



University of Bayreuth. © Lili Nahapetian.

University of Bayreuth earns top international position

The University of Bayreuth has earned a top position in an international ranking of young universities and has even managed to improve its standing over the past year. The “150 under 50” ranking published by Times Higher Education (THE) contains the 150 best young universities in the world. Ever since the ranking was first published five years ago, the University of Bayreuth has been included among these frontrunners. This year’s results are the best yet, with the University advancing to 35th in the ranking.

Profile development and interdisciplinary cooperation

“These excellent results show that smaller universities are also able to make their way into the world’s best universities through their achievements in research and teaching,” according to Prof. Dr. Stefan Leible, President of the University of Bayreuth. “Since its



establishment, the University of Bayreuth has been strategically developing its profile and actively pursuing international collaboration. This approach has resulted in solid, internationally visible research expertise in certain fields such as polymer and colloid chemistry, molecular biosciences, and African studies. These, in turn, provide important impetus for the programmes of study we offer here in Bayreuth, some of which are unique in Germany.” The University of Bayreuth also fared well compared to other universities in Germany: the latest THE ranking of 150 best young universities in the world included 10 German universities, of which 5 were ahead of the University of Bayreuth.

The THE ranking of young universities gives equal weight to the categories “Teaching” and “Research”. These categories include indicators such as staff-to-student ratio, research productivity, and academic reputation. The University’s position at the international forefront is in large part also thanks to the fact that research work carried out in Bayreuth is cited particularly often by scholars around the globe. In addition, the ranking recognized the University of Bayreuth’s strength in knowledge and technology transfer with industry, which allows joint innovations to flourish.

Strong international profile including new English-taught Master’s programmes

Compared to other young universities around the world, the University of Bayreuth has a particularly strong international outlook. This is demonstrated by its broad spectrum of international cooperation agreements and international publications in addition to the relatively high percentage of students, staff members, and researchers from abroad. A range of English-taught degree programmes that are already offered, and even more that are currently in planning, are expected to further strengthen Bayreuth’s international profile. For instance, in Winter Semester 2016/17, the new English-taught master’s programmes History & Economics, Development Studies, Environmental Chemistry, Environmental Geography, and Biofabrication will be launched.

About the THE Ranking “150 Under 50”

Times Higher Education (THE) is a British magazine focusing on higher education. It publishes its flagship “World University Ranking” annually. With its emphasis on scholarly reputation, this overall ranking tends to favour institutions with a long academic tradition. It is



for this reason that the THE introduced a separate ranking to highlight outstanding young universities. This ranking makes use of the same indicators as the World University Ranking, however scholarly reputation only plays a subordinate role.

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