UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

THM
TECHNISCHE HOCHSCHULE MITTELHESSEN

PRESIDING COMMITTEE'S REPORT 2010/2011

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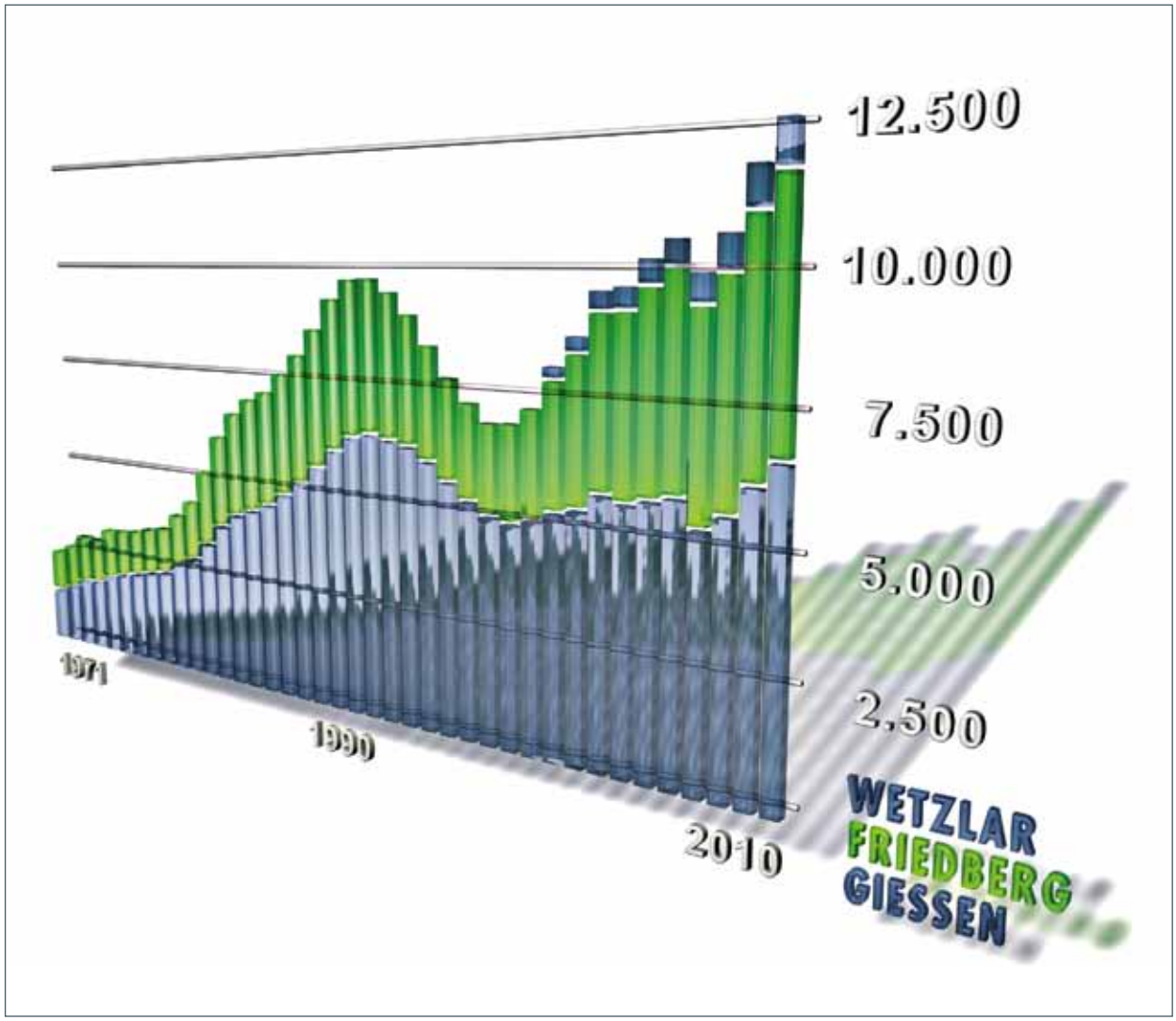


1 March 2011 marks the beginning of a new era in the history of our university. On this date we have completed the transition from the FH Giessen-Friedberg to the Technische Hochschule Mittelhessen (THM/Technical University Mittelhessen). This renaming appropriately expresses our advancement. In the recent past we have sustainably increased our achievement potential in teaching, applied research and advanced education.
In addition to Giessen and Friedberg, Wetzlar, domicile of the Scientific Centre of Dual University Studies, has become a campus. Dual study programmes are also offered in Frankenberg, Bad Hersfeld and Bad Wildungen. This growth and the commitment to act as a technological impetus for the region are emphasized in our new name.

