courses of law.

In legal areas such as patent law and protection of industrial property, the Faculty of Law is setting benchmarks far beyond the borders of Germany with the Wilhelm Peter Radt Endowed Chair for Civil Law and Industrial Property Rights. The faculty's courses on patent law and protection of industrial property in Europe are internationally recognized and very much in demand. In cooperation with the German Bar Association, the faculty offers a unique opportunity for legal trainees and young jurists to qualify for their future careers as legal practitioners with the Master's degree course "Anwaltsrecht und Anwaltspraxis" (Law and Regulations for Solicitors and Barristers). The faculty holds a leading position in Europe in the field of extrajudicial settlement of disputes, especially settlement by mediation.

The high number of doctorates also speaks for the strong research focus at the Faculty of Law. The FernUniversität is winning international renown in the areas of theoretical research, comparative law and contemporary history of law.

"After my injury and retirement from competitive sports, a degree course was my chance for a new beginning. While I was still an active handball player, I studied law at campus universities, but found it difficult to reconcile my training sessions with my regular attendance at university. At the FernUniversität, I can arrange my own, flexible learning schedule. With my studies, I want to build a second career. Just handball – that's not enough for me."

Franziska Heinz, assistant handball coach at Bayer Leverkusen, holding a Bachelor's and Master's degree in law



Regina Eufinger, university library assistant



Marco Abels, student assistant at the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics



Sabine Haake, graduate from the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics, assistant in the Department of International Affairs

On average, about 50 graduates successfully complete their studies annually in every discipline. This means that the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics at the FernUniversität in Hagen ranks at the top in comparison with other German universities.

Faculty of Business Administration and Economics An efficient network, close to practice

“For further education and additional qualifications, FernUni is ideal, even under time pressure”, says Theo Lieven, founder of VOBIS, a musician and graduate from the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics. “At the FernUniversität, I was able to catch up on the theory that I lacked in my practical work. Thanks to my knowledge about corporate law, taxation and corporate finance, I can now largely dispense with tax consultants and lawyers.”

With its disciplines of business administration and economics, the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics is the largest faculty of the FernUniversität. Bachelor’s and Master’s degree courses stand for an innovative, demand-oriented educational concept. Successful dual graduation programmes are available to German and foreign students through cooperation agreements

with a university in St. Petersburg, the Hungarian universities of Pécs and Győr, and the Swiss foundation for distance teaching “Stiftung Universitäre Fernstudien Schweiz”.

The faculty’s research focuses on topics such as change management or the development of research methods in economics, as well as the analysis of significant structural decisions in corporate development. For instance, the Douglas Endowed Chair of Service Management concentrates on the design, control and marketing of service processes and corporate service providers. The Sparkasse Endowed Chair of Entrepreneurship and Succession Planning shows the sponsors’ esteem for the FernUniversität and simultaneously provides additional scope for new scientific research questions.

Jointly with the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics has developed the very popular business informatics degree course. It also offers customized further education programmes in cooperation with various institutes. A high degree of practice-orientation and top-class research contribute to the success of the faculty and, of course, to that of its graduates.

“Thanks to its great flexibility, a degree course at FernUni is ideal for people who work. I enrolled for a business administration course at the FernUniversität while I was working in a travel agency in addition to my job as a flight attendant. There I found that topics relating to economics were fun. I was also able to make use of my parental leave period. Soon after my graduation, I obtained a position as assistant to the director”

Susanne Gold, assistant to the director, MBA, graduate from the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics



Daniel Löffler, Fabrice Fréguelin, Marcel Rostowitz-Berkenkopf, staff of the media and IT centre

The FernUniversität supplies the great demand for further higher education in our society like no other institution.



Associate Professor Dr. Ulrich Schödlbauer
at the Institute for Studies of Modern German
Literature and Media Theory



On-campus event at the FernUniversität in Hagen



Renate Solbach,
graduate from and former employee
of the FernUniversität

“This has been our conviction for a long time: the ability to study is proved by actually studying. As early as in 2003, therefore, we started our open access courses, a programme that is unique among German universities to this day. Even without a formal university entrance qualification, prospective students are thus given an opportunity to qualify for higher education at our university.”



Prof. Dr.-Ing. Helmut Hoyer,
Rector of the
FernUniversität in Hagen

Interdisciplinary and successful Research cooperation networks and further education at the FernUniversität

One reason for the great success of research at the FernUniversität in Hagen is that a large number of topics are being addressed on an interdisciplinary basis in a joint effort by researchers from different faculties and disciplines. This is supplemented by cooperation agreements as well as support and sponsoring by international partners from industry and commerce, scientific institutions and society in general. The FernUniversität can rely on an immense network.

A joint institution of the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences is the Institute for European Constitutional Law (IEV). It investigates the development of national and European constitutional law, analyzes approaches to constitutional policy in theory and practice and develops convincing solutions for specific constitutional problems.

Researchers from various disciplines, institutes and universities have been collaborating in the “EpiGrid” research project of the FernUniversität since 2007, in order to investigate the increasing danger to humanity from biological threats, and to develop strategies to counteract epidemics. In addition to the implementation and analysis of epidemiological simulations, this project is aimed, for instance, at analyzing the epidemic proliferation mechanisms of HIV in cooperation with the

Robert Koch Institute.

