TODAY FOR TOMORROW

UNIKASSEL VERSITÄT

UNI KASSEL: THE UNIVERSITY OF IDEAS

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The University of Kassel is a young, modern and vibrant university, characterized by its openness to new ideas in every single area of its work. Receptivity, initiative, transdisciplinary thinking and unconventionality are traits we cherish and welcome in studies, research and teaching, but also in knowledge transfer and entrepreneurial ventures, to which the university provides special support. We aspire to develop, validate and implement ideas – even if they are not yet in the mainstream.

The University of Kassel has an unconventional profile with fields of expertise in nature, technology, culture and society. Questions relating to the future of our planet and our existence such as globalisation, climate change, environmental protection as well as questions regarding the evolution of technical systems or demographic change are characteristic of our profile in both research and teaching.

A YOUNG UNIVERSITY WITH HISTORY

A YOUNG UNIVERSITY WITH HISTORY

Despite its youth, the University of Kassel does look back upon an eventful history and a series of academic predecessors. Prominent among these antecedents is the Academie de Peinture et de Sculpture (1777) – which lives on in the School of Art and Design at the University of Kassel and in the Faculty of Architecture, Urban Planning and Landscape Planning – the Polytechnische Lehranstalt (1832) as the origin of our engineering department, the Deutsche Kolonialschule (1898) in Witzenhausen, which developed into the Faculty of Organic Agricultural Sciences and, not to forget, the Landesbibliothek (state library) founded in 1580 and now part of the university library.

In 1971, the University of Kassel was founded as a comprehensive university during the time of the educational reforms. It provided first and second level degree programmes and had a strong focus on application and practice, characteristics now established throughout Europe. Many initiatives started in Kassel: from research into renewable energies to the development of organic agricultural sciences and from progressive school reforms to the support of entrepreneurial efforts. Since 2002, the university has been called "University of Kassel". It defines itself as an institution equally strong in teaching and research, and as an international university that shares responsibility for the prosperous development of the region. At the same time, we are continuously developing and improving our openness and dedication to the challenges of society and environment.

CREATIVITY AND CRITICAL ANALYSIS

With more than 22,000 students and approximately 1,900 scholars, among them more than 300 professors, the University of Kassel is one of Germany's mid-sized universities. It plays a key role in the development of the northern Hessen region, but its profile also attracts many students and scholars from across Germany and abroad.

We nurture creativity, critical analysis, ethical reflection and unconventional thinking. Extending the development of academic fields beyond their boundaries is another marker for many University of Kassel research centres searching for sustainable answers to our most important questions. This focus offers scholars and scientists exciting challenges and also paves the way for students into their lives and careers.

CREATIVITY AND CRITICAL ANALYSIS

SOCIETY

TECHNOLOGY

NATURE

CULTURE

THE UNIVERSITY AND ITS FIELDS OF COMPETENCE

FIELD OF COMPETENCE NATURE

FIELD OF COMPETENCE: NATURE

In order to overcome the challenges our future holds for us, it is crucial to understand und utilize the principles of nature and the environment. The University of Kassel contributes to this endeavour in its Field of Competence: Nature by educating young minds in the natural, environmental and agricultural sciences in a multitude of courses that range from astrophysics to zoology. In addition to that, the university is known for its widely respected research contributions in the areas of sustainability and environmental protection, renewable energies and coping with climate change.

In Kassel, the three classic fields of the natural sciences – physics, chemistry and biology – work in very close cooperation with other fields of study, especially engineering, agricultural sciences as well as urban and landscape planning. With over 60 fields of study that boast an environmental focus, the University of Kassel has established a clear profile in the area of environmental research and education. More than 200 environment-related courses each year are the result of Kassel's Europe-wide leading role in the field.

In addition, the field of nanostructure and molecular sciences has developed into a highly promising research focus in Kassel. Physicists, biologists and chemists cooperatively research alongside electrical and mechanical engineers into the basics of nanotechnology, which is regarded as a key technology of the 21st century, and develop applications in the material sciences, information technology, bio sensor technology, molecular biology and medical diagnostics.