Through the Bologna reform and restructuring to Bachelor and Master programmes the distinction between "university" and "university of applied sciences" has been superseded in German higher education. Ten years ago the State of Hessen awarded the Universities of Applied Sciences a statutory research contract.
The ground was thus prepared for the "new category of universities" just as the German Council of Science and Humanities has predicted them.

The THM is such a university and through its structural development is actuating challenging goals. The present report elucidates this focus on the future and documents the current accomplishments that justify the developmental step to the Technische Hochschule Mittelhessen.

The Presiding Committee would like to thank all the faculty members and external partners. We want to continue on the course of qualitative and quantitative growth. Hence our offer of cooperation: the THM conceives its mission as engaging in networks that are contributing to the development of our economy and environment.

Giessen, 31 March 2011

Dr. Günther Grabatin
President, Technische Hochschule Mittelhessen

2009

March

The summer semester starts at the University of Applied Sciences (UAS) Giessen-Friedberg with growth rates at record level. 782 new students mark an all-time high number of new students in a summer semester. This adds up to an increase of 38 percent compared to the previous year.

May

The UAS presents examples of practice-oriented research at the international "Achema 2009" fair. Teams from Giessen and Friedberg represent the UAS in this world-wide leading forum for chemical technology at the booth of the TechnologieTransferNetzwerk Hessen, a network for technology transfer supported by the State of Hessen.

June

For the second time the UAS Giessen-Friedberg completed the "audit familiengerechte hochschule", an audit for family oriented universities. Already in 2005 the "berufundfamilie gGmbH", which is supported by the Hertie Foundation, has examined the UAS and distinguished it as particularly family-friendly.

On campus Friedberg the new building hosting the Multi Media Engineering, Computer Science, and Facility Management programmes as well as the Centre for Distance Learning is officially dedicated. "With this additional building we provide for a noticeable improvement of infrastructures, and with that for the study conditions", said the Hessian Minister for Higher Education, Research and the Arts, Eva Kühne-Hörmann during the official handing over of the keys. President Dr. Günther Grabatin reminds the audience that after the newly constructed buildings for Biosciences (2007) and Computer Science (2008) in Giessen, this is the third new building put into operation within a short period of time. The in-

crease in performance requires the further expansion of the UAS.

July

Within the scope of the "Putting Research into Practice" campaign the Hessian Ministry for Higher Education, Research and the Arts promotes eleven projects at its UAS. Funds in the amount of 175,000 euros go into three single projects and one combined project of the UAS Giessen-Friedberg. With that we perform most successful among the other universities. For one year the single projects are being sponsored with 35,000 euros each.

September

"E-Learning" is the emphasis of the Friedberg Information Days at the campus located in the Wetterau. In preparation 34 teachers completed an advanced training at the UAS. About 1,000 students of grammar and secondary schools follow the invitation and pay a visit to the campus.

October

Even in the winter semester 2009/2010 the UAS exceeds two previous record highs: 2,590 new students stand for the highest number of newly enrolled students in the history of the UAS. Compared to the previous autumn the growth adds up to 11 percent. The total number of students reaches the peak of 11,788.

November

The UAS Giessen-Friedberg, the Scientific Centre of Dual University Studies and the Waldeck-Frankenberg County sign an agreement for the cooperation in the Process Management Master's course. 22 students begin their Master's studies in the winter semester at the new StudiumPlus remote site in Frankenberg.

December

10 years of Friedberg Fernstudienzentrum (Distance Learning Centre): almost 450 alumni completed their studies at the UAS Giessen-Friedberg. Professors Dr. Wolfgang Arnold and Dr. Raimund Gehler established the

centre in 1999. Competing with applicants from all over Germany they were awarded with the setup of an advanced training for the logistics correspondence course.

2010

February

The Institute for Biopharmaceutical Technology of the UAS Giessen-Friedberg, the Medical Department of the Philipps-Universität Marburg, and the Marburg-based biotech company sterna biologicals receive a 175,000 euros subsidy from the State of Hessen for developing a new drug for the treatment of Eczema.

March

827 new students mark the highest number of new students in a summer semester to date. 533 newly enrolled students chose campus Giessen. 294 new students picked programmes offered in Friedberg.

