



EPiCUR
EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY

DID YOU KNOW?

FUN FACTS about the EPiCUR Universities



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

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Foreword

Dear fellow EPICUReans, dear friends,

Planning, building, and performing EPICUR as a “European University” is a huge undertaking that eight partners have started in late 2019. A ninth partner will join the team in late 2022. Initially funded by the European Commission and backed financially by national and regional funding agencies since, EPICUR is one of the first 17 European alliances selected. Our European University currently consists of three parts:

- EPICUR itself, an ERASMUS+ venture strengthening and connecting regions through a European university and implementing innovative methods of learning and teaching for the European citizens of tomorrow,
- EPICUR-Research, developing a common research agenda to improve and strengthen the interaction between science and society as well as empowering early career researchers, and
- EPIDI, our partnership for innovation in distant internships.

Building such a new kind of university is obviously a serious business, but one cannot neglect the fun and the joy of such an endeavor. To bring you closer to our partner institutions, we have compiled some fun facts that show that there has definitively been a humorous side to working at universities in the past! The same applies to current activities within EPICUR, but those stories should probably be told at a later point in time...

We hope that you, dear readers, have the same joy in reading those fun facts that we had in compiling them.

Stay EPICURious!



Photo credit: KIT

Michael Zacherle
Project Officer EPICUR
Project Coordinator EPICUR-Research

About EPICUR

EPICUR – the European Partnership for an Innovative Campus Unifying Regions

EPICUR, the European university alliance, belongs to the first generation of 17 European alliances to pilot a new way of intensifying collaboration among Higher Education institutions through the creation of a European University.

Learning, Teaching, and Mobility

Since November 2019, the teams in the 8 founding universities of the alliance are working together to develop, test, and experiment on different approaches to make this vision a reality. These approaches include student-centered learning and collaborative teaching formats inspired by a Liberal Arts and Sciences approach, servicelearning and research based internships closely connected to our regional eco-systems. Additionally, EPICUR advocates for multilingualism by safeguarding and strengthening European linguistic diversity, and designs and facilitates new forms of mobility – physical, virtual, and blended – available within an EPICUR inter-university campus. In November 2022, the University of Southern Denmark (SDU) will join the alliance.

EPICUR offers a new model of education and research through innovative programmes that were created thanks to our cooperations, – with our university partners but also with our students and staff members, – and with the help of friends.

EPICUR-Research

With our research activities, we will also empower early career researchers by initiating bottom-up collaborative processes and building new EPICUR networks

for researchers in all their career stages, thereby forming a new kind of research community that crosses over disciplinary borders and opens universities to their communities.

For EPICUR, transdisciplinarity, the collaboration between academics and partners from other sectors of society, such as civil society and governmental organisations, industry and business, lies at the heart of our activities. We strongly believe in the added value of crossing barriers between countries, disciplines, languages, research and teaching, and in joining forces where similar values and objectives are set. EPICUR aims to develop solutions to societal problems that incorporate the expertise and knowledge of individuals and institutions from diverse sectors of society. Convinced that international collaboration fosters scientific and societal progress, EPICUR is developing a joint research agenda with an inter- and trans-disciplinary approach to tackle pressing research questions, so-called EPIChallenges. Inspired by the “Six Transformations to achieve the SDGs” as well as by the Green Deal, “Missions of Horizon Europe”, and the EU Skills Agenda, EPICUR has set three EPIChallenges to start with: “Sustainability research” (including Climate Change and Energy), “Mobility, Migration & Identity” and “Transition of Public Health”.

Taking the Future in Our Focus

EPICUR aims to strengthen and connect European regions, their stakeholders, their entrepreneurial ecosystems and regional networks. As a unique and valuable resource for knowledge and innovation, we bring together students, educators, researchers, mentors, investors, leaders, and experts from industry, civil society, and non governmental organisations.

EPICUR is a place where all boundlessly mobile students, doctoral candidates, and staff can acquire a broad, interdisciplinary, academic perspective strongly rooted in European traditions, irrespective of their nationality, mother tongue, cultural or socio-economic background. According to our foundation, education is part of our knowledge-square, combining research, teaching, innovation and transfer for the benefit of students, researchers, and society as a whole. EPICUR will bring students, teachers, and researchers together in its campuses, which are firmly embedded in their local communities. We also want to connect the diverse innovation ecosystems and promote entrepreneurial thinking among students.

