Content

Foreword ................................................................................................................................. 4

Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg ....................................................................... 6

Teaching and research at Halle University ......................................................................... 6

Connected – Regionally and Internationally ....................................................................... 8

Faculties of Halle University ............................................................................................. 10

Center of Engineering Sciences .......................................................................................... 26

MLU International ............................................................................................................... 26

Three campuses .................................................................................................................. 31

German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina ......................................................... 34

German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina ......................................................... 34

Research Institutes

Fraunhofer Institute for Mechanics of Materials IWM ...................................................... 36

Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research ................................................................. 38

Halle Institute for Economic Research (IWH) .................................................................. 40

Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO) ............. 42

Leibniz Institute of Plant Biochemistry ............................................................................. 44

Max Planck Institute of Microstructure Physics ................................................................. 46

Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology .................................................................. 48

City of Halle

The city of Halle .................................................................................................................... 50

Links ................................................................................................................................... 54
Foreword

Halle (Saale) has been an important centre of science and research for more than five centuries, with Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg laying the foundation for a network of higher education and research institutions in the region. In addition to our fully-fledged research university, Halle also boasts two arts schools (the Burg Giebichenstein University of Art and Design and the Evangelical College of Church Music), seven non-university research institutes and finally, the National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. This brochure aims at presenting the impressive range of research possibilities in Halle.

Founded in 1502, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU) is proud to look back on a tradition of excellence in teaching and research in the humanities, natural sciences and agricultural sciences. MLU is therefore one of the oldest universities in Germany. Remaining true to its rich academic history, the university’s research activities revolve around four core research areas (see next page). These core research areas reflect the motto of Halle University: “Progress based on tradition”.

A number of internationally renowned research institutes are located in Halle, including two Max Planck Institutes, one Fraunhofer Institute, one Helmholtz Centre and three Leibniz Institutes. Research collaborations with these non-university research institutions, which are characterized by an excellent infrastructure, well-equipped research facilities and a high proportion of international staff, make MLU all the more attractive to scientists and researchers.

What makes Halle truly unique in the German research landscape is the National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. This internationally acclaimed institution was established in 1652 and relocated to Halle (Saale) in 1878, where it has been based ever since. In 2008 the Leopoldina was declared the German National Academy of Sciences under the patronage of the Federal President of Germany.

As you can see, science and research in Halle is international. And it is our mission to support international exchanges and attract excellent junior and senior researchers to Halle.

I hope this brochure inspires you to come to MLU or to one of the research institutes linked with the university. The hometown of Georg Friedrich Händel has lots to offer – it is easy to get around, has plenty of parks and charming Wilhelminian-era houses, and offers affordable cost of living. It is idyllically located along the Saale River, has a diverse cultural scene, and its people are friendly, too. The state of Saxony-Anhalt also has a rich cultural heritage that is well worth exploring, with several UNESCO World Heritage Sites located nearby.

If you have become curious and would like to learn more, please do not hesitate to contact us. I look forward to welcoming you soon in Halle.

Prof. Dr. Michael Bron
Vice-President for Research and Junior Scientists
Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg
Teaching and research at Halle University

The city of Halle and its surrounding area has a rich tradition as a center for science and research, and is an important driver of scientific and intellectual advancement throughout the region and beyond. The centerpiece of this science and research hub is Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU), founded as a union of the Halle and Wittenberg universities. The reformer Martin Luther, Friedrich Schleiermacher, a leader in the field of hermeneutics, the physician Emil Adolf von Behring and the physicist Gustav Hertz are among the great minds that have made their mark here. Today, MLU is the oldest and largest university the German state of Saxony-Anhalt. Since the German reunification in 1989/90, many of the university buildings have been rebuilt and the academic faculties and institutes have been refitted with state-of-the-art technology and equipment. The university library, which also serves as the state library, contains over 5.5 million media items and is the largest general library for science and research in Saxony-Anhalt.

MLU’s research profile includes four core research areas in the natural sciences, humanities and social sciences as well as over 15 Interdisciplinary Scientific Centres (Interdisziplinäre Wissenschaftliche Zentren). These research networks bring together researchers from various faculties and work closely with research institutes (see pages 36–49).

Scientific Centers (Wissenschaftliche Zentren)

These Interdisciplinary Scientific Centers (Interdisziplinäre Wissenschaftliche Zentren) provide ideal working conditions for researchers from around the world: scientific interaction and exchange and a top-notch technical infrastructure. They focus on interdisciplinary themes such as the European Enlightenment or issues at the interface of medicine, ethics and law. The centers bundle research activity in the life sciences, material sciences and agricultural sciences, and provide state-of-the-art research infrastructure as well as technical service.

THE CORE RESEARCH AREAS AT MLU

- Materials Science - Nanomaterials
- Biological Sciences - Structures and Mechanisms of Biological Information Processing
- Enlightenment - Religion - Knowledge
- Society and Culture in Motion

Diffusion - Experiment - Institution

- Scientific Centers
- Interdisciplinary Scientific Centers
- Interdisziplinäre Wissenschaftliche Zentren
- MELODIAS
- Center of Expertise for Security and Crime Protection (Zentrum für Experten für Sicherheit und Rechtsschutz, ZEUS)
- Center for Advanced Interdisciplinary Research (Zentrum für die Forgeschichte der Medizin, ZFfM)
- Center for Economic and Social Research (Zentrum für Wirtschaftsforschung, ZFw)
- Center for the History of Science and Technology (Zentrum für Geschichte der Wissenschaft und Technik, ZfGWT)
- Center for the History of Science and Technology (Zentrum für Geschichte der Wissenschaft und Technik, ZfGWT)
- Center for the History of Science and Technology (Zentrum für Geschichte der Wissenschaft und Technik, ZfGWT)
Since 1995, MLU has worked closely with the Friedrich Schiller University Jena and the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, particularly in the natural sciences and medicine. The University Alliance (Universitätsverbund) conducts international-level research. Examples of this include protein and biodiversity research, physics of interfaces, and regenerative medicine. In 2009, the three universities jointly founded the Integrated Research Training Group “Protein Science” (Integriertes Graduiertenkolleg Proteinwissenschaften), which provides doctoral candidates in the natural sciences and medicine with support during their doctoral studies. With the research training group, doctoral candidates can also receive additional qualifications through advanced training in the area of structural biology, academic retreats and summer school programs.

