

University of Bayreuth launches Gateway Office in China on 8 April 2016

The University of Bayreuth has maintained a close partnership with the Shanghai International Studies University (SISU) for the past 30 years. Today, University President Prof. Dr. Stefan Leible cut the ribbon for the University of Bayreuth's new gateway office on the campus of SISU in Shanghai's Hongkou district.

Ever since it opened its doors in 1975, the University of Bayreuth has been selectively developing its strategic international collaborations, including partnerships with universities in China. The University currently cooperates with more than ten higher education institutions in China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan.

Bayreuth's oldest partnership, dating back to 1986, is with the Shanghai International Studies University (abbreviated SISU). The core of this strategic partnership is the jointly coordinated bachelor's and master's programme "German/Economics", which has become a prime example of successful bilateral cooperation in China in the area of teaching. SISU is also the focal point of the University of Bayreuth's alumni network in China, which counts several hundred joint alumni among its members.

On the basis of this 30-year partnership, the University launched a Gateway Office on SISU's Hongkou campus on 8 April 2016. This new office in China brings the strategic partnership to the next level and provides a service centre for all members of the University of Bayreuth and the university's Chinese partners.



Opening of the new Gateway Office on 8 April 2016, left to right: Dr. Zhang Hongling (Director of the Office of International Cooperation and Exchange at the Shanghai International Studies University), Dr. Jiang Feng (Chairman of the University Board at the Shanghai International Studies University), Prof. Dr. Stefan Leible (President of the Universität Bayreuth), and Dr. Amim Heinemann (Director of the International Office at the University of Bayreuth).

University President Prof. Dr. Stefan Leible, who conducted the opening of the Gateway Office, referred to the event as an important moment in the history of the University of Bayreuth and a milestone in the university's international development: "When this fruitful collaboration in research and teaching began, the University of Bayreuth had only been in existence for ten years. Thanks to the current development of a new dual degree programme and the establishment of jointly supervised doctoral projects as part of the new Gateway Office, our collaboration is now entering a new phase. A few years ago, our



cooperation was extended to include the fields of English and American studies. Today, representatives of both universities are discussing new fields of collaboration such as African studies.”

• **Responsibilities of the University of Bayreuth’s Gateway Office in China include:**

- serving as an information/ contact point to support Chinese and Bayreuth students and instructors
- enhancing cooperation in research and teaching
- establishing and maintaining contact with institutions in science and industry
- assisting the University of Bayreuth in recruiting and selecting qualified Chinese students and doctoral researchers
- establishing and maintaining contact with the University of Bayreuth’s partner network in the Greater China Region
- providing alumni services

China plays a crucial role in the University of Bayreuth’s international strategy. At around 25% of the international student body, Chinese students represent the largest international student group on Bayreuth’s campus.

In addition, each year more and more German students are choosing to spend a semester or year abroad at one of the University of Bayreuth’s Chinese partner universities. And opportunities for academic exchange continue to grow from year to year. University President Prof. Dr. Stefan Leible shared that “In the past several days, we signed agreements with Donghua University in Shanghai and Zhejiang University in Hangzhou.”

• **The University is in close cooperation with the following universities:**

- in Chengdu:
 - o Southwest Jiaotong University (since 2011)
- in Peking:
 - o Peking University (since 1993)
 - o Beijing Institute of Technology (since 2008)
- in Qingdao:
 - o Qingdao University (since 1998)
- in Shanghai:
 - o Shanghai International Studies University (SISU) (since 1986)
 - o University of Shanghai for Science and Technology (USST) (since 2012)
 - o Shanghai University of Sport (SUS) (since 2007)
 - o Donghua University (as of 13 April 2016)
- in Wuhan:
 - o Huazhong University of Science and Technology (since 2007)
- In Hangzhou:
 - o Zhejiang University (as of 11 April 2016)
- in Hong Kong:
 - o City University of Hong Kong (since 2014)
 - o Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) (since 2013)



- in Taiwan:
 - o Fu Jen Catholic University (since 2011)
 - o Chinese Culture University (since 2009)

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The University of Bayreuth at a Glance

The University of Bayreuth is a young, research-oriented campus university. The University's founding mission in 1975 was to support interdisciplinary research and teaching and to develop interdisciplinary research priorities with which it could strengthen its own profile. Its research programmes and programmes of study are frequently updated and cover the natural sciences, law, business and economics, languages and literature, and cultural studies.

A good instructor-to-student ratio, high performance standards, interdisciplinary collaboration, and academic excellence have allowed the University to maintain its strong position in the rankings. The University of Bayreuth is included among the best young universities in the world in the Times Higher Education (THE) worldwide ranking "100 under 50".

The University of Bayreuth has been an international leader in African Studies for many years; the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS) is part of the Excellence Initiative by the German federal and state governments. High Pressure & High Temperature Research carried out at the Bavarian Research Institute of Experimental Geochemistry & Geophysics has also established a strong reputation worldwide. Polymer research at the University is a frontrunner in the funding ranking published by the German Research Foundation (DFG). The University of Bayreuth has a tight international network of strategically selected university partnerships.

There are currently around 13,500 students enrolled in 146 different programmes of study offered by the University's six faculties. With around 1,200 members of the academic staff (of whom there are 235 professors) and roughly 900 non-academic staff members, the University of Bayreuth is one of the region's largest employers.

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