FIELD OF COMPETENCE: TECHNOLOGY

This is where we are inventing the world of tomorrow: the fields of civil and environmental engineering, mechanical engineering, electronic engineering and IT are all characterized by innovation and proximity to application. Kassel engineers and scientists are focusing on tasks of the future: innovative material development, exploitation of thermo-mechanical processes, simulation of technical systems, vehicle systems technology, designing interfaces between human and machine, the problems surrounding mobile internet and the development of multimedia learning environments.

This expertise in technology has also proved hugely beneficial in addressing environmental issues. In cooperation with colleagues from other areas, Kassel scientists have earned an excellent reputation with regard to sustainable material flow systems, regenerative energy systems and energy efficiency, in the use of bio matter as a source of energy and material, in environment-friendly planning, producing and building as well as in integrated aquatic ecosystems management.

The University of Kassel is situated and well-connected in a strong technology cluster in the region of northern Hessen where it cooperates closely with innovative companies and institutions which help shape Germany's technological renewal. Prominent among them is the Fraunhofer Institute for Wind Energy and Energy Systems Technology (IWES), which originated at the University of Kassel, as well as the idE Institute for Decentralized Energy Technologies.

FIELD OF COMPETENCE TECHNOLOGY

FIELD OF COMPETENCE CULTURE

FIELD OF COMPETENCE: CULTURE

In art and culture, Kassel forges a strong link between its historic roots and uncompromising modernity. Kassel is one of the few German universities that encompass a school of arts, the tradition of which reaches back to its foundation in 1777. After the war, the School of Art and Design brought forth the "documenta" – a modern art event of global recognition, which still maintains close links to the University of Kassel.

The School of Art and Design is a place of constant activity with and around visual worlds and critical discourse about the visualization of content – these focal points span from the fine arts to visual communication and product design. Countless awards and accolades including two Oscars for animated shorts are a testament to the creative force of our lecturers and students. The connection to our art school also opens up opportunities for exchange and cooperation between artistic and scientific fields. Our strong faculties of the arts, teaching subjects such as linguistics, literature, media sciences, philosophy, psychology and history, architecture and music go further than just their own range of topics but also enable interdisciplinary connections and the travel between disciplines where they interface.
In addition, the university and the School of Art and Design play a key role in the cultural life of the region.

FIELD OF COMPETENCE: SOCIETY

Complex developmental processes, including the paradigm shift from an industrial society to an intellectual one and from national to international structures, continue to present enormous challenges. Our scholars are highly involved in exactly this development: whether in education, economy, science or technology, whether in the professional context, in the structural shift of cities and regions, in the planning of human communities and international communication. The spectrum of subjects in the educational sciences and the humanities, in linguistics and literature, in cultural studies and economics, architecture and urban and landscape planning as well as many other fields, offers an unusually vast base for answering exactly these questions.

Education facilitates the management of major changes. But in Kassel, education itself also is the subject of research: Kassel boasts a unique cluster in the field of empirical school and university research, teaching and learning research, and comparative international university and occupational research. Kassel scholars place particular emphasis on questions of e-learning, information technology, the digitized society and media development. The structural change of European cities and regions, the shift in the world of employment, gender studies and teacher education held in close proximity to schools, are other topics the University of Kassel contributes to. In this way, social studies can help turn a change into an improvement.

FIELD OF COMPETENCE SOCIETY

RESEARCH FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

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Many Kassel research projects are dedicated to furthering scientific fields to the very edge of their range. This is why research is organized not only by marking the classic distinction between faculties.

