

Catholic University of Applied Sciences – An International Perspective



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Paderborn

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Aachen

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Content

Editorial	4 – 5
About us	6
North Rhine-Westphalia	7
Tasks	8 – 9
Guiding principles	10 – 11
Internationalisation	12 – 13
Around the world	14
Cooperation projects	15 – 19
Erasmus+	20
Practical orientation	21
Research	22
Transfer	23
Degree programmes	24
Facts	25
History	26
Imprint	27

Editorial

The Catholic University of Applied Sciences of North Rhine-Westphalia has been training its students for demanding tasks within the fields of Social Work, Health Science and Theology since 1971. This aim has been achieved by teaching, research, continuing education and transfer.

As a place of reflection, our university is shaped by Christian values and character. It is rooted in national and global networks of Catholic universities and institutions, whose ambition it is to foster social progress and to contribute to the common good on the basis of Catholic Social Teaching and human rights. We are open for academic exchange with all people of good will, regardless of their race, denomination or origin.

At four German campuses in Aachen, Cologne, Muenster and Paderborn we offer more than 5,000 students the opportunity to attain their bachelor's and master's degrees. All of our degree programmes are state-approved.

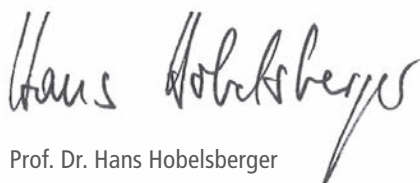
In the light of the rapid speed in which economy and media advance global connections, our graduates have to be qualified to deal with the effects globalisation has on their professional fields as well as on the clients and partners they are entrusted with.

Therefore, we have extended our scope far beyond the borders of Germany. KathO NRW takes a systematic approach of internationalisation in all its fields of activity.

This brochure provides you with information about our studies, research and knowledge transfer, about the region of North Rhine-Westphalia, our most important thematic focuses and our international perspective.

We hope to arouse your interest to find out more about our institution, our philosophy and about our guiding principles. Please do not hesitate to get in contact with us.

Yours faithfully,



Prof. Dr. Hans Hobelsberger
Rector



RECTOR PROF. DR. HANS HOBELBERGER (LEFT) TOGETHER WITH BERNWARD ROBRECHT, CHANCELLOR AND CEO (RIGHT), AND HELENE HOFMANN, HEAD OF THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE (CENTRE).

Aachen



Cologne



Muenster



Paderborn



About us

The Catholic University of Applied Sciences North Rhine-Westphalia focuses on quality education, practical training, applied research and knowledge transfer while seeking to instil a Christian sense of character and personality in its students. With campuses in Aachen, Cologne, Muenster and Paderborn it is today Germany's largest church-sponsored private university with state certification. Its roots go back to the Catholic professional schools for social work of the early 20th century, institutions which were initiated by courageous and highly educated women who were in search of informed answers to the social cleavages brought about by advancing industrialisation.

The university was founded in 1971 by the five Catholic dioceses of North Rhine-Westphalia. It has a public mission to contribute to the academic education of

social workers, theologians (and health scientists since the early 1990s) and is refinanced in large part by the state of North Rhine-Westphalia. We offer undergraduate and graduate degrees, training students in social services, health science and practical theology.

The current challenges for institutions of higher education are a development opportunity for KathO NRW. In addition to our traditional academic programmes, we pursue research projects in each of our disciplines and maintain our own research institutes. Our master's graduates have the opportunity to engage in one of our projects as scientific collaborators. This way they can gain an insight into an inspiring environment which helps them to prepare for their PhD.

We also offer a variety of postgraduate and further education courses. Furthermore, we run a network of transfer for social innovation, based on a joint project with the Protestant University of Applied Sciences Rhineland-Westphalia-Lippe.

KathO NRW's regional dispersion supports the presence of Catholic higher education throughout the state of North Rhine-Westphalia. It helps us to maintain close contact with the local environment and social institutions in order to reflect the specific needs on site appropriately. Being held together as one university gives us the chance to produce synergetic effects in all our fields of activity and to contribute to the solution of global problems – a target which one campus alone could not address.

North Rhine-Westphalia – the lively and future-oriented state in the West

With some 18 million residents, North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) is Germany's most densely populated state. The state combines urban industry centres along the Rhine and Ruhr rivers and rural areas with historic towns in Westphalia. And thanks to its location at the border with Belgium and the Netherlands, it enjoys close ties to other major Western European regions as well. NRW is Germany's economic powerhouse, generating 21 percent of its gross domestic product. It also has more institutions of higher education than any other German state and is home to 763,000 students, 78 universities and a great number of research institutes.

Even more, NRW is famous for its rich history and culture, from the many landmarks left by the Roman Empire in the Rhine Valley to five UNESCO World Heritage

sites. The Cologne and Aachen cathedrals are impressive architectural monuments of the high culture of European history while the Zollverein Coal Mine Industrial Complex in Essen is a testimonial to the Ruhr region's role in European industrialisation since the eighteenth century.

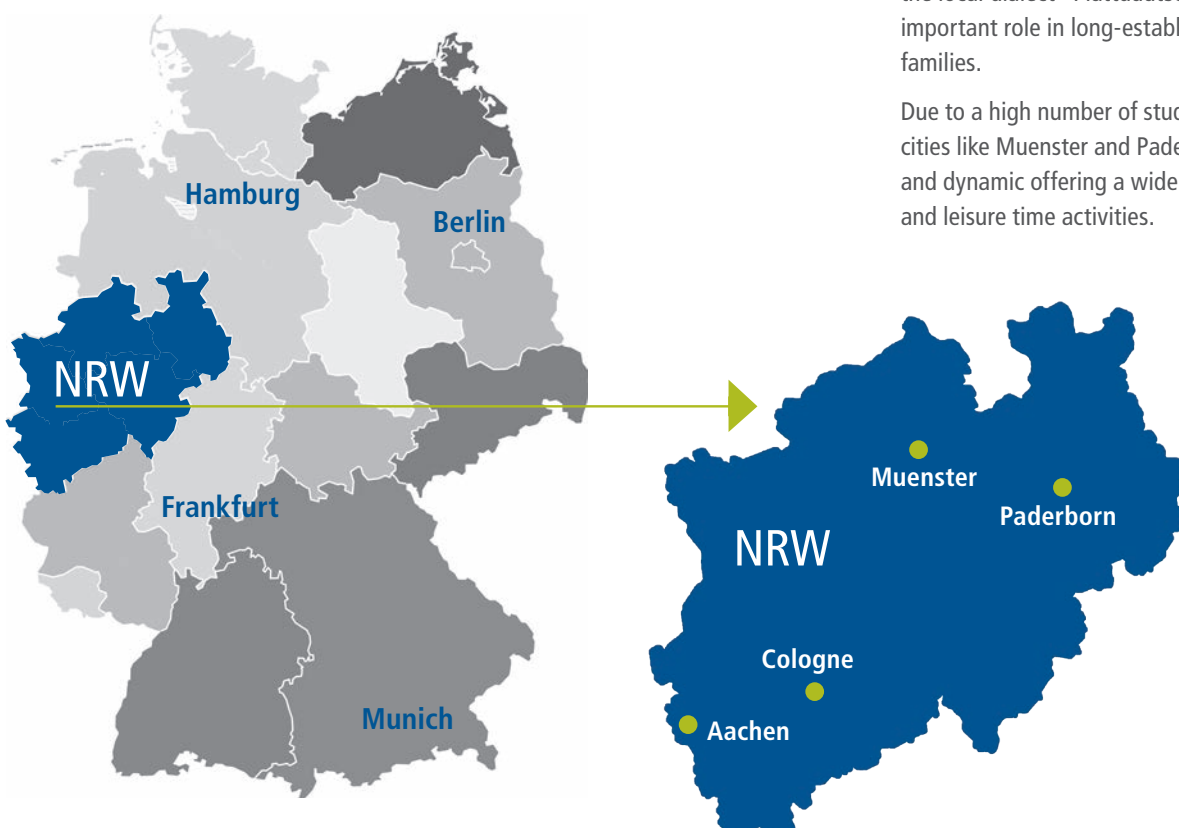
NRW also has a lot to offer to nature lovers. One fourth of the state is wooded. A variety of landscapes such as mountainous areas and flat countrysides, provides many outdoor leisure activities to choose from – no matter the season.

