

& VISION

ABOUT US

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FINAL REVIEW

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The working group "Mission and Vision for the Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University" created the mission statement based on suggestions from the conference of presidents, the senate and the board of governors of DHBW.

MISSION

COOPERA

DUALITY

FLEXIBIL

QUALIFIC

LONGEVIT



The Symbiosis of Theory and Practical Experience Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University

Preamble

Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University (DHBW) emerged from the former Berufsakademie Baden-Wuerttemberg / University of Cooperative Education (BA BW) and continues to uphold the decades-old successful integration of theory and practical experience in a dual course of study.

DHBW possesses the unique characteristic of consistently and deliberately combining academic study with applied learning in the professional world. With this strategy, DHBW provides a route to sought-after academic qualifications while enabling students to gain extensive practical experience. This foundation equips DHBW students and graduates to take on challenging tasks early in their professional careers, helping to launch them on successful career paths.

DHBW welcomes participating companies and social institutions as equal partners to the university. All partners work together to continuously develop and improve the dual study concept and achieve DHBW's mission and goals.

DHBW supports the internationalisation of the curriculum and cultivates global cooperation with universities, companies and social institutions. Through international exchange programmes for students and professors, by integrating theory and practical experience and through collaborative teaching and research projects, DHBW can engage in a diverse variety of professional fields worldwide.

By selecting students through our dual partners, we ensure that top-notch, goal-oriented high school graduates with an affinity for practice-oriented education study at DHBW.¹

¹ Under certain conditions, students possessing the qualifications for admission to a university of applied sciences and employed persons without university entrance qualifications may be admitted to the dual study program.

Continuation of the Dual Study Concept within the University Landscape

DHBW has its own unique profile, characterised by:

DUALITY

DHBW distinguishes itself through the continual integration of knowledge-based teaching and practice-oriented training in companies and social institutions. The alternating phases of theory and practice are designed to build on and complement each other in a systematic way.

DHBW has created a curriculum that will prepare students for the challenges of a complex, globalised work environment. With locations throughout the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg, the Cooperative State University has a strong regional network.

COOPERATION

As Dual Partners of DHBW the participating companies and social institutions are integral members of the university. The cooperation between the university and its dual partners is characterised by its level of intensity, personal contact and institutionalised collaboration in committees. As a result of integration within the committees, the dual partners routinely participate in important university decisions. This collaboration helps ensure that degree programmes are developed which are both academically sound as well as meet the needs of the labour market.

LONGEVITY AND FLEXIBILITY

DHBW anticipates the evolving challenges of the professional world and keeps up with current scientific discoveries and innovations. This ensures that the degree programmes continue to reflect current market needs and conditions.

DEGREES AND QUALIFICATIONS

DHBW grants the bachelor's degree to students who successfully complete the programme. DHBW also offers opportunities for post-graduate study, master's programmes, and continuing education programmes.

*** 1974**

On 1 October 1974, the BABW opened its doors at locations in Stuttgart and Mannheim with a total of 164 students and 51 training companies. The new institute of higher education started with programmes in the fields of business administration and engineering. In 1975 the programmes expanded to include social work.

Attractive graduates for the labour market

The success of DHBW can be measured by the high rate of post-graduate employment and the positive career development of alumni at the companies and social institutions where they are employed.

By the time they graduate, DHBW alumni have learned to cope quickly with new situations and to integrate themselves into new tasks, teams and cultures.

DHBW graduates impress their employers and co-workers as being independent thinkers who willingly take on responsibility and exhibit sound judgement in both business and societal matters.

They distinguish themselves through their solid knowledge of their field, understanding of larger contexts and the ability to transfer theoretical expertise to practical applications.

They solve problems in their professional environment methodically and purposefully with a team-oriented attitude.

* 1981

By 1981 six additional locations in Villingen-Schwenningen, Heidenheim, Ravensburg, Karlsruhe, Mosbach and Loerrach opened their doors to students. Through their various competencies and close connections to regional companies and social institutions, these locations became and have remained the pillars of the Berufsakademie Baden-Wuerttemberg/ University of Cooperative Education (BA BW), now called the Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University (DHBW).

Cooperation, Partnership and Dialogue

The guiding principles of DHBW members are tolerance, fairness, equality and openness.

Close coordination and communication between partners occurs on all levels and in all areas.

DHBW benefits from the diversity of viewpoints and perspectives among its members from both academia and the business world. Joint decision-making processes take a variety of interests into consideration, leading to strong and broad commitment among members.