Within its fields of competence, the University of Kassel has established the following focus areas:

- Environment, climate and energy research
- IT-Design
- Simulation of technical systems
- Vehicle systems technology
- Material and product technology
- Nanostructure and molecular sciences
- Urban and regional research
- Educational research including university research
- Global social policy, development policy and human working conditions
- Culture and gender research

Several research approaches have a common platform in scientific centres and interdisciplinary research groups across different faculties. Among these are:

- The International Centre for Higher Education Research Kassel INCHER
- The Center for Environmental Systems Research CESR
- The Center for Interdisciplinary Nanostructure Science and Technology CINSaT
- The International Center for Development and Decent Work ICDD
- The Competence Centre for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation CliMA
- The Research Center for Information System Design ITeG
- The Centre of Competence for Distributed Electric Power Technology KDEE
- The Centre for Empirical Education Research ZELL
- The Automotive Systems Research Center FAST

COURSES OF STUDY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KASSEL

COURSES OF STUDY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KASSEL

Few other German universities offer as wide a range in courses of study as Kassel does. From natural sciences and engineering all the way to the arts and humanities – the University of Kassel's unique profile offers numerous fascinating opportunities. Our traditionally strong subjects are the humanities, cultural and social studies as well as teacher education. Environmentally-orientated education and promotion of young talent are also University of Kassel trademarks.

- AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES:
  study programmes in organic agricultural science, sustainable international agriculture, international food business and consumer studies, landscape architecture and landscape planning.

- ENGINEERING:
  architecture, civil engineering, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, mechatronics, urban and regional planning, environmental engineering, industrial engineering, electrical communication engineering, optical nanotechnologies engineering, renewable energy and energy efficiency, renewable energy and energy efficiency for the MENA region.

- ART, AESTHETICS AND ART HISTORY:
  art history, product design, visual communication, fine arts, art education.

- LINGUISTICS AND CULTURAL STUDIES:
  English and American culture and business studies, English and American studies, German studies, German literature, German linguistics, teaching for nursing and health-care professions, philosophy of forms of knowledge, history, European history, philosophy, business romance languages / French, business romance languages / Spanish, German as a foreign and second language, German-Hungarian master programme "German linguistics, culture and literature".

- LAW, ECONOMICS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES:
  political science, psychology, social work, sociology, business law, economics, business studies, economic behaviour and governance, empirical educational research, European master in business studies, global political economy, higher education research and implementation, industrial production management, communications management and dialog marketing, labour policies and globalisation, marketing and interactive marketing, multidimensional organisational consulting – supervision, coaching, organisational development, sustainable management, public management/public administration, social education in training and continuing education, clinical psychology and psychotherapy, social security law and social economy, business law, environmental law, economy, psychology and management.

- MATHEMATICS AND NATURAL SCIENCES:
  biology, computer science, mathematics, nanostructure and molecular sciences, physics.

- TEACHER TRAINING COURSES FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL, SECONDARY SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES:
  (depending on grade) German, English, French, art, music, Catholic religion, Protestant religion, basic-science, PE, vocational science, biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, history, politics and economics, vocational education in metal working/electrical engineering, business education.

The current range of courses and more information is available at
www.uni-kassel.de