Hiking in the Teutoburg Forest near Paderborn or the Siebengebirge near Cologne, skiing in the winter sport area in the Sauerland region or cycling across the flat country around Muenster are just a few examples to mention.

The people in NRW are known for their warmth and zest for life. Each year, wild Carnival celebrations take place between November 11 and Ash Wednesday – NRW's "fifth" season – attracting people from all over the world. The region places much value on hospitality. Its openness towards foreigners is displayed in the make-up of its population: every fourth person is either an immigrant or a child of immigrants. More often than not, those who move here decide to stay.

The Westphalian is stubborn and taciturn – such clichés exist throughout Germany. The Westphalians themselves smile at the clichés with a wink. True or not, the Westphalian mentality surely is as diverse as the number of different Westphalian regions. What the Westphalians, living in the more rural part of NRW, have in common is their helpfulness and reliability – you can count on what a Westphalian says. Their sense of tradition is distinct and the local dialect "Plattdütsch" still plays an important role in long-established Westphalian families.

Due to a high number of students, Westphalian cities like Muenster and Paderborn are young and dynamic offering a wide range of cultural and leisure time activities.



Tasks



STUDIES

KatHO NRW provides its students with a personal atmosphere with practical purpose. The faculty imparts knowledge, skills and ethical values to the students in the fields of social services, health sciences and theology. The students appreciate the academic focus and that they are given a “helping hand” in shaping their learning process. Interdisciplinary events give students the opportunity to acquire critical thinking skills, explore academic positions and discover new horizons in a self-reflective manner. Students are also able to select an individual focus to help them develop their own interests.

[An overview of our degree programmes is shown on page 24.](#)

Students are attracted to the Catholic University of Applied Sciences by its low teacher-student ratio, its personal atmosphere, its well-structured curriculum and its opportunities to apply theory to practice. The university offers undergraduate and graduate degrees as well as a variety of postgraduate and further education courses.

RESEARCH

Through its distinct research focus, KatHO NRW conducts important research in the fields of social services, health sciences and practical theology. The purpose is to find answers and convey the results to practitioners. Its research specialises in applied nursing, health and social psychiatry, addiction and addiction prevention, social participation, child education, gender and transculturalism, education and diversity, networks in social work and pastoral practice.

The faculty is actively involved in research endeavours and academic discourse, which guarantee not only an academically profound education, but also affords students – especially those in Master’s programmes – the opportunity to participate in research projects.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Continuing education is one of the university’s fundamental academic pillars. Professional training programmes ensure that participants acquire the specialist qualifications needed for their professions. In addition to symposiums and conferences, the university also offers continuing education master’s programmes. Additional options available to students are selected subject-specific courses offered by experts in those fields and in-house training courses.



TRANSFER

In addition to its function as a teaching and research institution, the implementation and establishment of the so-called Third Mission is a central task of the university. This consists of a bi-directional and science-based transfer between university and society. The goal is to contribute to solutions for the major social challenges in the areas of social welfare, health and theology. The university has proven expertise in the development and implementation of social innovations. Within this framework, the Transfernetzwerk Soziale Innovation – s_inn (Network of Transfer for Social Innovation) was founded by KatHO NRW in cooperation with the Protestant University of Applied Sciences (EvH RWL) in order to develop and test innovative formats, ideas and concepts.

Guiding principles

CHRISTIAN IDEALS

Our university is a place of reflection shaped by Christian values and ideals that influence society. It's a place where free exchange among students of diverse faiths and worldviews is fostered. These ideals inspire all aspects of teaching at KathO NRW. Our goal is not just to educate our students; we want them to strive toward professional integrity and to help build a better society.

PRACTICAL ORIENTATION

Established networks with practical institutions offer students multidimensional practical opportunities. On the one hand, practical experience with topics, tasks and issues generates momentum that is seized upon in study programmes, continuing education and research. On the other hand, the university itself also generates ideas, questions, clarifications and solutions for practical challenges. In addition, the practical institutions are places where students and faculty can discover (and continue) developing skills.





UNIVERSITY CULTURE

In addition to its academic qualities, the unique university atmosphere is another hallmark of KatHO NRW. Campus-wide orientation programmes, graduation ceremonies and seasonal festivals contribute to a sense of belonging and closeness at our university that often extends far beyond the students' time at the university and their professional careers. The ample cultural, athletic and spiritual events also create a spirit of home and community.

INTERNATIONALISATION

Internationalisation is an indispensable development for the university. The global challenges for theory and practice in social work, health care and theology are an integral part of academic reflection and are found in seminars, lectures and excursions. Our ongoing internationalisation process is driven by a competent advisory structure for the members of our university and a comprehensive support structure for our guests.

FAMILY FRIENDLINESS

Making work and study conditions as family-friendly as possible is a permanent task. KatHO NRW has been facing up to this task for years and will continue to keep it in mind in the future. Having successfully made study and examination conditions for students family-friendly and anchored in the culture over the past few years, the focus of KatHO NRW's equal opportunities efforts has recently been on the need to reconcile work and family life for its employees. Since 2015, KatHO NRW has been a member of the Best Practice Club "Familie in der Hochschule" (Family at the University).

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

We pursue the concerns of equality, gender mainstreaming and diversity in teaching, research and university development. This is our response to the new challenges facing universities as a result of the increasing diversity of their members and society's demand for equal opportunities.