In the area of further higher education, the FernUniversität offers numerous attractive Master’s degree courses, for example in the areas of European industrial property protection, mediation and management. The interdisciplinary “Infernum” (“Interdisciplinary Distance Learning Program for Environmental Sciences”) Master’s course in environmental science is the first academic degree course nation-wide that has been developed in cooperation with a Fraunhofer Institute. A cooperation that guarantees future-oriented further education in the areas of ecology and sustainability. Tailor-made programmes for various occupational categories and individual study opportunities in open access studies round off the range.



Claudia Imhoff,
assistant at the Institute of Philosophy,
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

“I want others to benefit as I have from the advantages of distance teaching that have paved my way to success.”



Dr. Elisabeth Hehn,
entrepreneur and graduate
from the Faculty of
Business Administration and Economics

Doing good together Active alumni at the FernUniversität in Hagen

“Working and studying at the same time – for me that meant leaping over hurdles”, says Dr. Elisabeth Hehn. Today, she is the owner of a globally operating investment company.

“Consistent use of innovative media in the virtual university opens the door to virtually boundless communication and information. For me, my studies and doctorate have been the logical groundwork for my move into economic independence.”

“Doing good together” is the alumni’s maxim at the FernUniversität in Hagen. Graduates of the university are top executives in industry and commerce, successful entrepreneurs or sought-after specialists in their respective fields. “I want others to benefit as I have from the advantages of distance teaching that have paved my way to success”, Elisabeth Hehn emphasizes.

The alumni of the FernUniversität are emotionally and financially committed. Their activities within the global network of former students are as diversified as their personalities and competencies. The network does more than just offer an opportunity to keep in touch after graduation: the alumni benefit from lively communication across the borders of different industries, disciplines and continents. The FernUniversität offers its graduates attractive online and offline platforms for building effective networks.

At the same time, the alumni actively support students by expert counselling, assistance with the selection of topics for graduation theses, or sponsoring of research projects. They foster young researchers, organize workshops for further transdisciplinary post-graduate education or make donations to finance events and investments of the university. Through distance teaching, alumni of FernUniversität have taken another step up the ladder of success. They consider themselves enthusiastic ambassadors and sponsors of their university.





Manfred Kroll,
student at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences



“Apart from its significance for social policy, the promotion of science by industry and commerce also has an impact on competitiveness.”

Klaus Hacker,
Chairman of Gesellschaft der Freunde e.V.,
former Managing Director
and CEO of Sparkasse Hagen 

Gesellschaft der Freunde e.V. (Association of Friends) Strong partners for the FernUniversität

The friends of the FernUniversität in Hagen appear on the scene whenever talented young researchers are honoured with special awards. They sponsor students and support symposia where scientists present the results of their innovative research.

“From an entrepreneurial point of view, education safeguards the future. At the same time, it is a strategic investment in the long-term security of our market position”, says Dr. Dr. h.c. Jörn Kreke, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Douglas Holding AG, Chairman of the University Board of the FernUniversität and Honorary Chairman of the Association of Friends. “Apart from its significance for social policy, the promotion of science by industry and commerce also has an impact on competitiveness”, Klaus Hacker, Chairman of the Association of Friends and former Managing Director and CEO of Sparkasse Hagen, emphasizes.

As strong partners, the friends of the FernUniversität stand for an effective network of contacts with regional and international enterprises. Every second member is himself or herself a graduate of the FernUniversität, and by his/her commitment expresses his/her gratitude for an academic education that in most cases has laid the foundation for a successful career. The Association of Friends puts its donations to use in a very

purposeful way. Its special concern is fostering young researchers, for instance through scholarships, and through an annual advancement award to students with outstanding examination results. Another major commitment is the active support of the FernUniversität’s ventures in Central and Eastern Europe. One example is the establishment of “Stiftung Deutschsprachiges Fernstudienzentrum Budapest” (Foundation for the German-Language Distance Study Center in Budapest), which is largely financed by donations from industry and commerce. Since 2004, it has contributed substantially to providing opportunities for German-language study, predominantly to Hungarian students.

The largest successful project so far of which the Association of Friends has been a coinitiator has been the construction of the Arcadeon as a “house of science and further education” in Hagen. The Arcadeon has established itself far beyond the regional boundaries as a successful seminar and conference centre, but is of course also open for events organized by the Friends themselves, by alumni or various disciplines of the university. It carries the good name of the FernUniversität and the idea of distance teaching into industry and commerce and society in general, and thus fulfils in an ideal way one of the main purposes dear to the Friends’ hearts.

**“Where would the German economy be without the educational opportunities of the FernUniversität?
From an entrepreneurial point of view,
I insist: we not only need the FernUniversität,
but we need to build it up!”**

*Dr. Dr. h. c. Jörn Kreke,
Chairman of the University Board of the
FernUniversität in Hagen,
Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Douglas Holding AG*



“People at the university”
is the motto of the illustrations in this
brochure. We take this opportunity to
thank all students, staff and friends of
the FernUniversität who consented to
have their photos taken. Many thanks!

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