



Revolution in Germany's System of Higher Education – Right to award doctorates for Universities of Applied Sciences in the State of Hesse



9th Annual Meeting of the EUA Council for Doctoral Education
16-17 June 2016, Tarragona, Spain

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President

Universities in Germany

- **total number of Universities** 399
- **traditional Universities (U)** 121
- **Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS)** 220
- **Art Colleges** 58

- **state-run universities** (~95% of stud.) 238
- **private universities** (~5% of stud.) 121
- **universities owned by churches** 40

No. of students in Germany

Universities in total	appr. 2.700.000
International students	11,8%
Traditional Universities (U)	1.730.000
Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS)	930.000
Art Colleges	35.200
Colleges of public administration	32.000
Colleges of education	24.000
Theological Institutions	2.500

Dynamic changes in system of higher education in Germany

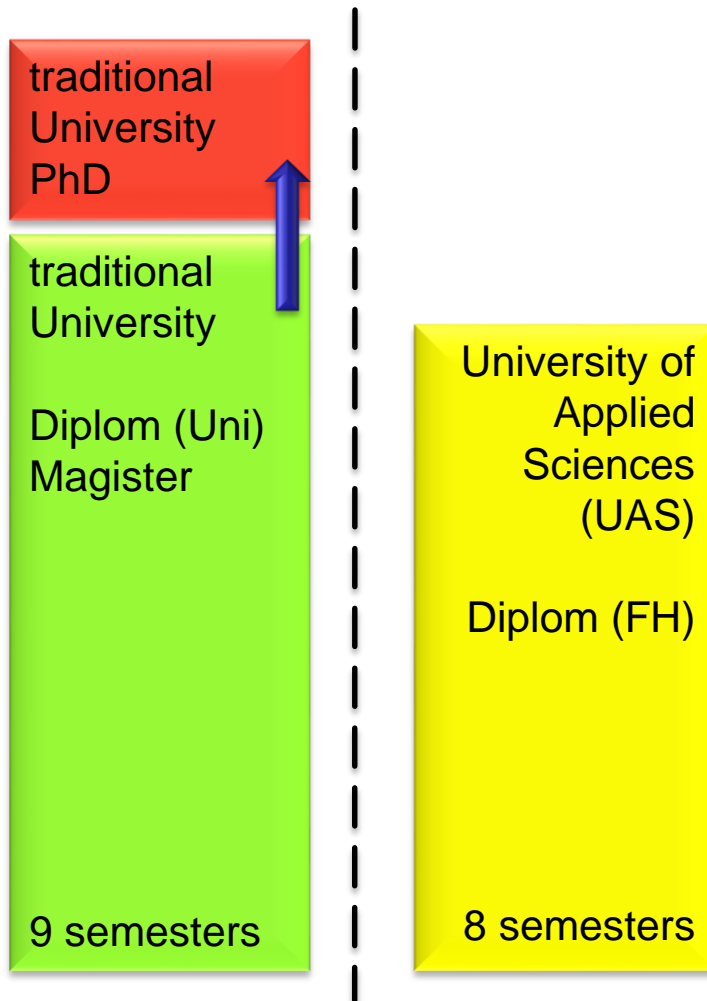
Major changes in the past 15 years

- **Bologna Reform** since 1999
introduction of **Bachelor** and **Master** degrees
- quality assurance system: **accreditation**
- high degree of **autonomy**
- universities seek for **unique profile**
- Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS) successfully engaged in **research** (mainly application-oriented)