Internationalisation

Internationalisation, i.e. the integration of international references and contents into the activities of a university, is a clear component of the public education mission of the universities in North Rhine-Westphalia. Therefore, KathO NRW has made the advancement of internationalisation a strategic priority. In January 2018, the University Senate adopted a strategy paper setting out the areas, forms and objectives as well as the levels on which the process of internationalisation is to take place.

The normative, orientation-giving basis for all activities is the concept of human rights and human dignity against the background of Catholic Social Teaching as well as the Apostolic Constitutions "De Corde Ecclesiae" and "Veritatis Gaudium".

Yet international relations with partner universities have long been present in the practice of the university. For almost twenty years the partnership of KathO NRW with Bethlehem University has been clearly visible in the life and scientific reflection of the department of social services at the Cologne campus. The Social Work degree programme at the National University of Mongolia was established between 2001 and 2009 with the scientific

support of KathO NRW – in a country where the profession of social work had been completely unknown until then. There have been many teaching contacts with the countries of the Caucasus for a long time. Student groups regularly travel to the partner universities of Pittsburgh and Monmouth in the USA to study the principles and fields of application of community work.

So has anything changed at all in the last two years? The answer is: Yes. Not only have the numbers of KathO-students, who spent part of their academic education in a foreign country increased by 20 percent. Also the initiatives for gaining new partnerships were successful. Most of them are situated in the Global South, but also universities in the neighbourhood of Europe are on their way to building up or strengthening their ties with KathO NRW. According to the rector, Professor Hans Hobelsberger, internationalisation should form part of the DNA of our university.

STRUCTURES AND PERSONNEL

The explicit strategy has now given internationalisation a binding character. The strategic efforts are being systematised and international activities and partnerships are being opened up to all departments and actors at the university. The International Office is the central coordinating unit and was strengthened in terms of personnel. Its team is active on each campus and provides support in all aspects of internationalisation. The university's committees are involved in the development of partnerships. All employees have the opportunity to qualify for international cooperation by participating in appropriate seminars. KathO NRW follows a holistic approach and integrates all members in exchanges according to their function, including administrative staff and young academics at the beginning of their scientific career.



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PARTNERSHIPS AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING

However, the core of the internationalisation process at KatHO NRW is the cooperation with international partners. KatHO NRW cooperates with 50 universities on four continents, with whom joint seminars, individual exchanges as well as joint research projects are realised. What they all have in common is the quest for academic excellence and the effort to find an answer to the complex social and ethical problems of an increasingly globalised world.

Priority partnerships are of major importance and will be confirmed in status by the Senate of the university. They are selected with a view to special professional considerations or in the course of extensive and long-term cooperation in research and teaching, and are supported in the search for financing. The partnerships within the framework of the Erasmus programme form a separate category due to the close links between educational institutions within Europe.

The university strengthens its external networking by connecting with international professional organisations and associations. KatHO NRW has been an active member of the International Federation of Catholic Universities (FIUC) since 2018.

Particular attention is paid to the development of innovative teaching methods: The new digital technologies serve the formation of international networks. Initiatives to connect teachers and students via online learning platforms are supported by the expertise of our IT department.

ENGLISH – THE LINGUA FRANCA OF THE ACADEMIC WORLD

English language teaching as a component of the regular offer is constantly further developed. Our students have the opportunity to attend English courses every semester. When we employ new professors we make sure that they have the prerequisites to teach in English. All members of KatHO NRW (students, teachers, administrators) are given the opportunity to qualify in the foreign language that is relevant to their field. Incomings are supported in the acquisition of German.

INTERNATIONAL CAMPUS

KatHO NRW strives to expand student mobility and invites international students to spend part of their studies with us. We offer an English-language study programme (currently at the Muenster campus), which is open to students of social work and related subjects.

Multilateral short term teaching seminars, regularly held with our European partners in Paderborn are important elements in creating a learning space that is open for all.

Members of our partner universities should feel at home with us. The International Office therefore supports our incoming students and university staff in finding accommodation, in contact with the authorities and in social orientation.

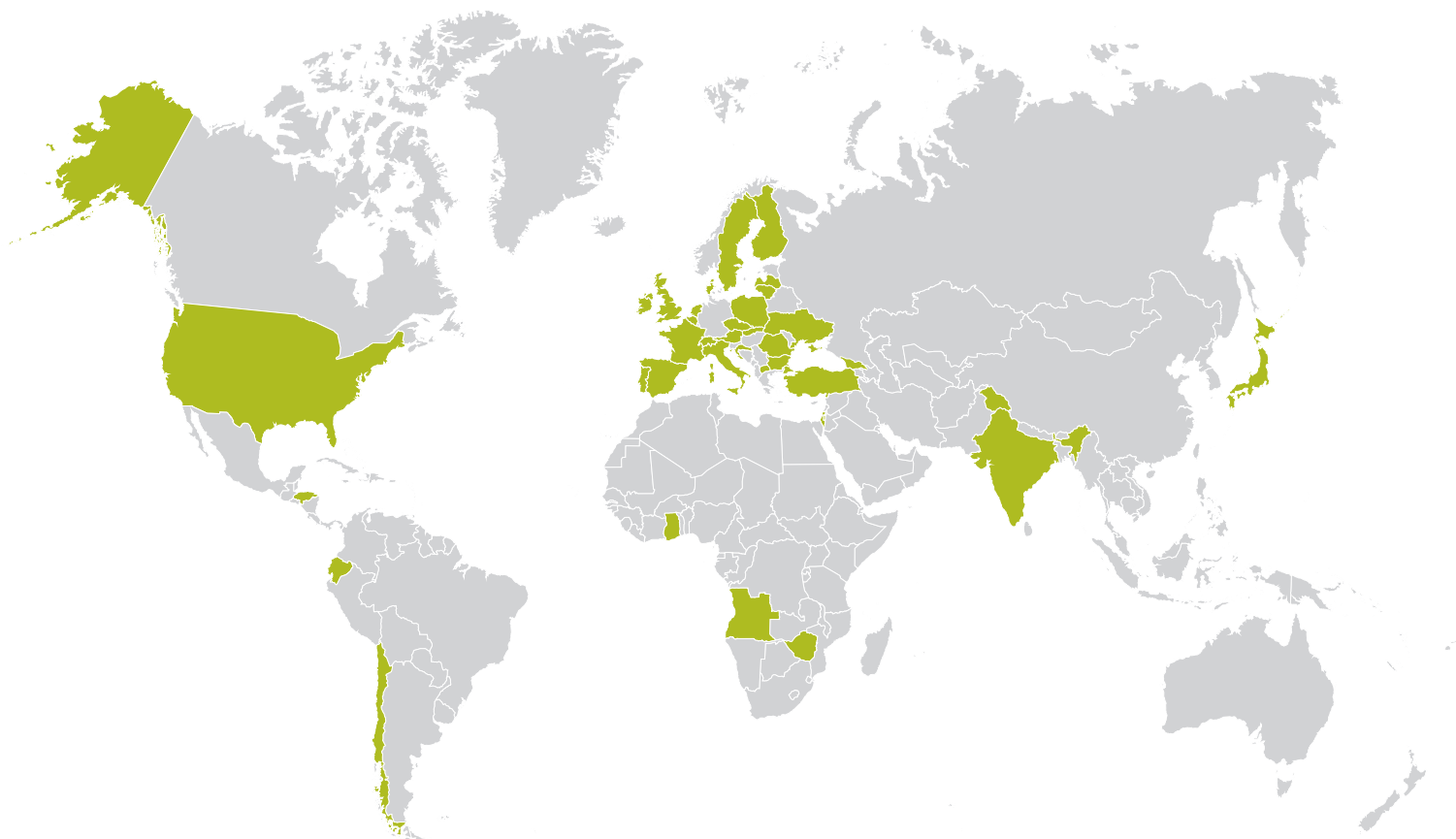
Teachers and researchers from our partner universities may gain important international experience with short term lectures or long term stays (up to one semester) on one of our campuses. – Be welcome and stay with us!