In 2012 the three universities founded the Research Training Group for Integrative Biology (Dvl), which is a hub for national and international biodiversity science. www.idiv.de

MLU cooperates with prestigious companies from around the region to further its research, teaching and promotion of young researchers. Partners include SKW Piesteritz GmbH, Germany’s most important ammonia and urea manufacturer, Dow Olefinverbund GmbH, subsidiary of the multinational Dow Chemical Company and largest employer in Central Germany, as well as Bayer Bitterfeld, a large pharmaceutical company. MLU is also partner with Central Germany’s largest technology park, TCZ Halle Technology and Founders’ Center GmbH (TCZ Halle Technologie- und Gründerzentrum Halle GmbH) and the Bio-Centre Halle GmbH (Biozentrum Halle GmbH). Together with companies from the private sector, MLU works to develop new products in the areas of biotechnology, medical engineering and software.

Regional Research Networks – International visibility

Researchers and scientists from MLU’s faculties and scientific centers can also collaborate with other research institutions to form Research Networks (Forschungsnetzwerke), thus increasing Halle’s international visibility as a research center. One of these research networks is the ScienceCampus Plant-based Bioeconomy (WissenschaftsCampus Pflanzenbasierte Bioökonomie), established in 2011.
1. Faculty of Theology

With Luther and Melanchthon among its first professors, the Faculty of Theology at Martin Luther University was the first Faculty of Protestant Theology world-wide, and it has a unique tradition. In 1817, with the unification of the universities of Wittenberg and Halle, the heritage of Luther’s Wittenberg was enriched with Halle’s spirit of pietism, enlightenment, and progressive thinking, represented among others by such famous theologians like August Hermann Francke, Friedrich Schleiermacher and Wilhelm Gesenius.

Today, the faculty with its ten chairs and an extensive teaching body, covers the different fields of theology. Situated in the unique environment of Francke Foundations (see page 33) the faculty offers modern conditions and close contact to the academic staff, lecturers and professors. It participates at the Interdisciplinary Centres for Pietism Research, European Enlightenment Studies, and Medicine – Ethics – Law. It also has a close collaboration with the Institute for Oriental studies, and the Faculty of Law.

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2. Faculty of Law, Economics and Business

As with the Faculty of Theology, MLU’s law program builds on the rich traditions of the universities of Wittenberg and Halle. Reopened in 1993, the law school specializes in business law, medical ethics and medical law. It is one of four departments involved in the Interdisciplinary Centre for Medicine – Ethics – Law (Interdisziplinäres Zentrum Medizin – Ethik – Recht / MER).

A reference library with convenient opening hours, WLAN access and numerous legal databases ensure ideal research conditions. The School of Business and Economics includes 21 chairs in business administration, economics and business information systems. Research is centered around questions of governance and organized into three main areas:

- Economic Governance: Circle of theory, modelling, empirical evaluation, policy advice, evidence based inference; in cooperation with the Halle Institute for Economic Research (see page 40)
- Financial Governance: Continuous steering and control of enterprises and organizations, aiming at maximizing their financial performance
- Business & IT Governance: Steering and control processes within enterprises and organizations, incorporating external stakeholders

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My name is Fikremarkos Merso Birhanu from Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia). I have had the opportunity to visit Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg on several occasions both for lectures and conferences. With its diverse group of professors with solid research and teaching experience, state-of-the-art research facilities, a diverse group of students and an environment conducive to scientific research, the University of Halle in general and the Faculty of Law, Economics and Business in particular, is certainly an attractive place for researchers and scientists. The city of Halle also offers a very quiet environment that is conducive to scientific research while at the same time providing all the services necessary for daily life.

Dr. Fikremarkos Merso Birhanu, DAAD Visiting Professor at the Faculty of Law, Economics and Business
The Faculty of Philosophy II includes numerous academic disciplines distributed across eight institutes. The faculty covers the social sciences (Sociology, Political Science, Psychology), as well as historical and cultural studies (Classical Studies, History, Art History, Archaeology). It also includes Social Anthropology, Philosophy, Japanese Studies and Oriental Studies (including Arabic Studies, Islamic Studies, Jewish Studies, Armenian Studies or South Asian Studies).

Accordingly, the faculty includes a broad range of possible majors and research projects. Along with their respective areas of specialization, the social and cultural scientists of the Faculty of Philosophy II also participate in cross-disciplinary research projects and collaborate with colleagues from the university’s other faculties. In this way, the Faculty of Philosophy II plays an important role in two out of MUL’s four core research areas: “Society and Culture in Motion: Diffusion – Experiment – Institution” as well as “Enlightenment – Religion – Knowledge.”