April

The UAS Giessen-Friedberg will change its name to "Technische Hochschule Mittelhessen" (Technical University Mittelhessen): a clear majority of the UAS' senate vote for the re-naming during a meeting on 21 April. "It is a future-oriented decision with a major strategic importance for our university," welcomes Dr. Günther Grabatin the vote. "In the past few years the UAS Giessen-Friedberg has qualitatively and quantitatively dynamically developed," Grabatin continues. "With the expansion on all levels the term Fachhochschule is no longer appropriate. The re-naming is, also with view to our regional expansion to Wetzlar, a consistent step."

The "Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Qualität in Lehre und Studium", a working group for the improvement of the quality in teaching and studies at the UAS Giessen-Friedberg gathers ideas for future projects in a "future workshop". At the same time the group, which is committed to these matters for five years, intensifies the exchange on questions about the quality of the teachings.

May

For a research project of the Centre for the Blind and Visually Impaired Students the UAS receives funds in the amount of 1.4 million euros. The four-year project for the development of a learning portal for impaired persons is mainly sponsored by the Hessian Ministry for Higher Education, Research and the Arts.

After intensive discussions and public disputes the twelve national universities sign the "Hochschulpakt 2011-2015" agreement with the State of Hessen. In an attached note of protest eight universities – among them the UAS Giessen-Friedberg – are once again expressing their basic criticism about the cuts in the amount of 30 million euros.

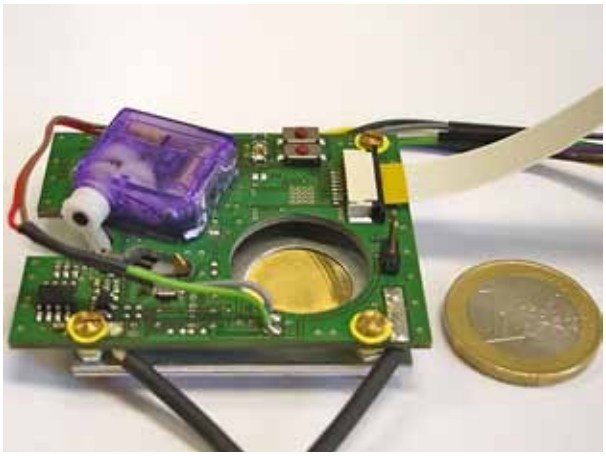
June

With two cooperation agreements the Marburg University and the UAS Giessen-Friedberg are putting their collaboration on a new basis. Those extend from the cooperative promotion programme "Bioengineering and Imaging" to the collaboration in the pharmaceutical field.

Roughly 5,000 guests are visiting the UAS Giessen-Friedberg open day "Tag der Hochschule". The programme offers more than 130 locations and appointments. This first-time event enables visitors to get an insight on the range of teaching, research and advanced education, and activates faculty members to get engaged in events with audience appeal.

July

The UAS Giessen-Friedberg is successfully participating in the contest for subsidies from the "Putting Research into Practice" programme. After 2009 it is the second time that the Hessian Government for Higher Education, Research and the Arts promotes practical research projects at the universities of applied sciences. The initiative is designed to strengthen applied research and development in Hessen. The UAS Giessen-Friedberg receives a total of about 100,000 euros for two single projects and one combined project.



September

A delegation of the UAS Giessen-Friedberg visits the Polytechnical University Lviv in the Ukraine to participate in the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the "Cooperation of Universities in Central and East Europe" (CUCEE). In this network the UAS, the Ukrainian university, and the universities of Zielona Góra (Poland) and Tallinn (Estonia) are cooperating in the fields of teaching and research.

The Federal Ministry for Education and Research supports two research projects of the UAS Giessen-Friedberg with 250,000 euros each. Under the supervision of professor Dr. Joachim Breckow a team of the Institute for Medical Physics and Radiation Protection is dedicated to the "Measurements of Radon Concentrations in Dwellings for Indication of Indoor Air Quality". The project from professors Dr. Markus Röhricht and Dr. Harald Platen of the Biomedical Engineering, Environmental and Biotechnology department is dealing with the development of a waste water cleaning process.

October

Even the winter semester 2010/11 begins with a record: a total of 12,613 students are now enrolled in Giessen (7,110), Friedberg (4,851) and Wetzlar (652). The introduction of admission restrictions in a couple of courses prevented that the number of new students also reaches a new high level. With 2,458 the number was slightly under last year's level. In the dual study programme Business Administration the UAS starts the courses Logistics and Business Informatics at the remote sites in Bad Hersfeld and Bad Wildungen.