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

KatHO NRW plans and implements research cooperations with its partner universities. It takes part in tenders for international research funding programmes. We realise teaching-oriented research projects and accompanying research. Faculty members receive support when they participate in scientific congresses.

Around the world

(updated: August 2020)



UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS AND COOPERATIONS

Angola	Japan
Austria	Latvia
Belgium	Lithuania
Bulgaria	Macedonia
Chile	Netherlands
Croatia	Palestine
Czech Republic	Poland
Denmark	Portugal
Ecuador	Romania
Finland	Sweden
France	Switzerland
Georgia	Slovakia
Ghana	Spain
Honduras	Turkey
India	Ukraine
Ireland	United Kindom
Israel	USA
Italy	Zimbabwe

This map provides an overview of the countries in which KathO NRW maintains university partnerships. These include teaching and research cooperations, which are confirmed by a formal agreement. Those countries in Europe to which teachers and students regularly travel within the framework of the Erasmus programme for teaching or study purposes, are marked in colour as well.

It is worth mentioning, that there are manifold contacts to practical institutions worldwide.

The above image is of a provisional nature since both the university management and the representatives of the faculties constantly expand the spectrum of partners through their initiatives. Since this brochure was published in 2019, partnerships in Angola, Chile, Croatia, Ecuador, Ukraine and Zimbabwe have been newly established.

Cooperation projects

The faculties of KathO NRW maintain a great variety of cooperations all over the world. Below we present an exemplary selection of projects.

MUTUAL INSPIRATION AND SUSTAINABLE COOPERATION



The partnership with the Gordon Academic College of Education in Haifa has existed since 2017 and focusses on intercultural and interreligious dialogue. At the crossroads of three world cultures, the problems and opportunities brought about by the encounter of different value systems can be experienced first hand. Intense exchanges of faculty in the fields of social sciences, psychology and pedagogy, philosophy and theology are complemented by a special visit programme for administrators.

Jointly, deeper cooperation is being built up: Long term teaching stays, common research projects, seminars in IT and blended learning formats and activities on the culture of remembrance are in preparation. Another important aim is to provide support for the development of the Community Development degree programme in Haifa and to ensure the continued mobility of students.

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USA: PIONEERS IN COMMUNITY WORK



Since 2010, the Catholic University of Applied Sciences has maintained partnerships with two US universities: the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (Institute for International Studies in Education & School of Social Work) and the Monmouth University, West Long Branch, New Jersey (School of Social Work).

Studying the settings and the work of social institutions and reflecting on the characteristics and dynamics of the welfare systems in the USA and Germany are central features of the exchange with the partners across the Atlantic. Professors and students participate in lectures and discussions, which take place at either of the institutions during regular study visits. Taking a comparative perspective is particularly attractive for the participants, because the American and the German societies, while sharing the same roots in Europe, have diversified in their respective historical developments. Considering the rich tradition of community work and its theoretical foundations in the USA, KathO students gain important insights and inspirations, which have an impact on their way of thinking and their future careers.

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ALL DRESSED IN THE JERSEY OF THE FOOTBALL TEAM FROM PITTSBURGH: STUDENTS AND PROFESSORS FROM GERMANY AND THE USA.



Cooperation projects

A PASSAGE TO INDIA



Since 2018, KathO NRW has concluded four partnership agreements with universities in India. All institutions are active in fields that are also represented at KathO. Due to the diversity of their academic concentrations, they reflect the cultural wealth of the Indian subcontinent.

Christ (Deemed to be University), based in Bangalore, is one of the largest Catholic institutions of higher education in India and offers research-oriented studies to 21.000 students. It is closely linked with **Dharmaram Theological College**. Both institutions maintain manifold international contacts and are particularly committed to academic excellence.

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The mission of **Stella Maris College (Autonomous)** in Chennai is to empower young women to face the challenges of life with courage and to be builders of a humane and just society. 5,000 students are enrolled in various programmes. The focus of the cooperation is on educational psychology and resilience.

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The **Marian College Kuttikkanam (Autonomous)** in the interior of the state of Kerala combines higher education with practical development work. The College works closely with the Peermade Development Society, an NGO, whose aim it is to foster rural innovation by linking agricultural and social development projects. Members of KathO NRW can complete docentures or combine studies with internships in various fields of social sustainability.

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St. Albert's College (Autonomous) in Cochi is a first grade arts, science and commerce college affiliated to Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala. A Social Work programme is offered at Master's level

which makes the cooperation particularly suitable for advanced studies and joint research projects on topics such as empowerment, gender studies and theories of social work.

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EMPOWERMENT, SOLIDARITY AND SERVICE



In 2001, a student initiative grew into the oldest university partnership of KathO NRW, the cooperation with Bethlehem University. Since then, exchanges have taken place almost annually and the encounters have left a sustainable impact on the further educational path of the participants. Service learning in institutions of civil society shaped the practice as well as the discourse in student meetings and joint research projects for many years. At present, the thematic approach puts questions of identity, empowerment and solidarity within and between cultures in the focus. Furthermore, knowledge about the Middle East has proven to be of utmost importance in the integration work with refugees today. The learning process, which is, of course, most intense during personal student visits, is continued by means of blended learning.