The Faculty of Philosophy II is also involved in several of MUL’s interdisciplinary centers, including the Centre for Interdisciplinary Area Studies - Middle East, Asia, Africa, Asia2BRS (Zentrum für Interdisziplinäre Regionalstudien - Vorderer Orient, Afrika, Asien), which bundles the research activities of the Regional Studies institution. Historians, philosophers, political scientists and psychologists, research learning processes and educational programs in collaboration with the internationally networked Center for School and Educational Research/ZSB (Zentrum für Schulpädagogik und Bildungsforschung).

5. Faculty of Philosophy II – Languages & Literatures, Communication Studies and Musicology

The Faculty of Philosophy II includes primarily humanities and social science disciplines and consists of six institutes covering English Studies, American Studies, German Studies, Romance Studies, Slavic Studies and Speech Science and Phonetics (Seminar für Sprechwissenschaft und Phonetik), as well as Media and Communications Studies and Sports.

The largest institute is the Institute for Music (Institut für Musik) with the departments Music Education and Musicology. The oldest among them – the Institute for Speech Science and Phonetics, founded in 1905 – offers the only consecutive BA/MA program in speech science in all of Germany. The faculty is focused primarily on teacher training, but also offers Master’s programs such as Applied Sports Psychology (Angewandte Sportpsychologie), or Intercultural European and American Studies (Interkulturelle Europä- und Amerikastudien) as well as the doctoral program Language – Literature – Society (Sprache – Literatur – Gesellschaft).

Along with the research conducted within their own departments, members of the faculty also take part in numerous collaborative research projects, for example the Interdisciplinary Centre for European Enlightenment Studies (Interdisziplinäres Zentrum für die Erforschung der Europäischen Aufklärung), which combines research conducted in this area by the three faculties Theology, Philosophy I and Philosophy II. The Center for United States Studies (Zentrum für USA-Studien), founded in 1995, conducts research on American history, culture, politics and society. As part of the faculty’s own internal research projects, its specialists in language/literature and communication studies examine traditions of knowledge and transformation processes, social processes, as well as the optimisation and the mediatisation of modern mass phenomena.

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4. Faculty of Philosophy I – Social Sciences and Historical Cultural Studies

The Faculty of Philosophy I includes numerous academic disciplines distributed across eight institutes. The faculty covers the social sciences (Sociology, Political Science, Psychology), as well as historical and cultural studies (Classical Studies, History, Art History, Archaeology). It also includes Social Anthropology, Philosophy, Japanese Studies and Oriental Studies (including Arabic Studies, Islamic Studies, Jewish Studies, Armenian Studies or South Asian Studies).

Accordingly, the faculty includes a broad range of possible majors and research projects. Along with their respective areas of specialization, the social and cultural scientists of the Faculty of Philosophy I also participate in cross-disciplinary research projects and collaborate with colleagues from the university’s other faculties. In this way, the Faculty of Philosophy I plays an important role in two out of MUL’s four core research areas: “Society and Culture in Motion: Diffusion – Experiment – Institution” as well as “Enlightenment – Religion – Knowledge.”

The Faculty of Philosophy I is also involved in several of MUL’s interdisciplinary centers, including the Centre for Interdisciplinary Area Studies - Middle East, Asia, Africa, Asia2BRS (Zentrum für Interdisziplinäre Regionalstudien - Vorderer Orient, Afrika, Asien), which bundles the research activities of the Regional Studies institution. Historians, philosophers, political scientists and psychologists, research learning processes and educational programs in collaboration with the internationally networked Center for School and Educational Research/ZSB (Zentrum für Schulpädagogik und Bildungsforschung).

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Along with the research conducted within their own departments, members of the faculty also take part in numerous collaborative research projects, for example the Interdisciplinary Centre for European Enlightenment Studies (Interdisziplinäres Zentrum für die Erforschung der Europäischen Aufklärung), which combines research conducted in this area by the three faculties Theology, Philosophy I and Philosophy II. The Center for United States Studies (Zentrum für USA-Studien), founded in 1995, conducts research on American history, culture, politics and society. As part of the faculty’s own internal research projects, its specialists in language/literature and communication studies examine traditions of knowledge and transformation processes, social processes, as well as the optimisation and the mediatisation of modern mass phenomena.

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The Faculty of Philosophy III offers a full-fledged degree program in the educational sciences and is MLU’s faculty responsible for teacher education/training. As such, research within the faculty covers both basic research in the educational sciences as well as application-oriented and development-oriented research. Its six areas of research focus are:

- Childhood studies; youth studies
- Professions in education
- Educational and social welfare system institutions
- Educational interactions
- Cultural education research
- Prevention, rehabilitation and health

The interdisciplinary Research Unit on Mechanisms of Elite Formation in the German Educational System (Forscherguppe “Mechanismen der Elitebildung im deutschen Bildungssystem”) was established in 2011, together with the Center for School and Educational Research (Zentrum für Schul- und Bildungsforschung).

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I moved my lab to MLU in 1998 after five fruitful years in a CNRS institute for plant science near Paris. The university provided new and well-equipped laboratories and a stimulating scientific environment with plenty of colleagues working in the fields of plant sciences and molecular genetics. The graduate students who work in our lab have always been excellent and have contributed largely to our advances in understanding bacterial pathogenicity mechanisms. Halle is a great place to do research, and has become even more so since the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina moved into their new headquarters.

We are part of a Collaborative Research Center (SFB 648), funded by the German research foundation (DFG), which brings together scientists from the university and the two Leibniz institutes IPB (Halle) and IPK (Gatersleben). Visiting scientists from abroad and international collaborations have given the CRC 648 a great reputation in the area of plant-microbe interactions and signaling in plants.

My times abroad as group leader and visiting scientist are invaluable and have always been very exciting and inspiring, both scientifically and culturally. Therefore encourage every young researcher to spend some time abroad in a good lab.