Dr. Frank Runkel is elected third vice president of the UAS Giessen-Friedberg. According to the new basic order up to four vice presidents can now belong to the presiding committee that is managing the UAS.

November

Winner of the urban structural contest for the development of campus Giessen is schneider + schumacher Ar-

chitekturgesellschaft mbH from Frankfurt, in cooperation with GTL Gnüchtel Triebswetter GbR from Kassel. „This draft, that will be the basis for the development of an in-depth planning, offers the unique chance to the UAS Giessen-Friedberg to develop an identity-defining campus," emphasises State Secretary of the Ministry for Higher Education, Research and the Arts, Ingmar Jung, during the presentation of the competition results. Lord mayor Dietlind Grabe-Bolz and UAS President Grabatin belonged to the jury.

Profesor Dr. Peter Czermak gets second place in the "Award for Research of the Hessian Universities for Applied Sciences" competition. The scientist, who works at the Institute for Biopharmaceutical Technology at the UAS Giessen-Friedberg, applied with the project "Production Systems for Stem Cell-based Transplants for Cell-based Therapy".

December

The UAS Giessen-Friedberg receives the "Dual Studies Hessen Award" which is awarded for the first time. The Hessian Ministry for Economics and the Hessian Ministry for Higher Education, Research and the Arts bestowed the recognition for special engagement in the dual studies programme. The jury awards the prize to StudiumPlus in the "University of Applied Sciences" category. With that they honour, among other things, the networking between the UAS Giessen-Friedberg and other regional actors.

2011

January

To get an idea about lectures and available courses several of thousand pupils take advantage of the University Information Days, jointly offered by the UAS and the Justus-Liebig University Giessen.

February

The Justus-Liebig University, the Philipps University Marburg, and the UAS Giessen-Friedberg wish to continue and intensify their cooperation. For this reason the universities sign a contract that renews a cooperation agreement from 2005. Fields of intensified cooperation are: exchange, respectively joint use of available courses and teaching load; development of coordinated key areas; establishment of new joint programmes; cooperation in the academic advanced and post-graduate education; cooperation of the medical departments of the Justus-Liebig University and the Philipps University Marburg.

March

The senate's decision of April 2010 comes into effect. Since the beginning of the month the FH Giessen-Friedberg is called Technische Hochschule Mittelhessen (THM). This is more than just a symbolic act of re-naming, says THM President Prof. Dr. Günther Grabatin during the ceremony. The new name is a result of improved performances in teaching, research and advanced education. This course of dynamical development will be continued.

At the THM the summer semester 2011 starts with a total of 919 newly enrolled students. The growth, compared to the summer semester 2010, amounts to 11 percent.

Fachhochschule Giessen-Friedberg is history, THM is presence and future. That is the essence at the re-naming ceremony on 28 Feburary 2011.

Development of the numbers of students 2005-2011

	WS 05/06	SS 06	WS 06/07	SS 07	WS 07/08	SS 08	WS 08/09	SS 09	WS 09/10	SS 10	WS 10/11
Campus Giessen											
New students	1145	442	1122	453	1074	350	1455	530	1570	533	1299
Students in standard course length	4478	4373	4653	4550	4416	4263	4891	4964	5533	5551	5143
Total students (incl. those on leave)	5872	5519	5914	5719	5791	5535	6310	6353	7149	7106	7110
Campus Friedberg											
New students	840	189	746	174	670	134	875	252	1020	294	926
Students in standard course length	2981	2868	3009	2898	2783	2640	3029	2955	3144	3109	3299
Total students (incl. those on leave)	3855	3646	4029	3789	3902	3689	4181	3980	4639	4467	4851
Campus Wetzlar*											
New students											233
Students in standard course length											648
Total students (incl. those on leave)											652
THM total											
New students	1985	631	1868	627	1744	484	2330	782	2590	827	2458
Students in standard course length	7459	7241	7662	7448	7199	6903	7920	7919	8677	8660	9090
Total students (incl. those on leave)	9727	9165	9943	9508	9693	9224	10491	10333	11788	11573	12613
Division of students in %											
Campus Giessen	60%	60%	59%	60%	60%	60%	60%	61%	61%	61%	56%
Campus Friedberg	40%	40%	41%	40%	40%	40%	40%	39%	39%	39%	38%
Campus Wetzlar*											5%
Graduates											
Campus Giessen	366	427	275	463	301	563	312	447	333		
Campus Friedberg	185	181	239	222	236	260	244	214	258		
THM total	**551**	**608**	**514**	**685**	**537**	**823**	**556**	**661**	**591**		
New students, female											
Campus Giessen	301	101	269	106	281	81	402	143	457	159	380
Campus Friedberg	142	32	121	21	104	23	173	34	188	39	192
Campus Wetzlar*											62
THM total	**443**	**133**	**390**	**127**	**385**	**104**	**575**	**177**	**645**	**198**	**634**
Total percentage of new students	39%	30%	35%	28%	36%	30%	40%	33%	41%	37%	49%
Students total, female											
Campus Giessen	1360	1307	1379	1318	1244	1204	1520	1543	1786	1812	1865
Campus Friedberg	556	527	588	542	530	502	640	606	735	702	814
Campus Wetzlar*											155
THM total	**1916**	**1834**	**1967**	**1860**	**1774**	**1706**	**2160**	**2149**	**2521**	**2514**	**2834**
Total percentage of students	20%	20%	20%	20%	18%	18%	21%	21%	21%	22%	22%