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GO EAST: ERASMUS EXCHANGE WITH CHARLES UNIVERSITY PRAGUE



Charles University Prague is one of the oldest universities of Europe and is one of the most popular destinations for ERASMUS student exchanges. Thus, the Catholic University of Applied Sciences is delighted to maintain an inter-institutional agreement with the Department of Social Work of Charles University Prague within the ERASMUS+ programme. This agreement led to a partnership that induced study trips from and to Prague. We were very happy to welcome our partners from Prague



LECTURE ON INTERNATIONAL HEALTH PROMOTION ISSUES DURING THE INTERNATIONAL WEEK 2018, PADERBORN CAMPUS.

at KathO NRW in fall 2018 before the Department of Social Work of Charles University Prague hosted two study groups and two staff members of our university in spring 2019. Our students not only gained theoretical and practical insights into the field of social work, but also had the opportunity to become excited about possible future semester stays at Charles University Prague.

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SMALL BUT EXCELLENT: RESEARCH WITH SWITZERLAND



The cooperation between the faculty of health sciences at KathO NRW and HES-SO Valais (Delemont, Switzerland) was founded in 2010. The focus is on mutual teaching and study stays as well as on research. During a partner visit in Cologne in 2017 students and teachers analysed the respective nursing education systems, and participants gained valuable insights into similarities and differences. In a current research project, outpatient and inpatient health care of ageing persons in precarious conditions is investigated. The project follows on from observations that socially disadvantaged population groups or particularly affected persons are often at a health disadvantage. Therefore, the project focuses on the relationship between socio-economic status and subjective or objective health as well as on the interrelation between social situation and the usage of medical and nursing services.

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ROME, THE ETERNAL CITY



The Gregoriana, which emerged from the Colegio Romano founded by Jesuits in the 16th century, is considered the most important Pontifical University in the world. This makes the interest of our students of practical theology even greater in spending a so-called free semester there. Due to the good relations between the two theological faculties groups of students have taken this opportunity for many years. Returnees consider the stay at the prestigious institution in the centre of the World Church to be a highlight of their studies – which is not surprising given

the high level of education and the abundance of historical and cultural artefacts that are within reach in Rome. The academic credits earned in Rome are academically recognised for the degree course at KathO NRW.

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PARTICIPATION RESEARCH: WORKING FOR AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

Based at all of the KathO NRW campuses in Aachen, Cologne, Muenster and Paderborn the Centre for Participation Research brings together different academic disciplines: special education, social work, sociology, psychology, health science, law and theology. It is financed by the Ministry of Culture and Science of the German State of North Rhine-Westphalia. In cooperation with national and international partners from science and practice, it analyses empirically the life circumstances of seniors and persons with disabilities. Together with all stakeholders, innovative solutions for self-determined social participation and equal opportunities are developed and tested. The centre is a member in international research associations. Two examples for the international cooperation are given.

Ministry of Culture and Science
of the German State
of North Rhine-Westphalia



“Developing innovative models of support services for elderly people with intellectual disabilities” (MUTIG):

The project aims to identify and formulate innovative design elements for the support of elderly persons with intellectual disabilities (ID) in various residential settings. It analyses different types of residential settings and services in North Rhine-Westphalia and Bavaria (Germany), in Norway, Denmark and the Netherlands. “MUTIG” is financed by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

SPONSORED BY THE



Federal Ministry
of Education
and Research



Cooperation projects

Transfer of an assessment tool for the organisational culture in group homes for persons with intellectual disabilities

This project is based on a cooperation with the Living with Disability Research Centre (Prof. Christine Bigby) at the Dep. of Social Work of the LaTrobe University Melbourne (Australia). The Group Home Culture Scale, a new tool to assess organisational culture in support services, has been translated and tested in comparable residential settings in Germany. Together with colleagues from **Australia** and the **UK**, the prognostic value of the tool for the quality of life of clients will be examined.

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JAPAN: CHALLENGES IN DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL CHANGE



In Japan, KatHO NRW maintains partnerships with the following four universities: Teikyo University (Tokyo), Hyogo University (near Himeji), Hiroshima Bunka Gakuen University and Hiroshima Prefectural University.

In addition to the usual academic exchange in the form of student and lecturer mobility, there is a research-oriented exchange on topics of clinical psychology and social work. These include major social challenges such as unemployment among young adults, problems of addiction and treatment of psychological disorders as well as demographic change. Visiting practice facilities (e.g. facilities for people with disabilities, rehabilitation clinics, nursing homes for the elderly) is also an integral part of the cooperation.

KatHO students regularly take part in the annual summer school at the Hyogo University. The Japanese language and culture are the main focus here.

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GHANA: BRIDGING THE GAP



Ghana's political and societal stability and the increasing importance of tertiary education qualify the country as an excellent partner for academic exchange. The region is a popular destination for KatHO NRW students to complete their mandatory internships in social service institutions. Looking at the fact that many international migrants from West Africa leave their home due to lack of opportunities, an extended academic cooperation in the region can help to improve living conditions and to foster structural development. In 2017, a memorandum of understanding with the Catholic University College of Ghana (CUCG) was signed. Students from CUCG may receive Erasmus funding, when they participate in an international programme at KatHO NRW. The exchange of teachers and administrative staff contributes to mutual learning and institutional development. The cooperation can be a small step towards the realization of the UN development goals codified in Agenda 2030. The official partnership between Ghana and the state of North Rhine Westfalia forms a suitable frame for the dissemination of project results.

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PRODUCTIVE INTERNATIONAL SEMINARS

In cooperation with its partner universities, KatHO NRW carries out annual international seminars of one week on various social science topics. The focus is on areas of comparative social policy and social work from different perspectives. With these international seminars, KatHO NRW offers lecturers and students a regular space for meetings and exchanges to encourage opportunities for networking and to work intensively on international comparative questions.

For example, a comparative research project on families in poverty situations based on qualitative and quantitative research methods has been developed and carried out with the partner universities in **Sweden, Finland and Poland**. Another research project on poverty risk care is planned with the Scandinavian partners. As part of Agenda 2030, a project on the inclusion of particularly vulnerable

groups is being developed with **Indian partners** in higher education and human rights organisations.

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JOINT STUDIES IN THE TRI-BORDER REGION



The Meuse-Rhine Euregio is a multicoloured community which, because of its differences, offers special opportunities for the development of new economic and social initiatives. Since the 2004/2005 winter semester, KathO NRW has been cooperating with four partner universities in Belgium and the Netherlands in the "Euregio Certificate for Social Work".

The programme aims at training future specialists in social work at the European level. Students develop a view for cross-border social problems within the Euregio (and Europe) and are educated to transfer new professional concepts into a different organisational environment. The most extensive part of the study activities are practical days in institutions in the respective neighbouring countries.

In addition to their bachelor's degree, students receive the Euregio Certificate, which confirms that they have acquired advanced language skills and specialist knowledge within this programme.

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BLENDED LEARNING WITH PARTNERS

Digitisation is "the" catchword of current times and provides new opportunities in teaching techniques. KathO NRW therefore uses these opportunities to offer our students blended learning programmes and online seminars in cooperation with international partners.

