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Guidelines for the Mission Statement for Studies and Teaching at the
University of Rostock of 11 November 2022

Guidelines
for the Mission Statement for Studies and Teaching at the University of Rostock
of 11 November 2022

1. Scope and purpose

This Mission Statement defines the fundamental values and objectives for the (further) development of courses on offer and the framework conditions for studies and teaching.

2. Mission Statement for Studies and Teaching

Academic teaching at the University of Rostock is characterised by an awareness of social and regional responsibility, based on centuries-old tradition and history. Students should be empowered to work in a scientific and research-focused manner, which also includes a careful and critical approach to scientific information and research findings. Study should promote students' self-responsibility and self-organisation and lay the foundations for lifelong learning. The University of Rostock endeavours to ensure the studyability of its study programmes so that they meet the various requirements of different student groups, and so that students are prepared for the challenges of an increasingly flexible job market and for the interdisciplinary and international requirements of research and other areas of activity.

This Mission Statement defines fundamental values and objectives that should feature as central ideas in the curricula of the individual study programmes.

Student orientation

The University of Rostock offers a high level of academic study, allowing students to successfully complete their studies within a reasonable period of time. The ability of students to choose from a wide range of subjects that reflect their personal interests, to combine subjects, or to take (compulsory) electives from other subjects is the basis for a course of study geared to the individual. Studies and teaching are structured so as to take particular account of the heterogeneity of students and teaching staff. In this regard, the University expects students to take responsibility for their own learning process. The studyability of degree courses is ensured by the greatest possible flexibility in course structure, part-time study options, the use of additional digital learning resources, and needs-based counselling options. The compatibility of work/studies and family lives should be available to both members of teaching staff and students.

Social responsibility and democracy

Teaching and studies at the University should secure peace, foster and strengthen democratic relationships, enrich the co-existence of individuals from various nations, and take account of sustainability in goals and actions.

Students should develop an awareness of the challenges faced by society and a critical approach to scientific information and research findings. They are urged to actively participate in structuring teaching, for example, by participating in academic discussions and consciously engaging with socially relevant issues relating to their course of study and beyond. Studies and teaching should actively promote open-mindedness and tolerance, critical faculties and the acceptance of diversity alongside social commitment and equal opportunities.

Respect for one another and for democratic values form the basis for good teaching. Study should include mobility windows to promote open-mindedness and tolerance. Mobility windows offer students the opportunity for intercultural experiences and insights into the world of work. Inclusion should be ensured for students with special needs.

Interdisciplinary study

In teaching, the possibilities of the broad range of subjects characteristic of a comprehensive university are made available in order to enable the acquisition of interdisciplinary skills and future innovative results in research, particularly through interdisciplinary collaboration.

Students on all degree courses should be given the opportunity to benefit from the broad range of subjects at the University of Rostock and to acquire skills outside their own subject area. The aim is to open up opportunities for the networking of knowledge from different disciplines in order to develop complex problem-solving skills. To this end, study programmes take various forms that include a wide range of subsidiary subjects, elective areas, combined degree courses and specific interdisciplinary modules (e.g. lecture series). Combined degree courses form a central pillar of interdisciplinary study.

Skill and research-oriented teaching principles

Clearly defined skill-oriented learning and qualification objectives that are collectively conceived and discussed set out the teaching content and the types of courses and examinations offered. These take into account subject-related skills as well as skills that build character and prepare students for the labour market. The degree courses offer scope for incorporating current research findings into teaching and involving students in research at an early stage.

Regional responsibility

The University of Rostock considers itself to be particularly responsible for the labour market and the general public in the region. It fulfils this responsibility by offering a comprehensive range of teacher-training degree courses and professional development courses for schoolteachers as well as study and educational opportunities for professionals and the interested public. Its support and assistance for start-ups make a significant contribution to ensuring an innovative and future-oriented regional economy. Teaching should also reflect specific research topics that address regional challenges, potentially in cooperation with research institutes, companies based in the state, and civil society structures.

3. Entry into force

These Guidelines enter into force on the day after their publication in the University of Rostock's official bulletin. Drawn up following the decision passed by the Rectorate on 07 November 2022.

Rostock, 11 November 2022

The Rector
of the University of Rostock
University Professor Dr. Wolfgang Schareck