* Wetzlar is being statistically recorded as a campus since WS 2010/2011.

The upward trend to a new record level – an increase that has marked the development in the number of students at the University of Applied Sciences Giessen-Friedberg since 2008 – has continued in the summer semester 2011 at the Technische Hochschule Mittelhessen: 919 students is the highest number of new students enrolling in a summer semester.

In the winter semester 2010/11 2,458 new students registered. At the same time the highest number of students to date was reached: 12,613 students were enrolled at the Giessen, Friedberg and Wetzlar sites. The introduction of restricted admissions (*numerus clausus*) in eight more degree courses prevented that the number of new students exceeds the historic peak (2,590) of autumn 2009.

In autumn 2010 Giessen registered a total of 1,299 new students, Friedberg 926, and Wetzlar 233. Following the complete termination of the diploma courses, first semester students can choose from about 50 study courses leading towards the Bachelor and Master degrees. The degree course with the most new students in Giessen was Architecture and Civil Engineering (201). In Friedberg Business Administration and Engineering attracted the most new students (113). The most popular course in the dual StudiumPlus was Business Administration with 110 first semester students.

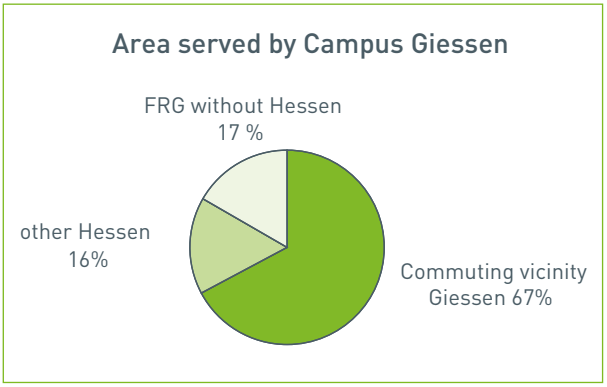
To counteract a complete capacity overload and to preserve the quality of teaching the UAS had to introduce restricted admission in several degree courses. This resulted in considerable decreases. In Giessen the number of new students decreased in Biomedical Technology from 61 to 43, in Mechanical Engineering from 226 to 139. In Friedberg only 96 Mechanical Engineers (134 in the previous year) and 43 Mechatronics Engineers (59 in the previous year) began their studies.

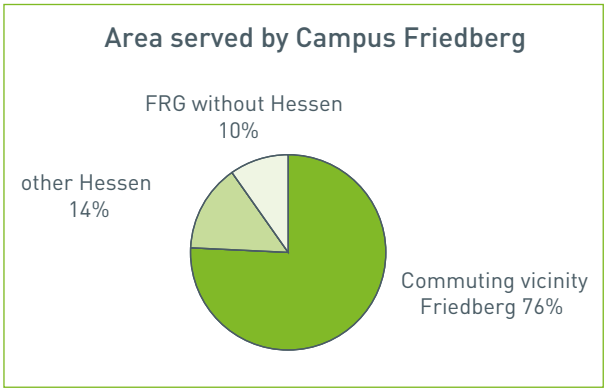
In autumn 2010 the Federal Statistics Office reported 2.2 million students throughout Germany. This corre-