Prof. Dr. Ulla Bonas – recipient of the Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize in 2011, Molecular Phytopathology, Martin Luther University

“...
The Faculty of Natural Sciences I comprises the Institute of Biochemistry and Biotechnology, the Institute of Biology and the Institute of Pharmacy. All three institutes are located on the new science campus, together with other natural science faculties. The campus’ modern building facilities and outstanding infrastructure offer excellent research conditions and an environment that fosters scientific exchange and interdisciplinary collaboration. The close proximity of the Weinberg Campus Technology Park (Technologiepark Weinberg Campus) and its numerous non-university research institutes provides great opportunities for high-level, international research collaborations.

The Faculty of Natural Sciences I has two core research areas: Protein Biochemistry/Proteomics, which is being expanded to form the focus area “Biomedical Life Science Halle” together with the Faculty of Medicine, and Plant Research. Both research areas are strengthened by a strategic network that includes the Leibniz Institute of Plant Biochemistry Halle (Leibniz-Institut für Pflanzenbiochemie Halle), the Leibniz Institute of Plant Cytometry and Crop Science (Leibniz-Institut für Pflanzenphysiologie und Kulturpflanzenzüchtung), the Universities of Leipzig and Jena, the Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Central and Eastern Europe (IAMO), the Julius Kühn-Institute (JKI), Federal Research Center for Cultivated Plants in Quedlinburg (Julius-Kühn-Institut (JKI), Bundesforschungsanstalt für Kulturpflanzenforschung in Quedlinburg) and the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research in Leipzig (Helmholtz-Zentrum für Umweltforschung UFZ Halle/Leipzig). Researchers from across disciplines work in close collaboration by way of CRC-funded Collaborative Research Centers (Sonderforschungsberichte) and working groups and in an interdisciplinary Centre for Crop Research (ZRC) that works closely with the Technologiepark Weinberg Campus.

The Faculty of Natural Sciences I is involved in several large-scale projects within the university. The newly planned center for protein research – “Proteinzentrum Halle”, scheduled to open in 2015 – will provide working groups focused on Protein Chemistry/Proteomics ideal conditions for fruitful collaboration: a facility with state-of-the-art research equipment and the convenience of proximity. Faculty scientists also belong to Central Germany’s Leading Edge BioEconomy Cluster (Spitzencluster Bioökonomie), with MLU responsible for teaching and training within the cluster. The faculty also collaborates with the universities of Leipzig and Jena as well as with non-university research institutions in Central Germany’s one and only German Centre of Integrative Biodiversity Research – iDiv (Deutsches Zentrum für integrative Biodiversitätsforschung / iDiv).

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Before I came to Halle in 2009, I had been at the University of Birmingham as a postdoc, and it was quite a change to go from a big Mathematics department to a rather small institute. But this size has its advantages: we know each other well within the research groups and there is a lot of direct contact with the students, particularly the postgraduate students. The classes in advanced courses are small, which gives room for discussion. At the same time the institute is lively in the sense that we host conferences and we frequently have international guests for collaboration.

Jun.-Prof. Dr. Rebecca Waldecker, Martin Luther University, Institute for Mathematics

I grew up in New York State (USA), and I have moved to Halle from Colorado State University where I attended graduate school. At Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU) I am a post-doctoral researcher in the Zoological Institute studying how social animals may respond differently behaviorally and physiologically to energetic stress in comparison to solitary individuals. I have chosen MLU because my interests overlap nicely with the world-renowned research that is being conducted in the areas of insect physiology, disease, and behavior at this university. In addition, there are quality facilities and there is a supportive research community to carry out cutting-edge molecular techniques, which are necessary to investigate my questions of interest. The university staff has been very helpful with the move to Halle and the town itself is just the right size - it is big enough to have character and history, but small enough to be more relaxed than big cities.

Dr. Christopher Mayack, Alexander von Humboldt Postdoc Fellow at the Faculty of Natural Sciences
The Faculty of Natural Sciences II comprises the Institute of Chemistry, the Institute of Physics, and the Institute of Mathematics. Research and teaching within and between the three disciplines are strongly linked. With Materials Science being one of Martin Luther University’s main research fields, the faculty’s primary focus is research related to Nanostructured Materials, pursued in four different topical areas:

- Functional Solid Interfaces
- Nanostructured Polymers and Soft Matter
- Photovoltaics/Renewable Energies
- Biorelevant Materials and Molecules

These research activities have many links to Molecular Biosciences, MLU’s other main research field in the sciences. While the Institute of Chemistry focuses on the synthesis and characterization of complex materials and on the chemistry of bio-relevant substances, the Institute of Physics is specialized in hard and soft condensed matter physics research. The Institute of Mathematics focuses on modeling, analysis and simulation of complex systems.

In each area, individual research is complemented by large-scale collaborative projects funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG), the Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and programs of the European Union. A significant part of the faculty’s research is performed in collaboration with external partner institutions located on Halle’s Weinberg Campus. These include the Max Planck Institute of Microstructure Physics, the Interdisciplinary Center of Materials Science, the Fraunhofer Institute for Mechanics of Materials, the Fraunhofer Center for Silicon Photovoltaics, the Fraunhofer Pilot Plant Center for Polymer Synthesis and Photocatalysis, the Leibniz Institute of Plant Biochemistry and the Helmholtz Center for Environmental Research (see pages 36–49).

The faculty’s dedication to educating young scientists and school teachers is reflected in a variety of undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate study programs. These are providing a broad education in their respective fields in the undergraduate studies, and become increasingly more focused on the local research areas within the graduate and postgraduate studies.