For example, health policy issues are examined in depth and compared through video conferences with various partners within the framework of an MA programme. In the Social Work and Childhood Education degree programmes, blended learning on "Family policy and child protection" takes place in a two-semester programme with our **Finnish** Erasmus+ partner university, the South Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences. Furthermore, an online seminar on "Community work in marginalised neighbourhoods" is offered in cooperation with one of our **Swedish** partner universities, the Gävle University College.

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STUDY SOCIAL WORK!

As part of our internationalisation strategy, KathO NRW offers two study programmes in English during the summer semester – from April to July. Our international incoming students can choose from courses relevant to social work and pedagogy and can obtain up to 30 ECTS.

Within the "Social Work and Exclusion" programme, topics such as child welfare and child protection, social inequality, domestic violence, crisis intervention in social work and human rights are discussed.

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The programme "Social Work in international comparison – current discourses – challenges – perspective for discipline and profession" combines courses from various disciplines, action-oriented seminars on transcultural learning and practice-oriented explorations.

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Both programmes are designed for international as well as for local students. Our international students stay together over the whole semester and get specific support from our International Office. They study side by side with locals and are part of our small campus family. The positive feedback of former participants are an incentive for us to continue:

*"It was a fantastic programme,
which will help me to build my first
academic knowledge base."*

BABKEN HAYRAOETIAN, INCOMING 2017
ARMENIA, YEREVAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Landing page



study-social-work.de

Our Landing page provides an overview of our international programme. Here, students get information on how to apply for a term abroad and how life and culture in a foreign country are characterized.

Erasmus+



KathO NRW has been part of the EU-based Erasmus programme since 1998. It holds an Erasmus Charter for Higher Education, which was reissued by the European Commission in 2014 due to the university's experience in the field of European cooperation. Its work has helped to achieve the objective of the Bologna Process – to form a common area of Higher Education in Europe.

OUTGOINGS

KathO NRW holds inter-institutional agreements with forty universities in twenty countries. Within this network, students have the opportunity to do a semester abroad in Europe – either as

part of their studies or as an internship – allowing them to set their own educational priorities. Faculty and nonacademic staff are encouraged to take part in the programme as well. The goal is to foster academic cooperation, build professional networks between people and institutions and deepen the understanding of internal structures at other institutions.

INCOMINGS

KathO NRW offers students from its partner institutions attractive curricula in the fields of social work, health science and applied theology. It also provides various forms of assistance with entry visas, with other study abroad logistics and with student life outside the classroom. We welcome faculty and non-academic staff and value their unique contributions.

Individual exchange activities form the basis for further integration such as multi-lateral educational programmes, joint modules, research projects as well as training.

ERASMUS+ INTERNATIONAL

Erasmus+ exchange projects with universities outside Europe have been successfully implemented since 2017. The cooperation with the Gordon Academic College of Education in Haifa contributes greatly to a deeper understanding of the particular set of problems in the Middle East, a region in the direct neighbourhood of Europe. The collaboration with the Catholic University College of Ghana is a service to the building of institutional structures in the country on the West African Gold Coast. Participants also obtain important insights into societal conditions, problems of development and the causes of migration processes. Exchange projects with partners in India and countries in the East of Europe are being prepared.

Practical orientation



KATHO STUDENT KATHARINA HUTTER USED HER PRACTICE PHASE FOR AN INTERNSHIP AT "OUR LADY OF PEACE CENTER", A FACILITY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN JORDAN.

PRACTICAL PHASES ARE AN INTEGRAL ELEMENT OF EDUCATION FOR A UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES.

They serve to transfer the theoretical knowledge acquired in the seminar and represent a first work experience in the intended career. After returning to the university, students reflect on their experiences and thus ensure their learning outcomes. An internship can also be useful immediately after graduation in order to open up a previously unknown segment of the labour market, e.g. in another country.

KatHO students travel all over the world when it comes to completing the required number of practice days (100 in Bachelor Social Work, 24 in Bachelor Nursing Science and 60 in Bachelor Practical Theology) in an institution outside Germany. The majority of outbound students are largely on their own in the

destination country. Regular contacts with KatHO teachers and supervision contribute to the quality assurance of the internship. In specific countries of the Global South there is the possibility of linking with a partner university. Topics such as poverty reduction, the social and pastoral situation of children and young people, interreligious and intercultural dialogue, but also health education and clinical social work are popular fields of action.

The comparative perspective is often taken up: "What particularly interested me about the centre was, that it is a Christian centre in a predominantly Muslim country, and I wanted to see the connections". – Katharina Hutter, student of social work, on her motivation to complete her compulsory internship at the "Our Lady of Peace Center", an institution for people with disabilities in Amman (Jordan).

The "Other" which is continuously experienced in the country of destination at the workplace, remains foreign to the participants during everyday contacts or in everyday culture, at least in the first phase of the stay. This imposes special professional and personal challenges on the participants. Moreover, a foreign language has to be mastered on an advanced level. Students who complete their internship abroad often return home with a considerable increase in knowledge, which includes all levels of their personality. Often deep bonds remain. Ms Hutter, too, would like to return to the Our Lady of Peace Center at a later date.

Students receive support from the International Office before, during and after their stay. There are language qualification programmes as well as scholarships from European or national sources, through which the participants can cover part of the costs incurred.

KatHO NRW cooperates with the Engagement Global organisation within the framework of the "Konkreter Friedensdienst", a state-supported exchange programme with countries of the Global South. Students who choose particularly qualified placements participate in a preparatory and follow-up seminar. They receive attractive financial support and have access to the alumni network. In addition, KatHO NRW and Engagement Global jointly organise public series of events where the ways in which graduates of social work programmes can contribute to development cooperations are discussed.

Research

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

Our application-oriented research significantly contributes to investigations in the fields of social services, health science and practical theology. Finding solutions to questions of high social impact is one of the main aims. This is reflected in the transfer of research results into practical applications. Thus, KathO NRW is an important research partner for both institutions inside and outside academia, and vice versa.

Research at KathO NRW is characterised by the following aspects:

PRACTICAL RELEVANCE

Research is not just about identifying and investigating problems, but also about finding and developing solutions. Research questions adhere to the fields of activity of professional practice and are investigated by involving several partners in the research process.

THEORY DEVELOPMENT

Research results are taken up to improve the occupational and educational profile in the fields of social and health care as well as theology. Furthermore, the results are utilised to develop models and theories in the respective scientific discipline.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

To assume social responsibility, one aim is to support policy makers as well as organisations and associations by offering development or solution strategies based on the results of scientific analyses and evaluations.