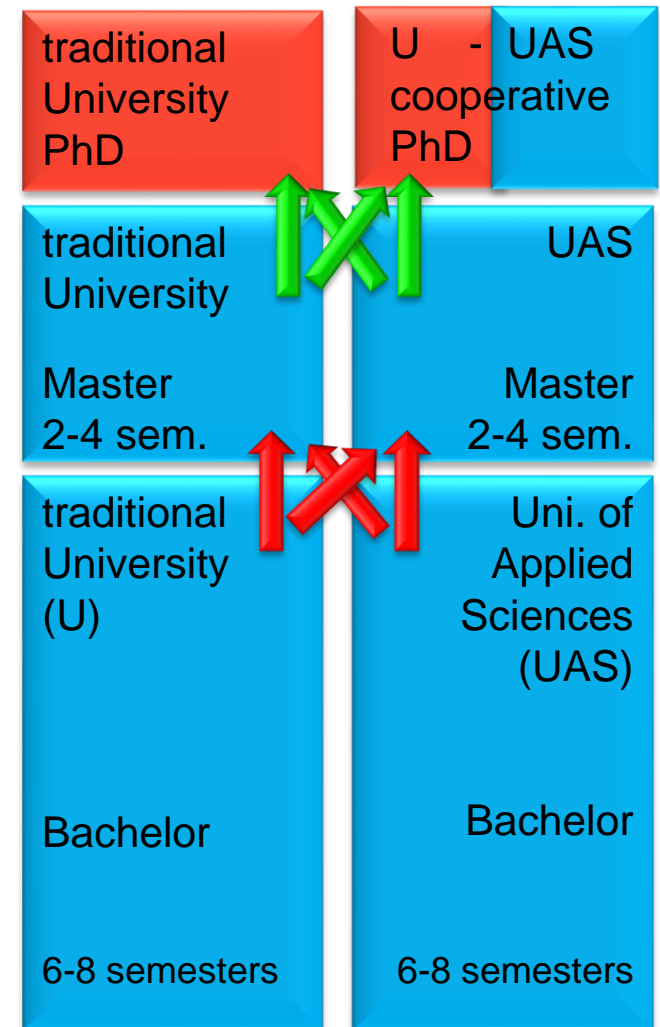


Bologna Reform at German universities

before Bologna



today



Importance of doctoral education at UAS

- research requires engagement and contribution of **doctoral candidates**
- 1st approach ⇒ **cooperative** doctoral procedures (U + UAS)
- However ⇒ in many cases cooperative doctoral procedures are **problematic** or even **impossible**
e.g. because
 - ⇒ specific fields of research are **not or only partly represented at traditional U** (e.g. as social work or nursing and health sciences)
 - ⇒ limited **capacities**
 - ⇒ lack of **willingness**

The Hessian approach

- Dec. 2015 the federal state of Hesse decided on a **new act for higher education**
- **first federal state in Germany** to introduce the possibility for a UAS to apply for the autonomous right to award doctorates
- right will be limited to **specific areas of research** and limited in **time** (evaluation after 5 years)
- political requirement: **quality and quality assurance** procedures must fulfill highest standards
- Hessian UAS must meet specific **criteria and procedures** for doctoral education (published in March 2016)

Criteria for Doctoral education at UAS in Hesse

- UAS must prove **sufficient strength** and **potential** in the relevant specific area of research
- minimum of **12 professors** involved in that dedicated field
- every individual professor must prove **strength in research**
- **criteria** are mainly
 - ⇒ publications
 - ⇒ third party funds

Criteria for Doctoral education at UAS in Hesse

- joint applications of **two or more UAS** possible, e.g. if the critical mass of 12 professors will not be reached by a single UAS
- **supervision** and **assessment** by different persons
- assessment by two reviewers; one of them should be a **professor at a traditional university (U)**
- right to award doctorates is **evaluated** after 4 years
 - ⇒ decision on continuation

Hochschule Fulda – University of Applied Sciences

Facts and Figures



- founded in **1974**
- **8 departments**
- degree programs:

Bachelor	35
Master	20
- students (WS 2015/16): > 8.000
professors: 150
staff : 460
total staff: 610
- full member of **EUA** since 2008
(first German UAS in EUA)

Hochschule Fulda – University of Applied Sciences

Location in Europe and Germany



The City of Fulda



Departments

AI

Applied Computer Science

ET

Electrical Engineering and
Information Technology

LT

Food Technology

OE

Nutritional, Food and Consumer
Sciences

PG

Nursing and Health Sciences

SK

Social and Cultural Studies

SW

Social Work

W

Business Administration



Main Research Areas

Three main research areas :

- Health, Nutrition, Food Technology
- Intercultural Aspects and Social Sustainability
- Computer Science and Engineering

