

University of Duisburg-Essen

Few people know that Duisburg is one of the oldest university towns in Germany. Duisburg's first university was officially opened in 1655, but was dissolved in 1818 in favor of the newly founded university in Bonn. The old University of Duisburg was a university in Duisburg. In 1968, it changed its name in Gerhard Mercator University.

Its origins trace back to the 1555 decision to create a university for the unified duchies at the Lower Rhine that were later to be merged into Prussia. After the foundation of an academic college in 1559, stayed until 1655, a university was founded by Frederick William, Elector of Brandenburg, the "Great Elector". It existed until 1818, when it was closed by King Frederick William III of Prussia. The university had four faculties: Theology, Medicine, Law and Arts. During its period of activity it was one of the central and leading universities of the western provinces of Prussia. In the time the university existed many famous men graduated. In 1968, the University of Duisburg was established again but with the name the Gerhard Mercator University.

Now the University of Duisburg-Essen is Germany's youngest university, through the merger of University of Duisburg and University of Essen in 2003. The university is situated in the central and western part of the Ruhr area and both campuses were founded in 1972. About 32,000 students are now enrolled in thirteen departments. A research staff of 3,000 academics and non-academics fuel this university. The spectrum of academic disciplines ranges from the humanities, social, economic and political sciences, to medical engineering, natural and life sciences, to the highly regarded art and design departments. Students from 120 different countries are enrolled at the university and provide a lively international community.

University of Duisburg-Essen offers 47 undergraduate programs, 64 teacher-training programs, 13 graduate, and 2 postgraduate programs with an increasing number of Bachelor's and Graduate degrees. The "International Studies in Engineering" programs are partially taught in English and, therefore, attract students from all over the world. In the area of research University of Duisburg-Essen has made a strategic decision to focus its resources on four major areas: "Logistics and Transport", "Nanoscience", "Medical Biotechnology" and "Empirical research in Education and Pedagogy". With various projects involving basic and applied research the university has made a name for itself extending far beyond national borders. Combined with close connections to affiliated institutes, companies and institutions, University of Duisburg-Essen is an enjoyable place for study and research.