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The Faculty of Natural Sciences III is home to three institutes and a total of 38 professors: the long-standing and tradition-rich Institute of Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences, the oldest of its kind in Germany, the Institute of Geosciences and Geography and the Institute of Computer Science.

The Institute of Agricultural Studies collaborates with cross-disciplinary partners both within MLU and outside the university in projects on agronomy and as well as basic research in molecular and physiological processes. Like the Faculty of Natural Sciences I, the Faculty of Natural Sciences III is involved in the ScienceCampus (WissenschaftsCampus Halle) research network, which was established in 2011 (see page 3). This network also includes the Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies/IAMO (see page 42) and the Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research in Gatersleben (Leibniz-Institut für Pflanzengenetik und Kulturpflanzenforschung Gatersleben).

The application-focused Institute of Geosciences and Geography works with local enterprises, engineering firms, construction, mining and minerals companies as well as companies from the environmental sector. Several joint professors are appointed in the field of water, soil and environment in cooperation with the UFZ Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (Leipzig).

The Institute of Computer Science specializes in Applied Computer Science and Bioinformatics. MLU was one of the very first universities in Germany to offer a course of study in Bioinformatics. The institute works in close collaboration with the Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research in Gatersleben (Leibniz-Institut für Pflanzengenetik und Kulturpflanzenforschung Gatersleben).

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The Center of Engineering Sciences has three departments: Mechanical and Thermal Process Engineering and Polymer Materials Engineering. The center collaborates with various research institutions both on and off campus in the areas of polymer materials engineering and process technology solutions in the food and nutrition sciences. The center also operates the Plastics Competence Centre (Kunststoffkompetenzzentrum) in cooperation with the Hochschule Merseburg – University of Applied Sciences and conducts research together with the Faculty of Natural Sciences III in the “Nanostructural Materials” core research area.

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MLU International
About 60 partner universities
Martin Luther University (MLU) is both international and diverse, two very important and long-standing aspects of the institution best exemplified by two of its graduates Anton Wilhelm Amo and Dorothea Erxleben. The philosopher Amo, who studied and taught at the University of Halle between 1730 and 1740, was the first African to have attended a German university. Dorothea Erxleben made history in 1754 when she became the first woman to earn a university degree in Germany – in medicine at the University of Halle.

Today MLU is an active member of the international university and research community, with about 60 partner universities worldwide and about 200 ERASMUS partner universities. It also offers several study programs taught in English and other languages, including the double-degree programs with universities in Milan (Italy), Nanterre (France), Bratislava (Slovakia) and Tokyo (Japan).

International University Community
Over the years, MLU’s community of researchers, professors and students has grown increasingly international. Approximately ten percent of its student body of 20,000 comes from abroad, and nearly 20 percent of its 2,000 PhD candidates comes from a country other than Germany. And each year, hundreds of the university’s students and scientists leave Halle to pursue studies and research abroad.
Support for international junior and senior researchers

The International Office is there to support the university’s international scholars and researchers in all aspects of their research stay in Halle to make them feel at home, from general advice, counseling on funding possibilities and assistance in finding a supervisor, to checking previously completed university degrees, renting apartments in the international guesthouse Georg-Forster-Haus and administering third-party funds.

Furthermore, the International Office together with the International Graduate Academy (see page 30) is home to the PhD Network. This network aims at integrating international PhD students and postdocs, connecting them with those who have been living and doing research in Halle for while through a wide range of activities, including German classes, a monthly roundtable and excursions in Halle and the surrounding area.

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Martin Luther University is highly dedicated to attracting qualified young PhD students from all over the world, offering them excellent scientific and social conditions for gaining additional qualifications, and giving them the opportunity to contribute to the scientific community at Halle University. Almost 2,200 PhD students, of which around 20 percent have an international background, are researching here in order to get one of the twelve PhD degrees awarded by the faculties in approximately 70 research areas.

The International Graduate Academy InGrA acts as a central coordination and service institution for all doctoral students at Halle University, regardless of whether they are pursuing an individual doctorate or enrolled in one of the university's structured PhD programs.

One of the key tasks of InGrA includes the organization of complementary skills training courses tailored to the needs of doctoral students, such as workshops on presentation skills, scientific writing and getting published. It also offers courses on soft skills, such as time management and self-management.

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As joint project between the International Office and InGrA, the PhD Network provides advice and support to international PhD students and post-docs concerning administrative tasks such as registration with the city and foreign registration office, matriculation at the university, and finding a suitable health insurance. The PhD Network strives to integrate international junior scientists into German culture and everyday life in Halle (Saale) by organizing German language courses and monthly cultural and social events. The support is rounded off by financial advice regarding Teaching and Research Assistantships as well as Finalization Grants.

City center – Where tradition and modernity come together
In the heart of the old city lies one of the most beautiful spots in Halle: The University square, a unique architectural ensemble of both historic and modern buildings. At the center of the square is the Lion Building (Löwengebäude), which dates back to the first half of the 19th century and houses the university museum, lecture halls, the matriculation office and student guidance counseling services. Other Universitätsplatz buildings include the Rector’s Office, the Melanchthonium (named after the reformer Philipp Melanchthon), which houses the offices of the three vice deans and 16 lecture halls, as well as the Juridicum with its seminar rooms and library for legal studies. Just a few buildings away is the Robertinum, which houses the university’s archaeological museum and the Institute of Classical Studies (Institut für Klassische Altertumswissenschaften). The Auditorium Maximum (AudiMax), whose completion coincided with the university’s 500 year anniversary celebration, provides a contrast to the square’s historical buildings. The AudiMax houses three lecture halls, the largest of which can accommodate over 500 visitors.
While it’s easy to spend time and enjoy the charm of the Universitätsplatz, it is also within walking distance to many other university departments and facilities. Süd is in the historic city center and just a few hundred meters from the Universitätsplatz is the Faculty of Business Economics, the “Harz” dining hall with adjacent student dormitories, as well as numerous institutes and seminars within the Faculties of Philosophy I and II, including the Institute for Music and the Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology. The University and State Library (ULB) and the theoretical institutes within the Faculty of Medicine are also located in the immediate vicinity.

