

SECIS: Country Report KAAD 2013

Number of international students in Germany (Winter Term 2011/12 and WT 2012/13)	265,292 / 281,076			
Foreign Students/Bildungsinländer ¹ (WT 2011/12)	72,439			
Foreign Students/Bildungsausländer ² (WT 2011/12)	192,853			
Country of origin of the international students in Germany (WT 2011/12)	I	Turkey	IV	Poland
	II	China	V	Austria
	III	Russian Fed.	VI	Italy
Number of national students abroad (2010)	about 126,600			
Countries of major concentration of national students (2010)	I	Austria	IV	Switzerland
	II	Netherlands	V	USA
	III	Great Britain	VI	France
Number of Universities in total	427			
Number of <i>Catholic</i> Universities	1 University + 5 Univ. of Applied Sciences			

„Secularism“ in German universities?

Following a paper of the German university pastoral accepted by our Bishops' Conference in January 2013, the religious "neutrality" of German authorities in the Higher Education field has been increasingly interpreted in the case of Christian actors not as "cooperative neutrality" (German constitutional tradition) but as a "neutralization" of them. In general, this does not appear in an aggressive manner but happens sometimes "unconsciously" without being deliberately expressed (taboo?). So university pastoral is an "agency" among others, in competition with other religious or secular actors. Only 5 % of university students can still be integrated in the activities of our chaplaincies. In general it seems however that the university sector as far as students are concerned is not more "secularized" than the German society as a whole. Additionally to new confessional actors on the campus, there is a free floating "irrational" spirituality noticeable among the students.

Furthermore a certain "pressure" coming from muslim or pentecostal actors ("Evangelikale") is visible on the campuses which urge the authorities to give them space and representation (a solution on some campuses is the establishment of a multireligious "House of Silence" to create a "neutral" room mostly used by muslims for their prayers). Also a first Jewish religious community has been established (Potsdam). This general need for response to religious demands – in the context of a necessary "integration" of migrant groups in our society – could also help to "reanimate" the attention for the traditional Christian presence on the campus. On a higher level the coordination board for scientific research f. ex. ("Wissenschaftsrat") therefore stimulates the presence of Christian Theological Faculties and at the same time the creation of Faculties for Islamic Theology.

¹ **Bildungsinländer:** Students who are foreign nationals (or stateless students) and who have obtained their higher education entrance qualification at a German school or passed a Gifted Students Test (Begabtenprüfung) or an Aptitude Test (Eignungsprüfung) in Germany.

² **Bildungsausländer:** Students who are foreign nationals (or stateless students) and who have obtained their higher education entrance qualification at a foreign school. This status also applies to foreign students who have complemented their school qualifications by attending a German Studienkolleg (preparatory course for higher education admission).

Conclusion: we experience under the motto “diversity” a growing attention for the presence of religious actors. This goes hand in hand with an increasingly reduced *Christian* presence inside this tendency. The danger consists for our pastoral actors in taking a merely “defensive” position in view of more “secularist” university authorities on the one hand and towards a growing plurality of spiritual and confessional actors on the other hand.

Catholic Church-Responsibilities for Students

1. University Students:

1a. National: Commission VIII of the German Bishop’s Conference, responsible:
Bishop Dr. Heinrich Mussinghoff, Aix-la-Chapelle.

1b. Coordination of Dioceses: Konferenz für Hochschulpastoral / Forum Hochschule und Kirche

2. International Students:

2a. National: Commission VIII of the German Bishop’s Conference

2b. KAAD (clearing agency) together with 1b.

KAAD ACTIVITIES IN 2012

The Catholic Academic Exchange Service (KAAD) is the scholarship institution of the German Catholic Church for post-graduate students and scientists from (developing) countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Middle East, as well as Eastern and South Eastern Europe. The KAAD supports its scholars in form of scholarships and educational programs and offers spiritual and personal assistance in view of future multiplying functions students will have in their home countries. This is based on cooperation with partner committees and associations of ex-scholars in those countries and it aims at setting up (scientific) networks and at contributing to a holistic development, which includes the religious and inter-religious dimensions.

2012 IN SHORT

- Ties with 52 partner committees and 27 alumni associations.
- The educational program of KAAD in Germany and abroad contained 76 events with 1,630 participants.
- In 2012 KAAD-representatives visited a total of 14 partner countries.
- The main event in Germany was the Annual Convention in Bonn, attended by 287 people. It dealt with the topic “Conduct of Life in a Global Society - The Timeliness of Virtues” from interdisciplinary and interreligious points of view. The KAAD was also present on many forums at the German Catholic Convention (Katholikentag) in Mannheim. Highlights among the events abroad were the international seminars in Yangon, Bogotá and Kampala.
- In 2012 the KAAD was able to sponsor a total of 447 fellows (previous year: 445): 232 individuals in Scholarship Program I (215), 121 in Scholarship Program II (134) and 94 in the Eastern Europe-Program (96). The Bonn Office received 9,305 first application requests (5,057).
- The total budget of around 4,6 million Euro came again mainly from church taxes (60% - Association of German Dioceses, VDD). Considerable contributions came also from Misereor, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Renovabis. Third-party funds that derived from cooperation with universities and dioceses are not as significant in terms of quantity, they, nevertheless, form an important part of our work (4%). Additionally we have Miscellaneous Revenues, which consist mainly of repayments of scholarship loans. Again, our foundation “KAAD-Stiftung Peter Hünemann” was able to contribute significantly to our work.