Above all, EPICUR encourages students, teachers, researchers, and staff members to cross borders – geographically, culturally or academically.

EPICUR – Shaping a European society in transition

EPICUR Main Objectives

Offering an innovative, interdisciplinary, and multilingual approach to teaching and academia, providing students, teachers, researchers, and staff access to an inter-university, regionally connected campus without borders



A new educational approach centered on student learning and based on inclusive excellence, multilingualism and interculturality



Innovative teaching and learning models accessible thanks to physical, virtual and blended mobilities through the EPICUR Campus.



Development of a research programme to improve and strengthen the interaction between science and society



A network of European universities and regions for a boundless mobility of students, teachers and staff

The Alliance in Numbers

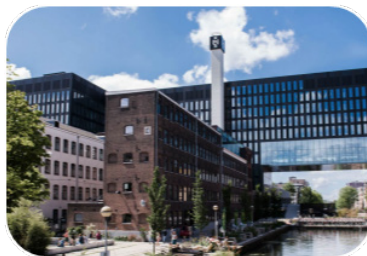


307 000
Students



40 000
Staff,
including

21 000
Academic Staff



118
Faculties



156
Research Groups

University of Southern Denmark (SDU)

Welcome to EPICUR!

The University of Southern Denmark (SDU) will be the ninth member of the EPICUR alliance at the end of 2022. As the name suggests, the SDU is located in Denmark. Besides that, several international rankings place the SDU in the top 300 universities in the world. We summarised more information in a profile:

- has a total of six campuses: Odense, Esbjerg, Kolding, Sonderborg, Slagelse, and Copenhagen
- welcomed its first students in 1966 (campus Odense)
- has more than 27,000 students and more than 3,800 employees
- has a total of 115 study programmes
- pursure the following strategies: Break barriers down and create a sustainable future
- has its own motto: Fructus Increscit Opera Novo In Agro. (The fruit grows during work on the new field.)

For more information: <https://www.sdu.dk/en>

Special Books

Among the books kept at the SDU Library there is a collection of old books dating back to the 16th century. Researchers have found arsenic on some of these books – meaning they are quite toxic. If people were to eat them, one book could kill up to 60 people.

<https://www.sdu.dk/da/nyheder/forskningsnyheder/giftigeboege>

What Do You Do When It Rains?

Our main campus in Odense is bigger than the Principality of Monaco. The campus building, is one big building meaning you can walk to your classes without getting wet when it rains.

https://www.sdu.dk/en/om_sdu/byerne/odense



University of Freiburg (ALU-FR)

- University with Clusters of Excellence
- Established in 1457
- Many study programmes in various areas: humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, engineering, and medicine
- The Freiburg University Hospital is one of the biggest university hospitals in Europe

For more information: <https://uni-freiburg.de/en/>

Rules Are Rules

What kind of punishment did students at the University of Freiburg in the 16th and 17th centuries have to expect if, for example, the dress code or the requirement to speak Latin among each other were violated?

- > As banal as it may sound: one week without wine (keep in mind that the students, all male at this time, joined the University when they were only about 13-14 years old). The wine at that time was neither very strong (approx. 3% alcohol) nor very tasty, but unlike water it was one of the few drinks that could be drunk fairly safely in these times. Students who were punished with the withdrawal of wine had to drink (mostly unclean) water during this week.

Katharina Kiefel, MA

A Special Type of Lodger

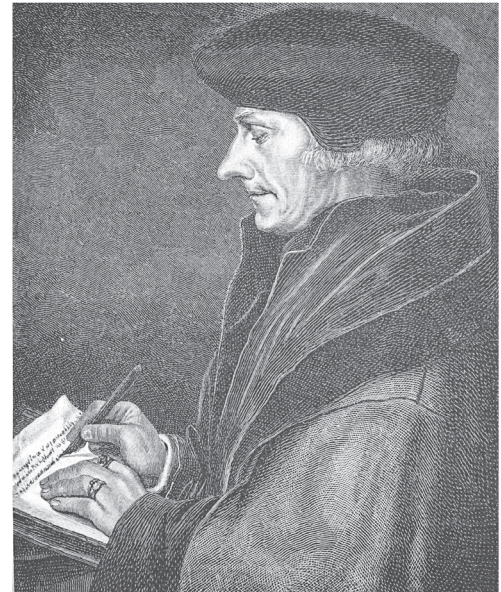
Do you know which famous scholar lived in Freiburg for some time and made himself unpopular, especially with his landlady?