Open dialogue, transparency in decision-making processes and the willingness to deal constructively with conflicts are also important values.

DHBW sees the implementation of equal opportunity measures as an important social task and a considerable issue for higher education, and, as such, takes concrete action to prevent or eliminate disadvantages and discrimination.

* 1995

By 1995, roughly 35,000 students had graduated with a degree from the Berufsakademie Baden-Wuerttemberg / University of Cooperative Education. On average, approximately 85% of those graduates found full-time employment immediately following graduation, a number which holds true today as well. The drop-out rate is also at less than 10%. No other university in Germany can compete with either of these figures.

* 1989

15 years after being founded, over 10,000 young people studied at the Berufsakademie Baden-Wuerttemberg / University of Cooperative Education. The belief of our partner companies and social institutions in the idea of integrating work and study has made this enormous growth possible. There were around 4,000 dual partners in 1989.

Commitment to first-class performance and continuous improvement

DHBW distinguishes itself through both achievement and competitiveness.

The high standards for applicants and dual partners as well as the high motivation level of students, full-time and visiting lecturers and employees of DHBW provide the basis for the efficiency of the system.

All members of DHBW are committed to an inspiring work environment.

With well-established quality management systems, these concepts undergo on-going testing and, as such, a continual process of improvement.

DHBW supports responsible and innovative actions. This includes the readiness to make rapid changes, openness to trying new things and the ability to continually develop oneself. DHBW views itself as a learning organisation that purposefully manages change.

Program offerings are continually improved, expanded and adapted to specific demands from companies and social institutions.

* 2005

In 2005 prospective students could choose from about 80 different programme offerings in the fields of business administration, engineering and social work at the Berufsakademie Baden-Wuerttemberg / University of Cooperative Education.



Through a unique didactical concept to professional competence

PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE AS AN EDUCATIONAL MISSION

The goal of DHBW programmes is to achieve professional competence that is built on the broad development of personal, technical, methodological and social competences. This goal is achieved through up-to-date and practice-oriented study content, by implementing student-oriented teaching and learning methods that reflect the successful integration of work experience and education, promote the transfer of knowledge between theory and practice and support autonomous learning.

INTEGRATION OF THEORY AND PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

The various learning environments encourage holistic education and help motivate the students. Project papers and theses for the bachelor's and master's degrees address research questions that the dual partners consider highly applicable.

STUDYING IN THE WORK WORLD

Through their comprehensive integration into companies and social institutions during the practical phases of the programmes, DHBW students learn in an active way and engage in real-life decision making processes. They learn to adapt their own abilities to the constantly changing demands of a work environment.

The educational aspects of the practical phases are part of the mandatory overall study plan that encompasses the theoretical content and various educational stages of the student's program, including a variety of learning locations and specific assignments or tasks. Graduates therefore develop an understanding of the entire process, something not achievable in traditional internships.

This practical experience also increases the students' social competence and flexibility because they are involved in various processes as employees, learn to complete their work independently and experience various forms of collaboration.

STUDYING IN SMALL COURSES

Studying in a small group setting supports the individual learning processes of the students and is more efficient.

HIGHLY-QUALIFIED VISITING LECTURERS FROM THE WORK WORLD

The large number of qualified visiting lecturers who are currently working in a variety of fields and sectors allows new trends and developments to be integrated into the programmes.

* 2009

DHBW was founded on March 1, 2009. With over 25,000 students and approximately 9,000 dual partners, DHBW is among the largest universities in Germany. The new organisational structure with one central and one decentralised (competency) level enables the university to create positive synergies while maintaining the strengths of individual locations.



Commitment to Research Cooperatively

The cooperative research at DHBW is both applied and transfer-oriented, particularly in collaboration with our dual partners. They develop particularly innovative concepts, strategies and technologies that reflect the professional and technical reality in the fields of business administration, engineering and social work.

Cooperative research involves DHBW in disciplinary and research networks and contributes to the creation of new knowledge. It also serves to improve the teaching and training and offers an application-oriented benefit for the dual partners.

The principle of duality is thus reflected in both the applied and academic fields, further revealing the unique profile of the DHBW.

* 2010

A new branch campus of the DHBW Mosbach has been founded in Heilbronn. With Horb (a branch of the DHBW Stuttgart founded in 1989), Bad Mergentheim (a branch of DHBW Mosbach founded in 2002) and Friedrichshafen (a branch of DHBW Ravensburg founded in 2004), the DHBW now brings eight campuses and four branch campuses under one roof.

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