INTERDISCIPLINARITY

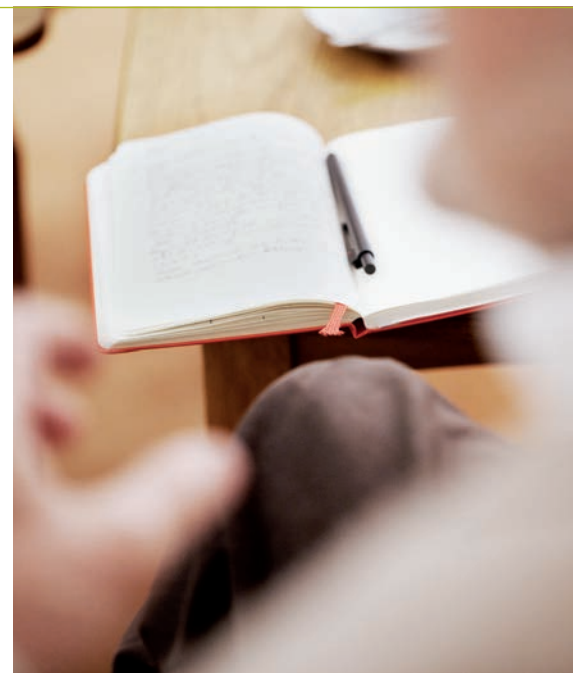
The research strength of KathO NRW is based on intensive interdisciplinary collaboration in research activities ensuring a holistic approach to questions. Interdisciplinary collegial cooperation manifests itself in research foci and institutes.

RESEARCH UNITS

As society changes, qualifications in the fields of social care, nursing and pastoral services have gained in importance.

Research at the Catholic University of Applied Sciences aims at identifying, studying and solving the problems that result from social transformation. By focusing on applied contexts, researchers can better transfer the results of their studies to professionals in the field. Furthermore, research also serves to ensure teaching quality at the university.

- **RESEARCH UNIT: EDUCATION AND DIVERSITY**
- **RESEARCH UNIT: NETWORKS IN SOCIAL WORK**



RESEARCH INSTITUTES

- **GERMAN INSTITUTE ON ADDICTION AND PREVENTION RESEARCH**
- **INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH RESEARCH AND SOCIAL PSYCHIATRY**
- **GERMAN INSTITUTE OF APPLIED NURSING RESEARCH**
- **CENTRE FOR PARTICIPATION RESEARCH**
- **INSTITUTE FOR PASTORAL PRACTICE RESEARCH AND BIBLE-ORIENTED PRACTICAL SUPPORT**
- **INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH AND TRANSFER IN CHILDHOOD AND FAMILY**

Transfer



Shaping a specific profile has become an increasingly important task for universities of applied sciences in recent years. KathO NRW takes this task seriously. By promoting social innovations across a variety of fields in social work and healthcare through research-driven transfer, KathO NRW creates a distinct profile through activities in the area of the Third Mission.

The Network of Transfer for Social Innovation (Transfernetzwerk Soziale Innovation – s_inn), which is based on a joint project of the Catholic University of Applied Sciences North Rhine-Westphalia and the Protestant University of Applied Sciences Rhineland-Westphalia-Lippe (EvH RWL) started its activities with a 5-year funding from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research in January 2018.

s_inn brings university, organisations from social and health sectors as well as civil society stakeholders together with the aim of promoting mutual benefits and exchange through the civil society engagement of research. Within this framework, the network develops and tests innovative formats, ideas and concepts. s_inn contributes towards meeting the grand social challenges with its activities:

- **SHAPING AN AGEING SOCIETY**
- **INCLUSION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**
- **INTEGRATION OF PEOPLE WITH MIGRATION OR REFUGEE BACKGROUND**
- **OVERCOMING INCREASING SEGREGATION**

The Network of Transfer for Social Innovation is based on a decentralised structure and is located in Aachen, Bochum, Cologne, Muenster and Paderborn. The network thus straddles regionally across the entire regional state of NRW and serves as a contact point for the establishment and expansion of transfer structures. Within the network, the Agency for Transfer and Social Innovation is responsible for strategic tasks. Six Innovation-Labs initiate, design and organise concrete transfer activities and thus serve as a test-bed for new approaches to developing socially-innovative ideas across a variety of sectors. Five pilot projects implement transfer between research and different sectors of society. The pilot projects are part of the transfer environment of s_inn:

- The “**Sozial-Wissenschaftsladen**” (Social Science Shop) promotes transfer of knowledge between civil society stakeholders and universities. It is a contact point and potential clearing-house for persons and organisations from civil society who would like to contribute questions and ideas for stimulating new research projects.
- **First Generation Studierende begleiten: Teilhabe durch Kompetenzstärkung (FIGEST)**: (Accompanying First Generation students: Participation through competence enhancement): The aim of the pilot project is to support young people from non-academic households – with and without a migration background – in evolving their develop-

ment potential. The entire educational cycle, from school to entry into the labour market, is supported.

- The pilot project “**Versorgungsbrücken statt Versorgungslücken – Potenziale und Limitierungen einer ambulante und stationäre Sektoren verbindenden Begleitung und Seelsorge**” (Bridging care gaps – potentials and limitations of outpatient and inpatient sectors combining support and pastoral care) focuses on the challenging living conditions of the elderly in need of care. The focus is on the transitions between outpatient and (semi-)inpatient care.

Innovative formats, which s_inn has co-designed, include the Social Innovation Camp, a development workshop or a future workshop as well as other pilot formats that prove suitable for enhancing socially oriented transfer initiatives.

**FURTHER INFORMATION
CAN BE FOUND AT:**



s-inn.net



Degree programmes

The spectrum of degree courses offered by KathO NRW ranges from Bachelor degree courses (first level degree) to second level degree courses like consecutive Master degree courses and Postgraduate Master degree courses.

Department / Degree Courses	Degree	Aachen	Cologne	Muenster	Paderborn
SOCIAL SERVICES					
Social Work B. A. ¹⁾	Bachelor	●	●	●	●
Inclusive Education B. A.	Bachelor			●	
Childhood Education B. A.	Bachelor		●		●
Social Work M. A.	Master	●	●	●	●
Participation and Networks in Inclusive Education M. A.	Master			●	
Addiction Treatment and Prevention M. Sc. ²⁾	Master ³⁾		●		
Social Management M. A.	Master ³⁾			●	●
Cooperative Management	Master ³⁾	●			
Marriage, Family and Life Counseling, Master of Counseling ⁴⁾	Master ³⁾	●	●	●	●
Supervision / Coaching M. A.	Master ³⁾			●	
Interreligious Dialogue Competence M. A. ⁴⁾	Master ³⁾		●		
HEALTH SCIENCE					
Applied Nursing Sciences B.Sc.	Bachelor		●		
Nursing Management B.Sc.	Bachelor		●		
Nursing Education B.Sc.	Bachelor		●		
Midwifery Studies B.Sc.	Bachelor		●		
Nursing Management M. A.	Master		●		
Nursing Education M. A.	Master ³⁾		●		
School Administration M. A.	Master ³⁾		●		
THEOLOGY					
Practical Theology B. A.	Bachelor				●
Practical Theology B. A., correspondence course	Master ³⁾				●
Theological Education M. A.	Master ³⁾				●

