

**Mission statement and guidelines for
studying and teaching at
Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg**



Senate Resolution dated 19.04.2017

Otto von Guericke University (OVGU) considers quality in teaching and learning to be reflected in the entirety of the academic education that it provides, consisting of teaching scientific content, opening up space for skills development and the taking on of responsibility, respectful interaction with others and striving to continuously develop teaching and learning through participation opportunities and processes of reflection and design.

In keeping with its commitment to this mission statement for studying and teaching, Otto von Guericke University has defined the following guidelines for action.

1. The central objective of teaching at our university is for our students to achieve success in their studies.

To this end, OVGU guarantees the academic competitiveness of its study programs. In every program, students receive an in-depth, research-oriented, application-oriented, specialist academic education and develop specific competences. They are incorporated as partners in shaping the teaching/learning process, benefit from the best possible conditions for successfully entering professional life and develop into critical and reflective, responsible-minded members of the scientific community and society.

2. We constantly develop our teaching, tailor it to ever-changing regional and global needs and commit ourselves to life-long learning.

OVGU undertakes to provide high quality teaching that is suitably didactic in its design. When appointing lecturers it checks their ability to teach and conduct examinations. It promotes and supports the lecturers in gaining further didactic skills, awareness in dealing with heterogeneity in the student body, and with other personnel development measures.

- 3. The design and development of the curriculum takes into account our aspiration to ensure that students receive a well-founded scientific education that enhances their employability, helps develop their personality and is achievable within the prescribed time frame.**

In its study programs, OVGU ensures that the teaching of specialist knowledge is systematically linked with programs to enhance generic and interdisciplinary skills development. The students are given the opportunity to apply and test out the skills that they have acquired in interdisciplinary and inter-faculty cooperation situations. Opportunities to gain insights into professional practice are integrated within the program in keeping with the level of the qualification. We ensure that each of our study programs can be completed in the standard study duration. The students are offered a varied and transparent range of modules and courses, which are sensibly tailored to one another in terms of time and content. The courses are clearly and comprehensively described with reference to qualification objectives and skills profiles. The ongoing development of the study programs is driven forward through structured processes.

- 4. We see diversity among our university members and especially our student body as a core value.**

In terms of their planning and organization, all courses at OVGU offer a framework that takes into account the individual needs and life situations of the students. OVGU aspires to participate in making the transition between life phases of its students as smooth as possible and to take the heterogeneity of the student body into account.

- 5. For us, internationality and mobility are important parts of a high quality degree program**

OVGU fosters international, intercultural and professional exchange of its members. All courses are aligned with the internationalization strategy of OVGU.

Within the means at its disposal, OVGU ensures that its students can prepare themselves as well as possible for a temporary stay at another university in Germany or abroad as well as for a transfer to such a university.

Conversely, within the applicable framework, it also ensures the best possible conditions for all students from other universities both in Germany and abroad, who wish to study temporarily or permanently at OVGU. The processes at OVGU for recognition and accreditation of educational qualifications and skills are transparent and clearly communicated. To enrich studies and teaching, OVGU maintains cooperations with other universities in Germany and abroad and promotes the international exchange of lecturers. OVGU provides suitable programs and support opportunities to help achieve this.

6. The basis of our information and communication culture is trust and transparency.

OVGU ensures that sufficient information, consultation and advice are available at both central and decentralized level to foster realistic self-assessment and expectations on the part of students. To this end, OVGU considers itself responsible not only for offering information and advice on the structure and requirements of its study programs and for (professional) orientation, but also makes itself available as a trustworthy dialog partner in conflict situations and other circumstances where advice is needed.

7. Our actions are based on continuous (self-)reflection.

The employees and especially the lecturers at OVGU are committed to regularly reflecting upon their actions.

To do this they make use of an effective QM system, which also integrates external expertise. Existing and new study programs are audited in clearly defined processes involving all stakeholders. In this way we ensure that qualification objectives and targeted learning outcomes are reflected in an achievable curriculum. The findings obtained as part of the central and decentralized quality assurance processes are presented in a suitable form, transparently and taking into account data protection regulations. Curricular developments are implemented through the joint efforts of lecturers, students and the faculty and university management.