A new Center for Humanities and Social Sciences (Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaftliches Zentrum/GSZ), complete with lecture halls, offices, laboratories, seminar rooms and a library, has been built in the immediate vicinity of the Universitätsplatz. When the GSZ opens in 2015, seventeen university institutes, which have been spread out at various locations across Halle, will come together at this new location in the city center.

Weinberg Campus and Heide Süd – Connecting city and countryside

Research, learning and living also co-exist happily on the Weinberg campus and the university’s Heide Süd site. Located at the edge of the city forest but still only fifteen minutes from the center of Halle, Weinberg was established as a campus as early as the 1950s. Named after the Weinbergweg (vineyard road), the name recalls the vineyards that dominated the landscape here until the 18th century.

A center for science and research for decades, the campus has been further developed and expanded since the Fall of the Wall in 1989. Along with the main facilities such as the computer center, the gymnasium and dining hall, the Weinberg Campus and the university’s Heide Süd site are also home to eight departments within the Natural Sciences Faculties as well as numerous non-university research institutes, including the Max Planck Institute of Microstructure Physics (Max-Planck-Institut für Mikrostrukturphysik). Companies from growth industries such as biotechnology, environmental technology and computer technology have established offices here, making the area one of the largest research and technology parks in eastern Germany. Immediately adjacent to the Weinberg Campus and Heide Süd site is Halle’s Kröllwitz district, home of the University Hospital (Universitätsklinikum Halle) and one of the city’s most beautiful residential areas featuring villas from the turn of the 20th century.

Francke Foundations in Halle

The Faculty of Philosophy III and the Faculty of Theology are housed in the Francke Foundations in Halle, the historic group of buildings established in 1695 by the theologian and educator August Hermann Francke. Originally an orphanage and school for the poor, the Francke Foundations today comprise a unique educational facility that spans all educational levels, from nursery school through to university. The Francke House, the German Federal Cultural Foundation (Kulturstiftung des Bundes) and the German Youth Institute (Deutsches Jugendinstitut) are also a part of the Francke Foundations, which is on the German proposal list as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

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The Leopoldina has been the German National Academy of Sciences since 2008. It addresses key issues of particular significance for the future of society from a scientific perspective. The Leopoldina shares its findings with policymakers and the public, and puts these issues up for discussion on a national and international level. It works independently and is committed to acting in the public interest.

With a membership consisting of around 1,500 scientists in more than 30 countries, the Leopoldina is both the largest academy in Germany and a supranational association.

Founded in Schweinfurt in 1652, the Leopoldina is the world’s oldest continuously existing academy for medicine and the natural sciences. The Academy elects distinguished academics and scientists to become members. The ranks of its members – over 7,500 in all since the Academy was founded – include such eminent scholars and scientists as Marie Curie, Charles Darwin, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Alexander von Humboldt, Justus von Liebig and Max Planck.

Since 1878, the Leopoldina has been based in Halle an der Saale in central Germany. Before then, the Academy always moved its seat to the town or city where its current president resided. At the beginning of 2012, the Academy moved into its new headquarters on the Jägerberg in Halle, a location that provides enough room for it to grow into its new role as the German National Academy of Sciences. In addition to its headquarters in Halle, the Leopoldina has had an office in the government quarter of Berlin since 2009, which offers convenient proximity to policymakers, the media and international delegations and firmly anchors the Academy close to the heart of political action in Germany.
The Fraunhofer Institute for Mechanics of Materials (IWM) is an institute of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der angewandten Forschung e.V. with facilities in both Freiburg and Halle (Saale). The IWM facility in Halle (Saale) was established in 1992 and specializes in microstructure-based mechanics of materials.

IWM applies the latest breakthroughs in materials sciences and the mechanics of materials to improve the energy efficiency and material efficiency of products and processes, and to drive innovation in materials science with a focus on lightweight construction, greater efficiency and longevity. IWM develops sustainable and cost-effective solutions for the widest range of industries and sectors, including automotive electronics, microelectronics, microsystems technology, photovoltaics, biotechnology, medical technology, polymer processing and aircraft manufacturing.

Polymer applications
In many areas polymers are being used as a substitute for conventional material systems, and being combined with conventional materials to produce high quality hybrid systems. The Polymer Applications business unit covers the entire development process – from material design to testing prototype components in cooperation with the Fraunhofer Pilot Plant Center in Schkopau. The unit’s focus areas include thermoplastic polymers and polymer compounds, polymer-based high performance composites and elastomers.

Biological and macromolecular materials
For our clients in the fields of plastics processing, medical technology and biotechnology, we develop innovative finishing processes for polymer films, develop and evaluate surface modification and coating processes for biological and biocompatible materials, and apply nanotechnologies to the functionalization of materials.

Components in microelectronics and microsystems technology
Our business unit characterizes structural, material and component properties for microelectronic and microsystems components, optimizes the technology necessary for their production, evaluates the reliability of micro components and develops testing methods for micro-dimensioning.
Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research

As an international competence centre for the environmental sciences, the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) explores how global change impacts the complex interactions between man and nature. In close cooperation with decision-makers and social stakeholders, scientists at the UFZ develop system solutions to improve the management of complex environmental systems and to tackle environmental issues.