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

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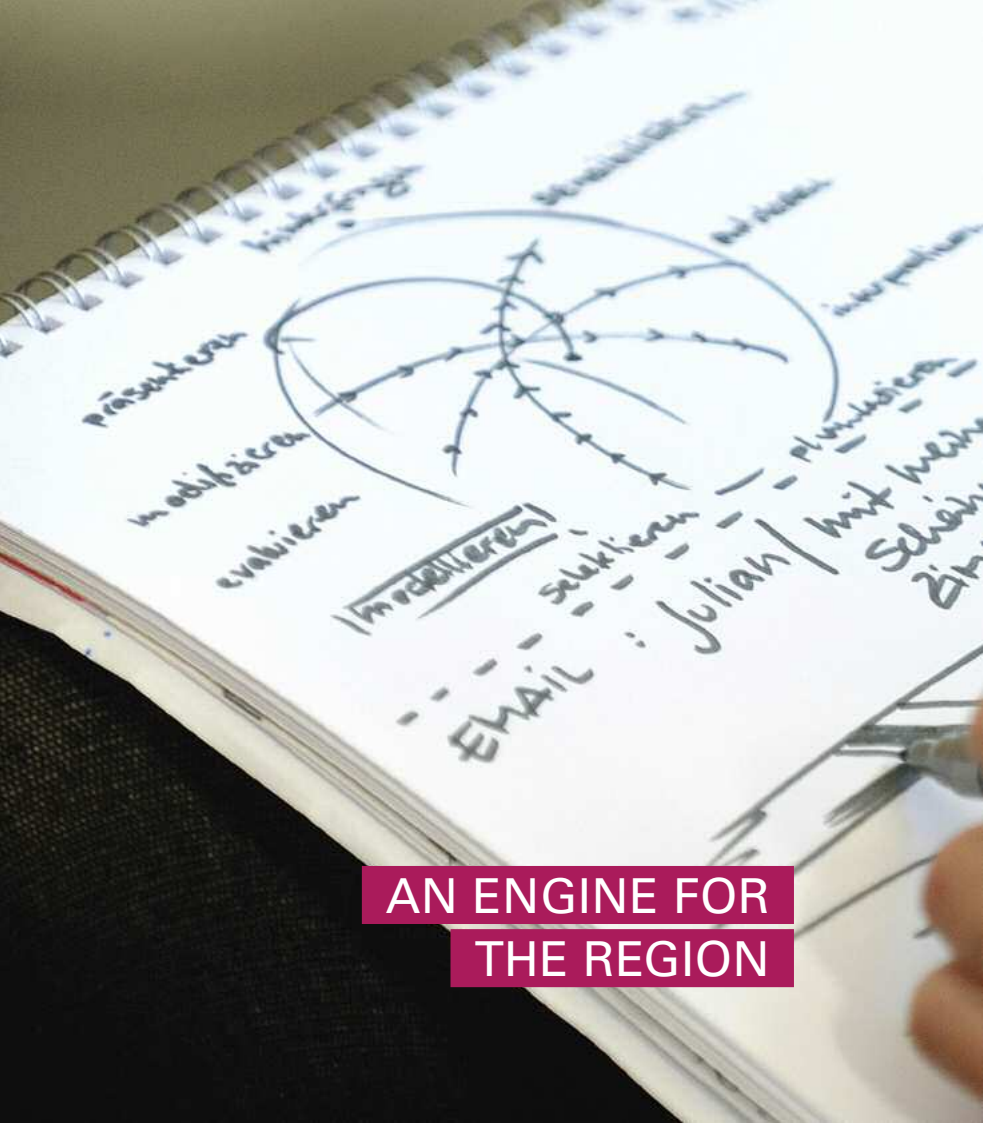
Educating intellectual and professional leaders who meet the challenges of tomorrow's world is an important goal for the University of Kassel. We also place a special emphasis on ensuring access to education for all: without social, gender, ethnic or national distinctions.

The University of Kassel offers its students comprehensive services regarding their studies – from preparatory courses all the way to career services and an Alumni Network. The promotion of equal opportunities for women in science, and the reconciliation of work/studies and family is a central theme for our university. This is why we are certified as a family-friendly university providing e.g. parent-child rooms and childcare facilities on campus.

INTERNATIONALLY ORIENTED

The University of Kassel is committed to further developing the European scientific tradition as well as internationalisation. Students and scholars from around the world not only shape the international atmosphere on campus – they are also valuable mediators for a vibrant link between the region and the country and a rapidly changing world. The university is part of a worldwide network of more than 500 foreign partners. This includes links to other universities, but Kassel is also connected through a variety of cross-border, international research projects and bilateral agreements in research and teaching, as well as through the active exchange of scientists, researchers and students. At the same time, the university is particularly involved in global developmental cooperation with partners from developing and emerging countries in Asia, Latin America and Africa. English-language study programmes and "Joint Study Programmes" allow double diplomas with foreign partner universities. Attractive short programmes such as the "International Summer University" and the "International Winter University" are in great demand from students from all over the world.

