

(long text)

Established 1971 – 50 Years of the University of Bremen

Bremen is known for being a cosmopolitan and tolerant city. Countless trade connections have led out into the world since the Middle Ages and have created a mentality here by the Weser that has always been curious about international influences and new ideas. For a long time, however, the city lacked a strong connection to the wide world of science.

This changed 50 years ago: A university was founded on a green field in Bremen, which was to combine research and teaching on a single central campus. When the first semester started on October 19, 1971, the young reform university had only 459 students. Together with highly motivated, mostly very young professors, they carried out pioneering work. The “Bremen Model” was practiced on campus – a system that was supposed to overcome boundaries. Boundaries between research and teaching, and boundaries between the various scientific disciplines. The founders were convinced that this was the only way to find answers to society’s most pressing questions.

Essential Ingredients of Modern University Education

At the time, the Bremen Model earned a lot of criticism, because it broke with some established university traditions. Many of the academic establishment regarded it as too radical. Which is why many young people found it so attractive. In the 1980s, this approach underwent a successful reform, but its key elements remained untouched. Because ultimately, as early as 1971, the Bremen Model anticipated many developments that were to come to all German universities: Today, research-based learning and interdisciplinary collaboration beyond disciplinary boundaries are considered essential ingredients of modern university education.

In 2021 – 50 years after its foundation – more than 23,000 individuals from more than 120 countries are studying, teaching, researching, and working at the University of Bremen. Much has changed, and the university has become larger, increasingly modern, and more diverse. Today, for example, the university offers well over 100 degree courses covering almost every area of life, from the deep sea to outer space. The university’s experts are in demand. They work on national and international projects that range from basic research to practical applications and provide important impetus to society. And the Bremen Model is still present. After all, compared to other universities, the hierarchies at the University of Bremen are quite flat. People learn, teach, and research on an equal footing, with respect and tolerance. Moreover, early on in the university’s degree programs, great emphasis is placed on independent research. Students are encouraged to acquire problem-solving skills and assume responsibility as early as in their first semesters.

“The Way the University Is Going Will Play a Key Role in Bremen’s Future”

The University of Bremen has retained its pioneering spirit of the early days. Thus, for instance, it is part of the “YUFE – Young Universities for the Future of Europe” alliance and is cooperating with nine other universities and four non-academic partners to create one of the first European universities. As a climate university, it also focuses on what is probably the most pressing issue of our day: The university is strongly committed to climate and environmental research. As such, it is, among other things, the only German university to have co-founded the global “International Universities Climate Alliance” (IUCA) – a unique community of 35 universities leading the way in climate research on a global scale.

*“The University of Bremen has undergone an impressive development since its foundation in 1971,” says **Professor Bernd Scholz-Reiter, President of the University of Bremen.** “It is strong in research and an inspiring place of education – on a national and international level. It is also known all over the world for its pioneering and team spirit. In our anniversary year, we want to show this spirit to the public and share it with the community. All Bremen residents, who also co-finance the university to a large extent with their tax money, need to know and appreciate what the University of Bremen has to offer them.”*

Bremen Mayor and President of the Senate Dr. Andreas Bovenschulte is also pleased with the development of the university and its positive impact on the city: *“50 years of the University of Bremen represents an incredible success story! The way the University is going will play a key role in Bremen’s future. It is essential for Bremen as a location for science and business. Our university represents an innovative and attractive Bremen. It is a magnet for young talent.”*

50 Years of the University of Bremen – These Are the Planned Events:

In the anniversary year, the university would like to allow all interested parties to see and experience how the university is contributing to the community. In times of the pandemic, we will carefully plan and adapt these events to the valid regulations.

50 REASONS WHY – The Grand Exhibition Throughout Bremen to Discover for Yourself

The “50 Reasons WHY” exhibition started in March. The event is to answer one thing above all – Why has the University of Bremen been so tightly knit with its home for the past five decades and is such an important part of the Bremen DNA? And where can the university be found throughout the state and in the community? The exhibition has the aim of showing what has been achieved by people from and with the university. Based on 50 examples, you can find out where the university is involved and how it has changed Bremen since 1971. From March to August, 50 sites will be accessible across the city. In October, an exhibition in the Lower Town Hall will bring the sites together. You can find out which locations are part of “50 Reasons WHY” at <https://www.uni-bremen.de/en/50years/events/50-reasons-why>.

Digital OPEN CAMPUS WEEK

From June 7 to 11, 2021, the traditional OPEN CAMPUS event will take place as a digital OPEN CAMPUS WEEK for the first time ever. For five days, our faculties, institutes, and other university institutions want to show off their talents under the motto “OPEN WORLDS – SHARE KNOWLEDGE.” The organization team has developed a diverse and interactive concept, which will allow you to digitally experience and discover the university. A mixture of live formats and other offers, such as videos, podcasts, and info texts are planned. The majority of what is being offered will be accessible via the internet by means of a digital map – even after the OPEN CAMPUS WEEK.

CAMPUS CITY

In fall, the University of Bremen plans to invigorate Bremen’s city with a wide range of research and teaching topics. CAMPUS CITY is scheduled from October 14, 2021 – 50 years to the day after the university was founded. On this historic date, a celebratory reception is also planned to take place with invited guests at City Hall. In times of pandemic, we will have to decide closer to the time how CAMPUS CITY and the reception can be realized.

“50 Years of the University of Bremen” Project Fund

The university has set up a project fund to create a diverse program with students, teaching staff, researchers, and university staff in the areas of technology and administration. In this way, additional projects by university members will be supported alongside the central anniversary events. They will be realized in the anniversary year in the form of exhibitions, lectures, and other creative activities.

50 Years of the University of Bremen – We would like to Thank Our Partners

University of Bremen Alumni Network
AOK – Die Gesundheitskasse
Bremen NEXT
Bremen Vier
Die Sparkasse Bremen



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of Bremen

"unifreunde" Association of the Friends of the University of Bremen and Jacobs University
Bremer Wertpapierbörse
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For further information on 50 Years of the University of Bremen visit:

www.uni-bremen.de/en/50years

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