The work of the UFZ addresses issues of water resource management, the impacts of changing land use on human environments and biodiversity, the effects of chemicals on the environment and on human health, as well as strategies for adapting to climate change. But successful solutions require more than a solid scientific foundation. Environmental research, which is usually dominated by the natural sciences, must also be more closely connected with the humanities, social sciences and law.

From delivering excellent solutions-oriented results in the natural and social sciences, to its participation in international steering committees, the UFZ is an active player along the science-policy interface on both the national and international level. The UFZ also coordinates cross-institutional platforms on water and biodiversity issues and is a driving force behind large-scale national and international climate and biodiversity risk assessments.

Several UFZ scientists contributed to the IPCC 5th Assessment Report on Climate Change published in 2014, and several of our scientists have also been asked by the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services (IPBES) to collaborate on its first series of focus reports scheduled to appear in 2015.

Founded in 1991, the UFZ currently has a staff of more than 1,100 employees from more than 40 countries at its sites in Leipzig, Halle and Magdeburg. It is also home to some 250 PhD candidates involved in international collaborative research. The UFZ also offers vocational training for 55 apprentices in eleven different trades and cooperative education programs.

With a staff of approximately 120, the work of the UFZ in Halle focuses primarily on Community Ecology, Soil Physics, Soil Ecology and Hydrology. The environmental experimental facility in Bad Lauchstädt also belongs to the UFZ in Halle. It is the site of one of the world’s most extensive long-term experiments on the impacts of land use and climate change on biodiversity, which was launched in 2013 together with the Global Change Experimental Facility (GCEF). Other long-term field studies, such as the 112-year-old static fertilization experiment, are also carried out at the Bad Lauchstädt site.

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The Halle Institute for Economic Research (IWH) was founded in 1992 and is a member of the Leibniz Association. The institute’s three research departments of Macroeconomics, Financial Markets and Structural Change conduct economic research and provide evidence-based policy recommendations. The institute studies transition-related economic issues in East Germany as well as in Central and Eastern Europe and the ongoing process of economic integration in Europe. Under the guiding theme “From Transition to European Integration”, the institute’s research covers economic convergence processes and international economic integration. Research focuses on macroeconomic dynamics and stability, transformation of institutions, microeconomic innovation processes, and the role of financial markets for the real economy.

The IWH is a member of the Joint Economic Forecast project group commissioned by the German Federal Government to publish a semi-annual report ("Gemeinschaftsdiagnose") on the current status and future outlook of both the German and the world economy. The institute is also a partner within the European research consortium "Growth – Innovation – Competitiveness: Fostering Cohesion in Central and Eastern Europe (GRINCoh)" as part of the EU’s 7th Research Framework Programme.

The IWH Research Network in Economics (IWH-ReNeC) enables IWH scientists to collaborate with colleagues from other research institutions. More than 30 research professors and research affiliates come to the institute for research stays and co-publish their work with IWH scientists.

Within the IWH Doctoral Programme in Economics (IWH-DPE), PhD students attend courses, present their work regularly as part of the IWH Doctoral Research Seminar and receive support from PhD supervisors within the IWH. The IWH-DPE collaborates with the universities of Dresden, Halle (Jena), Leipzig and Magdeburg as part of the Central-German Doctoral Program Economics (CGDE).

The IWH has a staff of 80 employees, 49 of which are scientists and researchers. The institute observes the DFG Research-Oriented Standards on Gender Equality and offers family-friendly working conditions, which include measures such as the honor system for working hours, childcare allowances, family work spaces and health promotion programs.

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IAMO employs more than 100 staff members from some 20 different countries around the world. The institute is known for its inquisitive scientific minds and a culture of mutual respect and open, friendly exchange. IAMO actively takes an equal opportunities approach and has various measures and offers in place to ensure the compatibility of work and family life, creating a family-friendly working environment for its employees.

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The Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO) pursues basic and applied research in the field of agricultural economics, analyzing economic, social and political developments in the agricultural and food sector as well as in rural areas. The geographic focus covers the transition countries of Eastern Europe and Asia. The institute also shares its research outcomes to the international academic community as well as to decision-makers in politics and business, international organizations and the broad public.

A particular focus within the institute lies on the promotion of scientists from study regions. IAMO supports PhD and postdoctoral studies and hands out thesis topics for Master’s and Bachelor’s degrees. IAMO Graduate School provides PhD students with systematic support and training.

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Although they remain fixed in the ground, plants and fungi are not helpless victims of their fate. Over the course of evolution they have developed a variety of mechanisms that allow them not only to communicate with their environment but to defend themselves. The vast diversity of chemical compounds they produce, notably specialized natural products, significantly contribute to these communication and defense strategies.

The Leibniz Institute of Plant Biochemistry (IPB) brings together a unique mix of international scientists from the chemical and biological sciences to decipher the complex processes and networks underlying the interplay between organisms and their biotic and abiotic environment. Their work focuses on analyzing plant and fungal natural products and their biological importance, and studying the molecular mechanisms that mediate these interactions.

With application potential in areas such as pharma biotechnology, i.e. in the development of novel bioactive substances, and agrotechnology as a way to guide sustainable crop production and the development of functional foods, the insights and findings of the IPB team play an important role in enhancing human, animal and plant health.

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The Max Planck Institute of Microstructure Physics, founded in 1992 and located in Halle (Saale), was the first Max Planck Institute to be established in the eastern part of Germany. The institute consists of one theoretical and two experimental departments under the direction of Professor Gross, Professor Kirschner and Professor Parkin.