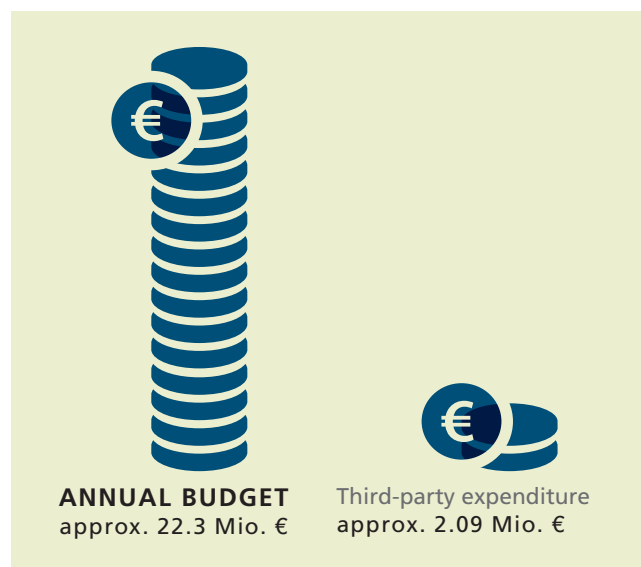
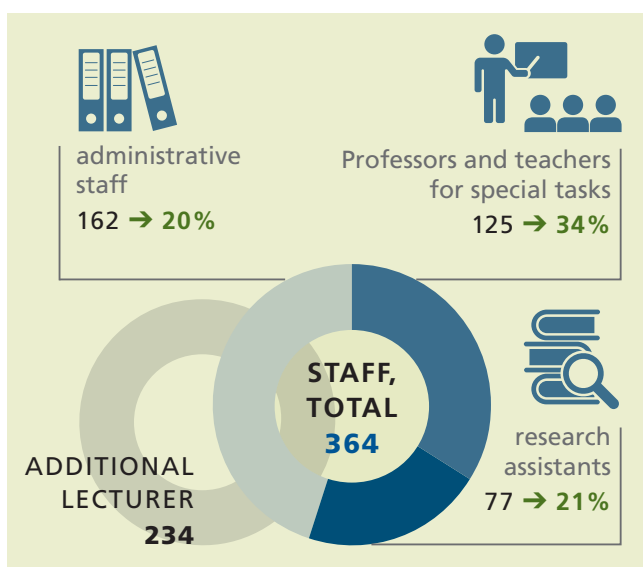
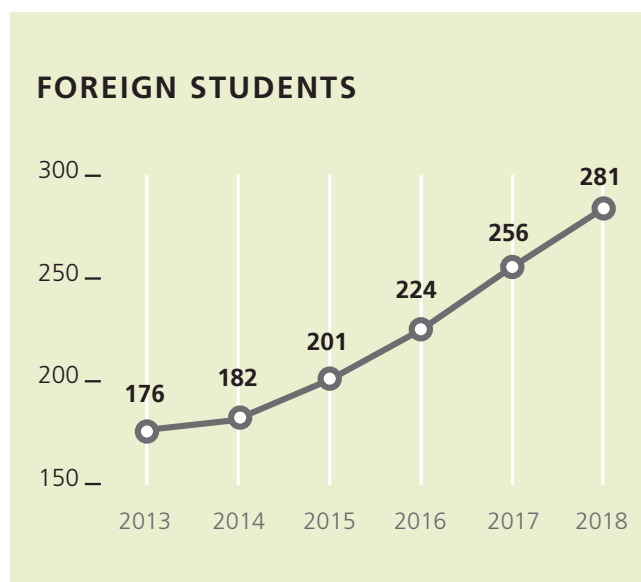
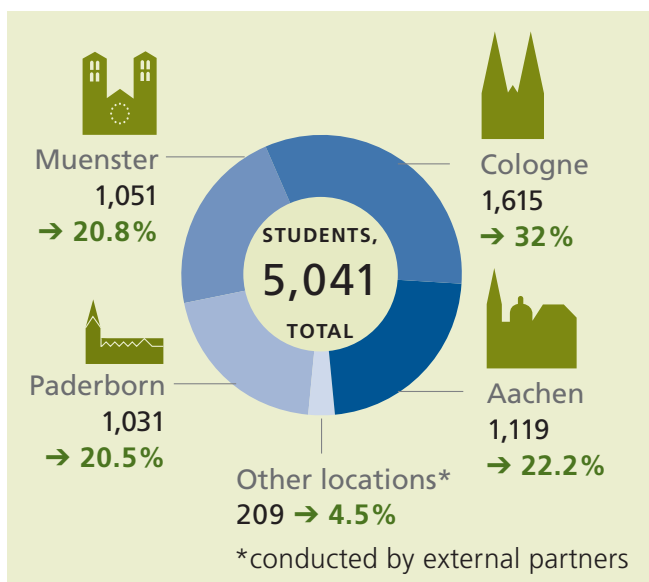
¹⁾ Social Work is also being offered in a special way of study organisation in Aachen: "Social Work for women and men besides family commitment B. A."

²⁾ This course is also being conducted with the same programme by an external partner in Munich.

³⁾ Postgraduate Master degree courses while in employment (part-time)

⁴⁾ This course is being conducted by external partners.

Facts



History



1971

The five Catholic dioceses of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) found the Catholic University of Applied Sciences. It is the successor of 15 educational institutions for social work/social pedagogy and practical theology in NRW.

1980

For the first time graduates of the Catholic University of Applied Sciences receive a diploma.

1989

A new financing agreement is signed with the state of NRW.

1994

The Catholic University of Applied Sciences opens the Department of Health Science. It starts with two part-time study courses.

1998

For the first time, the research activities of the KathO NRW are given an institutional framework: The German Institute on Addiction and Prevention Research (DISUP) and the German Institute of Applied Nursing Research (DIP) are established. And this is just the beginning.

2001

In order to make their expertise and high professional competence accessible to employed people, the faculties offer five postgraduate Master's programmes. More will be added in the following years.

2006

The accreditation of all study programmes has been successfully completed. The first Bachelor's degree programmes commence.

2008

First Master's degree programmes followed. Since then, KathO NRW has offered a diverse portfolio of Bachelor's and Master's degrees as well as postgraduate programmes and continuing education courses.

2015

KathO NRW becomes a member of the Best Practice Club "Familie in der Hochschule" (Family at the University).

2017

In cooperation with the Protestant University of Applied Sciences, KathO NRW wins the competition "Innovative Hochschule" (Innovative university). Together they found the Network of Transfer for Social Innovation.

2019

In September, 150 guests from partner universities from 35 countries came together for the International Congress in Cologne and discussed "Social Glocalisation".



Imprint

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satzanstalt.de

PRINT

brinkmann-druck.de

September 2019

Aachen



Cologne



Muenster



Paderborn

