

Dean

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Faculty of Arts and Humanities: improving performance by restructuring

Dear all

The University of Passau is about to take a significant step forward. After comprehensive discussions, the Faculty of Arts and Humanities has decided to transform itself into two new faculties – a faculty of education and social sciences and a faculty of humanities. This letter will provide you with an overview of the key milestones in this process as well as pointers towards further information about this topic.

Why restructure?

The new structure stems from a proposal by the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, which was welcomed and strongly supported by the University Executive and the Bavarian State Ministry for Science and the Arts. The Faculty expects the restructuring to provide a boost thanks to increased agility, clearer profiles and more dynamic networks within the University. Overall, the enhanced potential will be vital for our subject areas' future contributions to strategic progress in research, teaching and knowledge transfer.

I've heard people talk about a "doubling". What's that about?

We have made a conscious decision to use the word "restructuring". The transformation into two faculties is definitely not meant to result in twice the work. Rather, the structures and processes for

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academic and administrative personnel should become more streamlined. Increasing the equitability of departments will enable more efficient and more transparent collaboration in teaching, research and administration. This, in turn, will have positive effects on the student experience and academic supervision. Nonetheless, there will be some “duplication” of structures in future, such as two Deans’ offices, two Deans, and two student committees. Similarly, both faculties will be represented in university boards and committees.

Where are we at in terms of the restructuring process?

Once the Extended University Executive and the University Council had agreed to the principal decision, a working group within the Faculty carefully deliberated the restructuring of the Faculty in consultation with all stakeholders. The proposal that was produced that way has now passed through all relevant decision making bodies. On 22 June 2022, the University’s constitution was amended by the University Council, passing and adopting the proposal.

What will the two new faculties look like?

Unlike the previous structure, the plan is to create two faculties along aligned subject areas. The new faculty of education and social sciences will comprise of the subject areas related to teachers’ education, psychology and social sciences (geography, sociology, political sciences and communication studies). The faculty of humanities will be the new home of classical humanities subject areas such as history; English, German and Romance languages and literatures; digital humanities; art history; philosophy and Catholic theology. Teacher training degree programmes will continue to be run as interdisciplinary, University-wide programmes, delivered by all faculties and centrally administered by the Teacher Education Centre (ZLF). Similarly, we will continue to offer our interdisciplinary and cross-faculty Bachelor’s and Master’s programmes, which have established a reputation for high quality over many years.

What’s the timeline?

Formally, the restructuring will be in effect from 1 October 2022. After the university elections for the summer semester 2023, the restructuring will be implemented operationally as well. That means we have one year of transformation ahead of us, during which the faculties will grow into their new structures.

How will this affect my studies / work? Where can I find out more?

We aim to ensure that you will feel well-informed about the progress of the implementation, so you can continue to study and work without any disruption. Throughout July, we will offer information events for all members and groups in the University community, so you can discuss your questions with us. The dates and times for these events will be announced in the updates on Wednesdays. Similarly, both of us are happy to respond directly to any question you may have.

Transforming four faculties into five is a project that will require effort, time and engagement from many parts of the University. We would like to thank all those who have been involved in the constructive process so far and who will continue to work with us on this. We are looking forward to a university wide exchange with all of you, so that we can progress effectively and efficiently on our chosen path into the future, and so all the practical steps on this path can be accomplished in a way that suits us all. We are very grateful for your questions, your suggestions and your active input! We look forward to hearing from you!

With kind regards



Präsident Professor Dr. Ulrich Bartosch



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