Research at the Max Planck Institute of Microstructure Physics is dedicated to the magnetic, electronic and optical properties of bulk solids, as well as thin films, surfaces, interfaces and nano-crystalline materials. The goal is to understand the fundamental microscopic phenomena for creating new functional materials with applications in areas such as sensorics, opto- and microelectronics.

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The Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology is one of the world’s leading centers for research in socio-cultural anthropology. More than 150 researchers work at the Institute in one of its three departments: Law & Anthropology (Marie-Claire Foblets), Resilience and Transformation in Eurasia (Chris Hann) and Integration and Conflict (Günther Schlee). The Institute collaborates closely with universities on a national and international level.

In their field investigations in diverse settings worldwide, researchers analyze politically sensitive topics often at the centre of public debate. These include issues of ethnicity and identities, conflict management, the legal regulation of religion, property relations, transnational migrants and their incorporation in receiving societies, and the changing roles of the state and the family in systems of social security.

Common to all research programs at the Max Planck Institute is the comparative analysis of social transformation. It is primarily in this domain that its researchers contribute to knowledge as well as to anthropological theory.

Since 2000, the International Max Planck Research Schools (IMPRS) have become a permanent part of the efforts of the Max Planck Society to promote international PhD students. Talented junior scientists are offered the opportunity to earn a doctorate under excellent research conditions. A shared feature of the graduate programs is the close collaboration with universities.

The MPI for Social Anthropology coordinates two International Max Planck Research Schools:

- **International Max Planck Research School on Retaliation, Mediation and Punishment (IMPRS REMEP)**
  
  The REMEP research agenda focuses on fundamental questions common to the fields of sociology, social anthropology and jurisprudence as to how peace, social order and social control is negotiated, constructed, maintained and re-gained. These issues are of particular significance in the context of conflict and post-conflict societies, where traditional approaches to mediation and reconciliation are being adopted in the search for modern strategies of conflict resolution.

- **International Max Planck Research School for the Anthropology, Archaeology and History of Eurasia (IMPRS ANARCHIE)**
  
  ANARCHIE is devoted to the investigation of diachronic processes in society and culture in the Old World, approaching them in a comparative transnational framework across the entire landmass of Asia and Europe (including the southern shores of the Mediterranean). It aims at the cross-fertilization of anthropological, archaeological and historical theories and methods.

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Research Institutes

Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology

International Max Planck Research School for the Anthropology, Archaeology and History of Eurasia (IMPRS ANARCHIE)

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Halle – Small city, big feel

With a population of 230,000, Halle is comparatively small among Germany’s major cities. But with the historic university, numerous additional research and educational institutions, numerous museums, its vibrant arts and cultural scene, and its role as an important business location and transportation hub, Halle’s impact and reach extends far beyond the region. Halle can look back on over 1,200 years of illustrious history, as many poets and philosophers have left their mark on Halle over the centuries.

The city’s most famous son is the composer Georg Friedrich Handel (1685–1759). His birthplace, the Handel House, is today a music museum and a Handel memorial. The Handel House hosts the annual Handel Festival. Each summer, internationally renowned singers, instrumentalists and conductors come to Halle to bring Handel’s legendary work to the stage and to celebrate his music together with audiences from around the world.

Worth living city

The diversity of Halle, which combines a lively and diverse cultural scene with a delightful landscape and natural beauty, makes it hard to describe in just one word. And then there are the open-minded, good-natured people that give this colorful city its flavor – somewhere between cosmopolitan and cozy (“gemütlich”).

Music and theater lovers can enjoy concerts, drama or cabaret theater on one of Halle’s many stages. The Staatskapelle orchestra and the opera house offer a world-class musical program. Among Halle’s most important museums are the Moritzburg Castle art gallery (Gemäldegalerie), and the State Museum of Prehistory (Landesmuseum für Vorgeschichte), home of the famous Nebra Sky Disc.

Out on the town, the many pubs and restaurants packed into the old city’s narrow alleyways make for lively and convivial evening hours. And there is plenty for nature lovers, too. The Saale River winds its way through the city forming several attractive islands. The Peißnitzinsel landscape park is perfect for relaxing and taking long walks, as are the meadows on the banks of the Saale or the Halle city forest. For those looking for more than just leisure activity, Halle’s many sport clubs offer something for every kind of sports enthusiast.

Halle – The affordable city

Compared to other big cities in Germany, Halle has a lot to offer – and usually at lower prices. The cost of living in Halle is moderate; even in one of Halle’s attractive Jugendstil quarters, affordable housing is not hard to find. And from there, the city is very easy to navigate. Whether it’s the Universitätsplatz, Halle’s historic city center, the opera house or city park – just about everything is but a few minutes away, either on foot, by bicycle or with Halle’s public transport system. And Halle itself is centrally located in Germany. Many attractive cities such as Berlin, Leipzig, Dresden, Jena, Erfurt and Weimar are less than two hours away by car or train.
The Department of Scientific Affairs is the central service point for international scholars at Martin Luther University and all other research facilities in town. Its team offers all-around guidance and support for international researchers and scholars (doctoral students, postdocs, professors and visiting scholars), as well as support for the hosting institutions and supervisors in the faculties.

The department’s team is there to help international scientists prepare for their stays in Halle. We’ll gladly provide you with important information about living in and around Halle and offer individual support to assist in getting you settled.

Halle’s Department of Scientific Affairs also plays a central role in the network of investors, entrepreneurs and founders of start-ups, who can rely on individual support for realizing their entrepreneurial visions.

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