- > From 1529 to 1531, Erasmus of Rotterdam resided in „The Whale House“ in Freiburg after fleeing the Reformation in Basel. Constantly complaining about the untasty regional food, the supposed lack of table manners within Freiburg and the mild and warm climate, which made the Freiburg „Bächle“ even more smelly, rumor has it that he did not pay rent and therefore was expelled from the house in 1531.

Katharina Kiefel, MA

Erasmus of Rotterdam

- Born between 1466 and 1469, presumably in Rotterdam
- Died in Basel in 1536
- Most important humanist of the 16th century
- Pioneer of Enlightenment in Europe



Adam Mickiewicz University (AMU)

- Received the Quality Seal of the European University Association (EUA)
- History starts in the 16th century
- 1919: Reestablishment of the University of Poznań after the end of the First World War
- 1955: Start of modern era with the name of a new patron, Adam Mickiewicz

For more information: <https://amu.edu.pl/en>

Curiouser and Curiouser...

Did you know that AMU's current Rector, Prof. Bogumiła Kaniewska, translated Lewis Carroll's „Alice's Adventures in Wonderland“ into Polish? It is one of 12 different Polish translations of this book. Bogumiła Kaniewska's version is comprehensible to a child reader yet manages to retain finesse of the original.

amu.edu.pl/en

Bogumila Kaniewska

- Born in Poznań in 1964
- Rector of Adam Mickiewicz University of Poznań (office period from 2020 – 2024)
- Polish literary scholar and philologist, professor for humanities, translator
- Specialized in the history of literature, modern literature, literature theory



How Far Is It From the Rectorate to the Farthest AMU Building?

It's almost 3,000 kilometres!

The university owns a seasonal polar research station in the Petuniabukta (Petunia Bay), in the Northern part of Billefjord, and central part of Spitsbergen island in the Svalbard archipelago.

It takes at least 9 hours to get there from Poznan.

amu.edu.pl/en



University of Strasbourg (UNISTRA)

- University of Excellence
- History dates back to the 16th century
- Wide range of study programs, including German-French study programs, international double-degree programs, and dual programs

For more information: <https://en.unistra.fr/>

A House Full of Nature or a House Full of Wisdom

Jean Herrmann (physician and naturalist) set up a natural history cabinet at his home in St Thomas's Square. His flat thus became a "teaching practice" where he liked to meet with his students. His collection was an exceptional teaching tool, and his cabinet was an essential reference for scientists visiting Strasbourg. He also opened his collection to private courses attended by the cultivated minds of the Alsatian bourgeoisie. His collections and his library are at the origin of the Strasbourg Natural History Museum, where his natural history cabinet has been recreated.

archives service - science garden

Jean Herrmann

- Born in Barr on December 31, 1738
- Deceased in Strasbourg on October 4, 1800
- Physician, professor, natural researcher, author
- Studies and diploma at the University of Strasbourg
- With his best-known publication *Tabula affinitatum animalium* (1783), he was one of the first who tried to classify species in nature

Looking at the Stars

The first astronomical observatory in the city of Strasbourg was built on a tower of the city walls at the request of mathematician Julius Reichelt (holder of the chair of mathematics at the University of Strasbourg). This tower is located on the Place de l'Hôpital Civil, left of the hospital's entrance gate. It was the first and only observatory of the Empire.

archives department



Julius Reichelt

- Born in 1637 in Strasbourg
- Died in 1717 in Strasbourg
- Mathematician, astronomer, cartographer, geographer, and university teacher
- Studies and doctorate in Strasbourg

University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU)

- Established in 1872
- Academic education and research in the area of renewable resources
- Work focuses on agriculture, forestry, and wood-based industries

