



Science City Ulm, May 2008

Ulm University and Science City

Founded in 1967, Ulm University is the youngest university in the state of Baden-Württemberg. At the beginning, the *College of Medicine and Natural Sciences* had a clear focus on the disciplines the name suggests: biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics and medicine. This was how the original range of subjects looked. The founders explicitly attributed to this new institution of advanced education the character of a research university. The close contact among different subjects and the interdisciplinary character of research were encouraged and promoted. This concept of a “university under one roof” has been maintained over the years and has been exercised in the hiring of professors. Faculties have always ensured that the areas central to the work of new professors and of those who are already employed by the university continue to progress. This idea is the basis for concentrating on certain fields of research and the foundation of a series of collaborating research centres established at Ulm University over the years.

The university's excellent reputation is largely due to the high level of cooperation among the different disciplines. Many research awards and commissions for cooperation projects, whether in the fields of computer science, economics, engineering and mathematics or the natural and life sciences, are proof of this.

Since the university's foundation, the original range of disciplines has been enlarged. At present, Ulm University consists of four faculties: Natural Sciences; Engineering and Computer Science; Mathematics and Economics; and Medicine. It hosts around 7,000 students. Ulm University is renowned for its personalized atmosphere and for the close working relationship existing between students and professors. Its research profile is characterized by a focus on the life sciences and medicine, information and communication technologies, nano- and biomaterials as well as financial services and their mathematical methodology. Other specialized areas, such as pharmaceutical biotechnology, technology- and process-management, will be established in the near future. A new Bachelor course of study in psychology has recently been introduced.

The main university campus is located on a hill above the city of Ulm (*Eselsberg*) and houses a wide range of research and development centres as well as several hospitals that together comprise what is known as the Science City or *Wissenschaftsstadt*. The close proximity of academic institutions and industrial R&D allows improved interaction between academic teaching and research on the one hand and industrial needs on the other.

Situated between woods and grain fields, the campus offers space for recreation and an outstanding view over the city. The so called *Kunstpfad* (art trail) exhibits the artworks of internationally renowned and talented young artists distributed throughout the campus.



Awarding of the Hertie Senior Professorship 2009 to Prof. Frank Lehmann-Horn by Prof. Annette Schavan, Federal Minister, Federal Ministry of Education and Research.



Awarding of the Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize 2009 to Prof. Frank Kirchhoff (left) by Prof. Matthias Kleiner, President of the German Research Foundation (DFG, right).



Awarding of the Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize 2009 to Prof. Karl Lenhard Rudolph (left) by Prof. Matthias Kleiner, President of the German Research Foundation (DFG, right).



Prof. Guido Adler, Vicepresident for Medicine of Ulm University (middle) with the two prize-winners of the German Cancer Award in 2005, Prof. Richard Hautmann (left) and Prof. Thomas Wirth (right).



About the City of Ulm

Ulm/Neu-Ulm is an attractive twin city lying at the heart of southern Germany between Stuttgart and Munich. The 170,000 citizens of Ulm and Neu-Ulm are divided between the two states of Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria by the river Danube. The two municipal authorities cooperate and have grown into a common economic area. As the commercial and cultural heart of the region, they act in unanimity. Both cities have excellent traffic connections with the north-south and the east-west highways, six railway lines and five major state roads all intersecting here. Ulm's main train station is situated on an important rail route. The nearest airports are located in Stuttgart (approx. 80 km/50 miles) and Munich (approx. 145km/90 miles).

While Ulm is an ancient town, Neu-Ulm is relatively young. In Ulm, there are the charming Fisherman's and Tanners' Quarter with its old houses, alleyways and that air of medieval times. In Neu-Ulm, regularity in its architecture prevails since this was the only form considered to be stylish and elegant in the 19th century. Neu-Ulm was originally established as a counterpart to Ulm. Today, the two sister cities, though unlike, are both open to contemporary ideas of construction. The city centre of Ulm houses a mixture of stone monuments from its days as a free city of the Holy Roman Empire and more recently designed modern architecture, for example, the post-modern townhouse next to the gothic Münster and the historical market place with its city library in the form of a glass pyramid. Neu-Ulm has also come a long way with the modernisation of its city centre.



The twin city Ulm/Neu-Ulm offers a large variety of cultural events such as the *Museumsnacht* (Night of the Museums), *Internationales Donaufest* (International Danube Festival) and the *Ulmer Zelt*, one of many music festivals. There is a main theatre as well as several other smaller theatres. Whether sociable or fashionable, there are bars, pubs, cafés, and beer gardens to suit everyone's taste. The city's geographical proximity to the Allgäu, Lake Constance and the Alps offers the opportunity to enjoy sporting activities such as hiking, cycling, skiing and surfing. A survey from IHK Ulm (*Industrie- und Handelskammer Ulm*/Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ulm) has shown that the region of Ulm has the highest economic growth in Germany. The local economy expanded by 34 percent between 1996 and 2005. At the same time, the unemployment rate has been reduced by more than 40 percent and a mere 4 per cent of Ulm's population are currently out of work. It is in this context that Ulm has recently been declared as Germany's *Wohlfühlregion Nr. 1* (Feel-good-region no. 1) in a survey by Deutsche Bank. Its population is constantly growing and is the youngest in the state of Baden-Württemberg.

The Ulm region called *Stiller Star* (silent star) by the German newspaper *Handelsblatt* is an important centre for the pharmaceutical industry and biotechnology. Large corporations such as Boehringer Ingelheim, Rentschler Biotechnologie, Merckle, Cognis and Ratiopharm are located here and attest to the close interaction between the world of science and the economy.

