



Diversity of Quality Management Systems – What Leeway Do Universities Have?

The example of the University of Greifswald

Online event series

“Accreditation Council in Dialogue”

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www.uni-greifswald.de/qualitaet

Knowledge beckons – since 1456

The late Baroque main university building from 1750, in front of which stands the Rubenow Monument from 1856 in honor of the city's mayor and university co-founder Heinrich Rubenow. The University of Greifswald is today the economic and cultural engine of the Vorpommern region.



View from Greifswald Cathedral, which also serves as the university church, toward the Baltic Sea and the Greifswald Bodden: “A research university surrounded by the city”
In downtown Greifswald, the faculties of Theology, Law and Political Science, and Philosophy offer an excellent infrastructure for research-driven teaching in extensively renovated historic buildings.





Excellent study conditions and laboratory facilities in modern buildings characterize the faculties of Medicine and Mathematics and Natural Sciences on the Berthold-Beitz-Platz campus, which is just a short bike ride (2 km) east of the Old Town.



The Profile of Greifswald's Academic Programs

- University Mission Statement: A wide variety of disciplines and academic programs as a hallmark of a comprehensive research university; interdisciplinary cooperation among relatively small departments in research and teaching
- 5 faculties: Theology, Law and Political Science, University Medicine, Philosophy, Natural Sciences
- Key figures: ≈10,000 students, 2,013 academic staff, including 239 professors; state subsidy for higher education: 70 million EUR / University Medicine – UMG: 63 million EUR; third-party funding expenditures for higher education: 29 million EUR / UMG: 36 million EUR
- 117 degree programs, including 17 Bachelor of Arts (2-subject), 16 Bachelor of Science, 33 Master's programs, 22 fields of study leading to degrees such as the State Examination/First State Examination/Church Examination/Mag. Theol./Diploma
- Largely polyvalent teaching and learning environment encompassing Bachelor's, Master's, teacher training, and interdisciplinary degree programs
- Central student services for four faculties (excluding UMG)

What characterizes the system of integrated quality assurance?

- Multi-stage evaluation of teaching units as a standard procedure
 - Pioneer since 1998 within the Association of Northern German Universities
 - Legal basis: § 3a LHG M-V
 - University-wide implementation of quality assurance procedures through a central administrative unit (2 FTE research assistants + 0.5 FTE administrative staff)
 - Integration of quality management functions—such as annual monitoring of student success via teaching reports and follow-up on multi-stage evaluation procedures—into the committees of academic self-governance
- Streamlined process similar to bundled program accreditation

What leeway does the university utilize?

- Multi-stage evaluation of course units
 - Procedure mandatory for all degrees, not just for Bachelor's/Master's degrees (approx. 50% of students taking state examinations, etc.)
 - Self-defined subject-specific thematic focus in each case, often reflecting the department's profile and the framework conditions of the program
 - Preliminary internal review of formal accreditation criteria
 - On-site visit based on the "critical friends" approach, combining subject-specific evaluation and consultation by independent external experts
 - Internal evaluation meeting with a 1-year follow-up
 - Alignment with the cycle of program development
- Optimization of effort and information gain

Outlook

- Multi-stage evaluation of teaching units has proven effective
 - Academically sound procedure
 - A quality assurance and development system tailored to the structures and processes of the University of Greifswald
- Reflective process refinement
 - Further optimization of effort (e.g., reporting) and benefits
 - Thematic focus aligned with the university's strategic goals, such as internationalization and interdisciplinarity

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