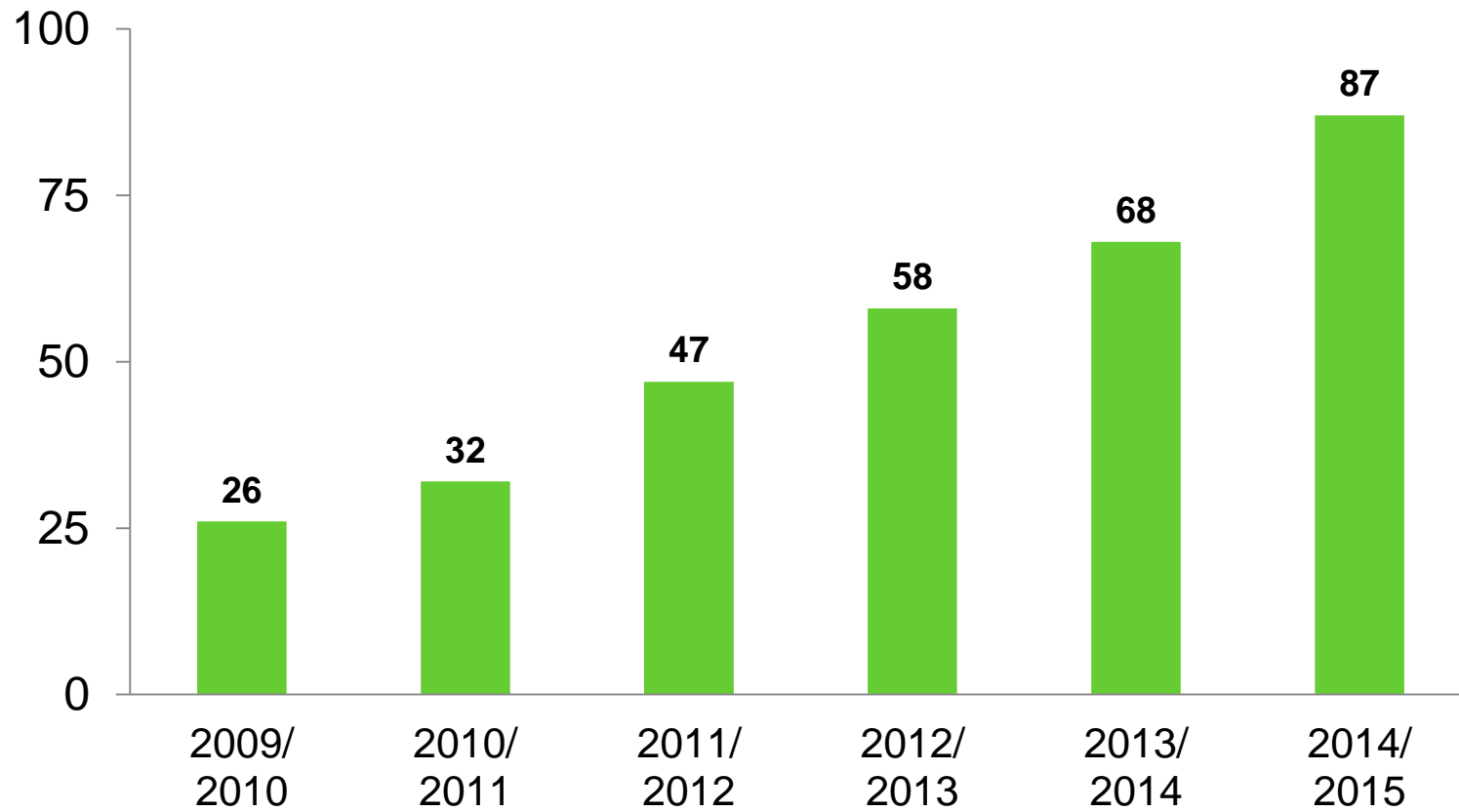
Libraries of the University



Campus of Fulda University of Applied Sciences



Number of PhD candidates



Doctoral degrees at Fulda UAS

Fulda UAS will apply/has applied for the right to award doctoral degrees in

- Public Health
- Social Work
- Social Studies, Globalisation, Intercultural Communication, European Studies
- applied Computer Science
- Business Administration and Logistics

Conclusions

- **new perspectives** for UAS in the state of Hesse
 - **very high attention** in all 16 federal states of Germany
 - expected impact:
 - ⇒ **increased activities** in the field of applied research
 - ⇒ higher **attractiveness** and **competitiveness** of the institutions
 - ⇒ better access to **financial resources** and **funding** for research in competition with traditional universities,
 - very important step towards an **open, transparent** and **quality-driven** system of higher education
- ⇒ **best practice for comparable institutions in Europe ?**

Thank you for your attention!