INTERNATIONALLY ORIENTED



AN ENGINE FOR THE REGION

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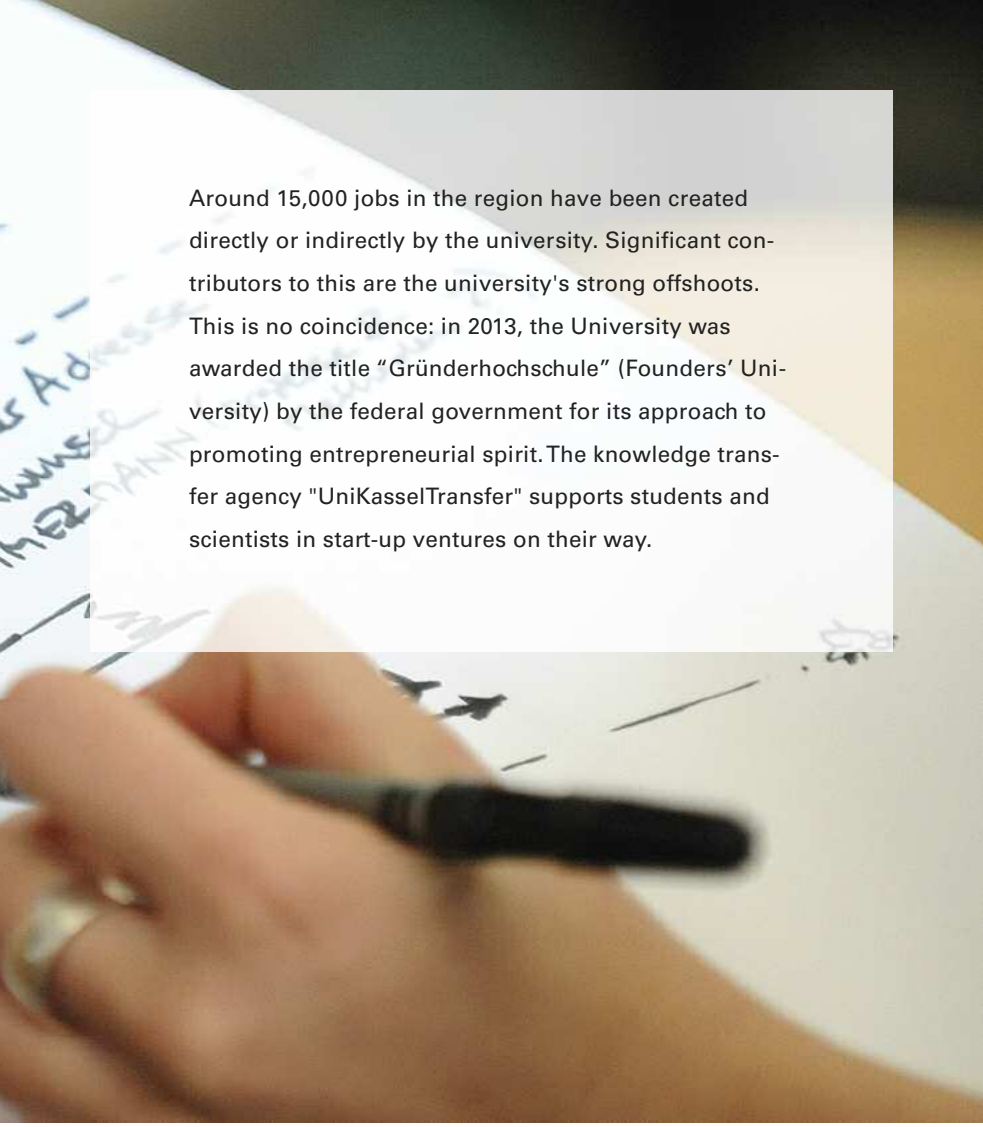
The University of Kassel is an important player in the region: science and art provide an important impetus to the documenta host Kassel and the northern Hessen region. Knowledge transfer, offshoots, the establishment of new research and development facilities in the vicinity of the university, active contributions to knowledge-based regional development, but also cultural initiatives and urban development contributions are part of the university's mission. In this way, the university has become the engine of a dynamic, emerging area in the centre of Germany.