For more information: <https://boku.ac.at/en>

Cross-Country Skiing - Duel Professor versus ÖH-chairman

In his editorial entitled “Akademische Dekadenz” (academic decadence) and published in October 1968 in the journal of the Association of Austrian Students “bilanz,” Karl Steinhauser settled scores with professors in a tone not known before: “Sie stehen ehrerbietig Wache vor einem Wissen, das nichts anderes ist als die historische Akkumulation von Irrtümern. In ihrer Borniertheit verrammen sie das Tor zum Fortschritt, weil sie vermeinen, in ihren Gehirnen bereits der Weisheit letzten Schluß aufgespeichert zu haben.“ (They are standing on

guard reverentially to protect knowledge that is nothing else than the historic accumulation of errors. In their narrow-mindedness, they are blocking the gate to progress, because they believe to have stored in their brains the ultimate wisdom). In his opinion, universities were suffering from “mental degeneration” and he declared the “academic elite” to be responsible for it. Numerous professors of Austrian universities considered this article a faux pas and felt personally and academically insulted. Some even wanted to take legal proceedings against the author for violation of their honour.

The Chairman of the Association of Austrian Students (ÖH), Sepp G. Bieler, pointed out that signed articles in “bilanz” expressed the opinion of the author rather than

Professor Dr. Hannes Mayer

- Born in Altötting/Bavaria (Germany) in 1922
- Died in 2001 in Vienna
- Was appointed Professor for Silviculture by BOKU in 1965
- From 1965 to 1990, Head of the Institute of Silviculture, BOKU

the ÖH, but still supported publication of critical and even provocative articles in “bilanz.”

Professor Dr. Hannes Mayer from the Institute of Silviculture of BOKU demanded satisfaction! He felt his honour “deeply violated” and challenged the Chairman of ÖH rather than the author to a modern “duel” – a cross-country ski run covering the classical distance of 42.2 km.

The duel took place on January 12, 1969. Professor Mayer won with Bieler being six rounds behind. Before the competition, Bieler had said in an interview of “boku blätter:” “I consider this matter in a more cheerful way and doubt that the winner may then claim to be right.”

Peter Wiltsche, Mag. Tarik Gaafar



The University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, As a Film Location

In 1978, central scenes of the film “The Boys from Brazil” with Sir Laurence Olivier and Bruno Ganz were recorded at BOKU

The “Boys from Brazil” is a thriller from 1978. Although some historic characters appear, the story is fictitious. The film is based on the novel “The Boys from Brazil” published by the US author Ira Marvin Levin in 1976. The film was directed by Franklin Schaffner who won the Academy Award twice (Planet of the Apes, 1968; Islands in the Stream, 1977). Among the main actors were Sir Laurence Olivier, Lilli Palmer, and Gregory Peck. Shootings took place in England, the USA, Portugal, and

Austria. In Vienna, BOKU was one of the settings. The Gregor Mendel House of BOKU temporarily became an institute building of the University of Vienna. One of the main characters (Laurence Olivier as Ezra Liebermann) asked some biological-genetic questions to scientist Professor Bruckner (Bruno Ganz). This interview took place in the ceremonial hall of BOKU. The furniture was arranged as during meetings of the professors. Laboratory scenes were set at the laboratory of the Institute for Dairy Industry and Microbiology. The setting of one of the key scenes is the oldest lecture hall of BOKU (HS XV, Justus von Liebig House).

Peter Wiltsche, Mag. Tarik Gaafar

University of Upper Alsace (UHA)

- 2 cities ; 5 campuses ; 8 components ; 13 laboratories ; 3 research centers
- More than 10,000 students (around 100 nationalities) and 170 study programs
- First schools dating from 1822 (chemistry) and 1861 (textile industries)
- October 8, 1975 : decree establishing the University of Haut-Rhin

For more information: <https://uha.fr/fr/index.html>

Partners in Wine

The experimental vineyard parcels located in Colmar on the campus « Biopôle » of UHA are exploited for research and education purposes. The students who take the course « Valorisation et Transformation des Produits Agricoles » (Valorisation and Transformation of Agricultural Products) learn how to plant vines and work in the vineyards. Vineyards are also used as a model for researchers to study vine diseases. Two grape varieties were selected : Chardonnay and Gewurtztraminer. Both are very famous wines at a regional level : Chardonnay comes from Champagne and Gewurtztraminer is a symbol in Alsace. Out of this experiment, a collaboration was born between the two regions with UHA (Alsace) and Reims University (Champagne).

Annette Pasteau

Get the (Foot)Ball Rolling !