Around 15,000 jobs in the region have been created directly or indirectly by the university. Significant contributors to this are the university's strong offshoots. This is no coincidence: in 2013, the University was awarded the title “Gründerhochschule” (Founders’ University) by the federal government for its approach to promoting entrepreneurial spirit. The knowledge transfer agency "UniKasselTransfer" supports students and scientists in start-up ventures on their way.

THE MANAGEMENT SCHOOL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF KASSEL

A university like Kassel’s is also highly valued as a strong competence partner for staff development, training and qualification at university level. UNIKIMS, the Management School of the University of Kassel, meets this demand by systematically offering the following courses of study:

- Part-time Master Programmes and MBAs
- Part-time Management programmes for future leaders and managers
- Part-time courses of study and seminars for young professionals (university entrance qualification)
- Consultancy and customized in-house training

MORE THAN ONE CAMPUS

MORE THAN ONE CAMPUS

Where once railways and weapons were manufactured, knowledge and education are produced today: the central campus of the University of Kassel started to grow in the late 70s on the former Henschel company site in the city centre of Kassel. Several Henschel buildings that survived the war are now part of the university, but most of the campus is made up of new postmodern buildings. Here is where the administration, the central library and other central facilities of numerous faculties are situated.

In order to cater to the rapidly increasing numbers of students, the central campus is being extended over a large area to the north. Construction started in 2011. Even more buildings of great architectural value are being created on another former industrial site, but this remarkable piece of urban planning also includes protected industrial architecture.

In addition, the university maintains a number of other locations. One of them is the School of Art and Design, located south of the city centre, on the edge of the baroque Karlsaue park in the middle of a popular residential neighbourhood.

The location in Witzenhausen, about 35 kilometers east of Kassel, is unique in many ways. The internationally acclaimed Faculty of Organic Agricultural Sciences attracts many international students to the small town on the Werra. The faculty has its roots in the "Deutsche Kolonialschule" (German Colonial School), founded in 1898, and its facilities include a medieval abbey – the Wilhelmitenkloster.