Did you know that UHA has a link with the introduction of football in France ? In the second part of the 19th century, two young English students of the Mulhouse School of Chemistry brought a football and built a team with some of their classmates. UHA was already at the forefront of interculturality! Thus, the famous Football Club of Mulhouse was founded in 1893.

Annette Pasteau



Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH)

- The Aristotle University of Thessaloniki is the largest university in Greece.
- Established in 1925
- The main campus is located in the centre of the city of Thessaloniki, Greece and covers an area of about 33.4 hectares.
- It comprises 10 faculties which consist of 40 schools and 1 single-School Faculty.

For more information: <https://auth.gr/en/>

EPICURUS

The name of the EPICUR alliance has been inspired by the ancient Greek philosopher EPICURUS, who founded Epicureanism.

EPICURUS Gnomologium Vaticanum 52:

Ἡ φιλία [φιλοσοφία] περιχορεύει τὴν οἰκουμένην
κηρύττουσα δὴ πᾶσιν ἡμῖν ἐγείρεσθαι ἐπὶ τὸν
μακαρισμόν.

Friendship dances around the world bidding us all to
awaken to the recognition of happiness

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epicurus

Is It “All Greek” to You?

The interactive language game “Is it all Greek to you?” is part of the first lesson of Modern Greek to absolute beginners in the School of Modern Greek Language, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki AUTH. It is a guessing game of matching forms, meanings and sounds in order to recognize and read your first Greek words. These words are part of common cultural knowledge, as they belong to sciences such as medicine, mathematics, physics, philosophy etc. Being familiar to speakers of other European languages, “international Greek words” overcome obstacles of meaning and help us focus on the phonetics of currently spoken language and its graphic representation at the world’s oldest alphabet.

*Dr Christina Takouda,
School of Modern Greek Language, AUTH*



University of Amsterdam (UvA)

- since 1632
- has a chapel named Agnietenkapel, it is the heart of the UvA
- has over 34,000 students and 3,000 PhD
- there work more than 6,000 employees
- UvA is colorful: the student, PhD and staffs are from more than hundred different nationalities

For more information: <https://uva.nl/en>

Bicycles vs. People

In Amsterdam you can find more bicycles than people (true fact: in 2018 the city was home to approx. 800k inhabitants and nearly 900k bicycles)

Anouk Tso

Stars Everywhere!

You can gaze the stars at any time and any place thanks to the UvA!

Our Science Faculty hosts a StarDome: this programme allows users to look at the sky at any time and any location on Earth, to gaze at the stars and planets that are visible any time at night.

Anouk Tso



Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)

- University of Excellence
- The Research University in the Helmholtz Association
- Established on October 1, 2009 by the merger of Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe GmbH and Universität Karlsruhe (TH)

For more information: <https://kit.edu/english/index.php>

A Special Type of Lecture....

When students attended one of the lectures given by Otto Lehmann, they had no idea that they were going to be witnesses of a special type of experiment. Professor Lehmann had always been a person, whose experiments attracted attention. With this experiment, however, he surpassed himself. He asked a student to sit down on an electric chair and catapulted him to the ceiling of the lecture hall with the help of electric power. Yes, you have read correctly – to the ceiling!

We do not know how the student felt after this experiment, but we can be quite sure that the students remembered the strength of electric current for a long time.

Mersiha Bahonjic

Otto Lehmann

- Born on January 13, 1855 in Konstanz
- Died on June 17, 1922 in Karlsruhe
- Researcher and Professor of Physics
- His research led to important findings on liquid crystals
- Worked as physics professor at TH Karlsruhe from 1889 to 1919

Half an Assistant

What would you do, if the Ministry of Education would approve half an assistant only instead of the one assistant you requested? Exactly. Then, you would take half an assistant! Rudolf Planck submitted to the Ministry of Education a request for another assistant, but was granted half only. For this reason, he went to the Rector's Ball of TH Karlsruhe and introduced his half assistant Kurt Linge. Linge wore a suit that was made of a white half and a black half sewed together lengthwise. The special lighting of the ballroom made the white part of Mr. Linge disappear. The stories go that a representative of the Ministry of Education was present, went home, and directly approved the full assistant.

Mersiha Bahonjic



Rudolf Plank

- Born in 1886 in Kiev
- Died in Ettlingen in 1973
- Worked as professor for refrigeration technology/ technical thermodynamics from 1925 to 1954 (TH Karlsruhe)

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