THE STATE AND MURHARD LIBRARY

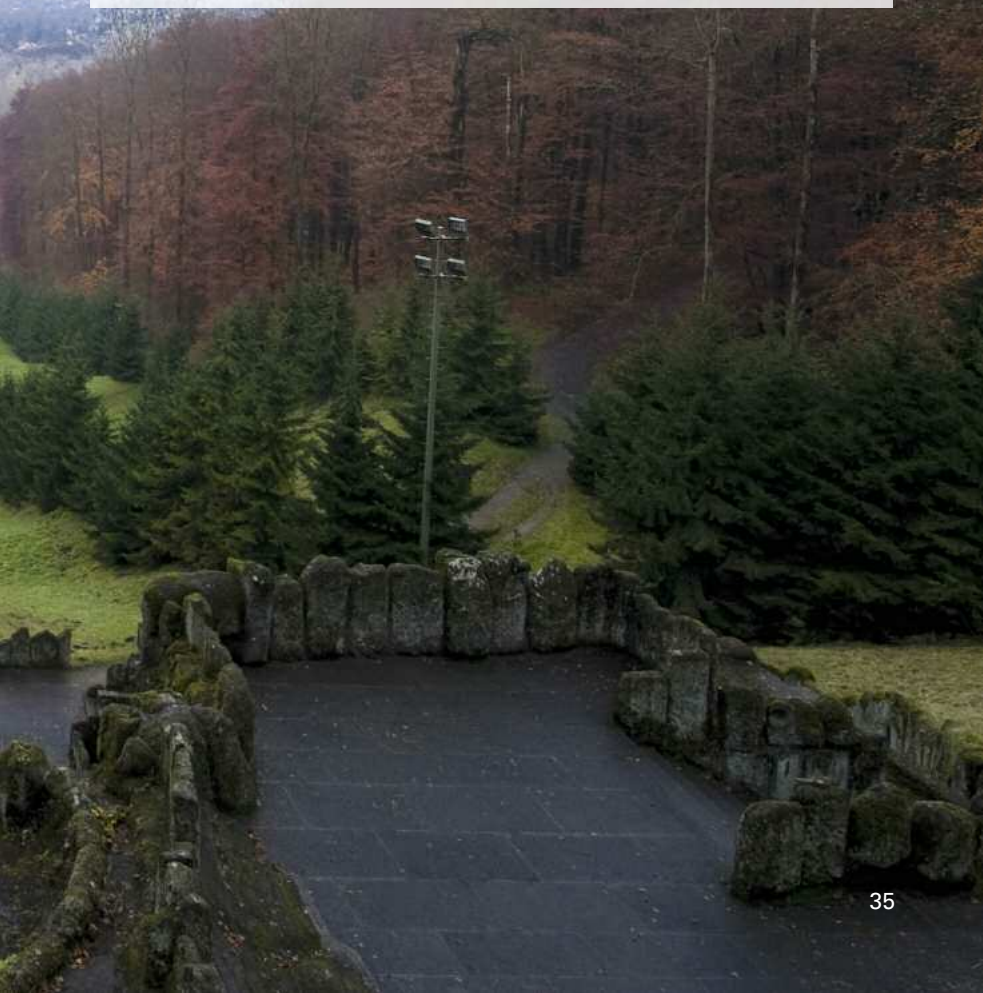
The "Murhardsche Bibliothek" located at Brüder-Grimm-Platz is an important part of the University and State Library of Kassel. This library alone houses more than 10,000 manuscripts and half a million volumes on linguistics and literature, German and specifically the Hessian history, philosophy, music, law and medicine. The Hildebrandslied from the 9th Century (the oldest larger piece of German poetry) as well as many other treasures of art is kept in the vault of the "Murhardsche".

THE STATE AND MURHARD LIBRARY

THE UNIVERSITY IN ITS CITY

THE UNIVERSITY IN ITS CITY

With around 200,000 inhabitants, Kassel looks back on a rich and varied 1100-year history. Following a culturally significant period as a princely residence and its industrialization and urban expansion, Kassel's city centre was almost completely destroyed in World War II, and later modernized in the style of the fifties. In post-war Germany, the city suffered from its peripheral location, but the reunification brought it back into the centre of Germany and Europe. These days, Kassel is experiencing a dynamic change, in which the university actively participates. Several studies named Kassel as one of the cities with the most dynamic economic development and with the highest quality of life compared to other German cities. World-class art and enchanting parks are two more of Kassel's trademarks.



The documenta is also inextricably linked with the city. As the world's most important exhibition of contemporary art, the documenta establishes Kassel at a centre of the art world every five years. But Kassel is even more than that: small galleries present works by young, urban artists, and quality independent cinemas show the latest works in art film. In addition to the three-division state theater and the Komödie Kassel, a lively alternative art scene has developed in the city.

Kassel is also one of the four largest museum sites in the Federal Republic. The Schloss Wilhelmshöhe with its collection of antiques and Old Masters, the Neue Galerie with art from the 19th century until the present, and the Fridericianum with contemporary art, are all of nationwide importance. If that wasn't enough, the personal 1812/1815 copy of Grimm's Fairy Tales by the Brothers Grimm – who lived in Kassel for 30 years – is still housed within the city. Three castles along with the baroque Karlsaue park and the spacious mountain park Wilhelmshöhe – declared world heritage – with the crowning Hercules-Octagon are the most important symbols of the city.

Statue of the Brothers Grimm in Kassel

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