First semester top 10

Civil Engineering (Gi)	**201**
Mechanical Engineering (Gi) *	**140**
Biotechnology/Biopharmaceut. Techn. (Gi)*	**127**
Business Administration (Gi)*	**124**
Business Administration and Engineering (Fb)*	**113**
Business Administration (dual, Wz)	**110**
Business Mathematics (Fb)	**110**
Media Science (Fb)*	**97**
Mechanical Engineering (Fb)*	**96**
Business Informations Systems (Fb)*	**93**

Number of new students from winter semester 2010/11
* = Courses with restricted admission





Source: www.th-mittelhessen.de/planung/images/stories/broschre_herkunft_studienanfaenger_ws2010-11_final_2011-02.pdf

Available courses at the Technische Hochschule Mittelhessen beginning winter semester 2010/2011

Course	Campus	Degree
Electrical Engineering	Friedberg	Bachelor of Engineering
Architecture	Giessen	Bachelor of Engineering
Architecture (consecutive)	Giessen	Master of Engineering
Automation Engineering	Giessen	Bachelor of Engineering
Civil Engineering	Giessen	Bachelor of Engineering
Civil Engineering (consecutive)	Giessen	Master of Engineering
Vocational Education and Training	Cooperation with JLU Giessen	Bachelor of Arts
Business Administration	Giessen	Bachelor of Arts
Business Administration (dual)	Wetzlar	Bachelor of Arts
Business Administration (advanced education)	Giessen	Master of Business Administration
Biological Information Systems	Giessen	Bachelor of Science
Biomechanics-Motor Functions-Human Motion Analysis	Cooperation with JLU Giessen	Master of Science
Biomedical Technology	Giessen	Bachelor of Science
Biotechnology/Biopharmaceutical Technology	Giessen	Bachelor of Science
Biotechnology/Biopharmaceutical Technology	Giessen	Master of Science
Electronics	Giessen	Bachelor of Engineering
Energy Systems	Giessen	Bachelor of Engineering
Facility Management	Friedberg	Bachelor of Science
Facility Management (distance learning)	Friedberg	Master of Science/Certificate
Computer Science	Giessen	Bachelor of Science
Computer Science (consecutive)	Giessen	Master of Science
Information and Communications Engineering (consecutive)	Friedberg	Master of Science
Information and Communication Technology	Giessen and Friedberg	Bachelor of Engineering
Infrastructure Management (consecutive)	Cooperation with UAS Frankfurt	Master of Engineering
Computational Engineering	Giessen	Bachelor of Science
Engineering (dual)	Wetzlar	Bachelor of Engineering
International Marketing (consecutive)	Giessen	Master of Arts

Course	Campus	Degree
Hospital Engineering Management	Giessen	Bachelor of Science
Leadership and Educational Management in the Elementary Level (dual)	Wetzlar – Cooperation with JLU Giessen	Bachelor of Arts
Logistics	Friedberg	Bachelor of Science
Logistics (distance learning)	Friedberg	Master of Science/Certificate
Mechanical Engineering	Friedberg	Bachelor of Engineering
Mechanical Engineering	Giessen	Bachelor of Engineering
Mathematics for Finance, Insurance and Management (consecutive)	Cooperation with Hochschule Darmstadt, UAS	Master of Science
Mechatronics	Friedberg	Bachelor of Engineering
Media and Computing	Friedberg	Bachelor of Science
Media and Computing (consecutive)	Friedberg	Master of Science
Medical Informatics	Giessen	Bachelor of Science
Medical Physics (consecutive)	Giessen	Master of Science
Methods und Didactics in Applied Sciences – MEDIAN (Continuing Education)	Giessen – Cooperation with Hess. Universities of Applied Sciences	Master of Science
Optotechnic and Image Processing	Cooperation with Hochschule Darmstadt, UAS	Master of Science
Engineering Physics	Friedberg	Bachelor of Science
Process Management (dual, consecutive)	Wetzlar	Master of Arts
Computer Engineering	Friedberg	Bachelor of Engineering
Technical Editing and Multi Media Documentation (consecutive)	Giessen	Master of Arts
Environmental-, Hygiene-, and Safety-Engineering	Giessen	Bachelor of Science
Environmental-, Hygiene-, and Safety-Engineering (consecutive)	Giessen	Master of Science
Management (consecutive)	Giessen	Master of Arts
Business Information Systems	Friedberg	Bachelor of Science
Business Information Systems (consecutive)	Friedberg – Cooperation with the UAS Frankfurt	Master of Science
Business Administration and Engineering	Friedberg	Bachelor of Science
Business Administration and Engineering (dual)	Wetzlar	Bachelor of Engineering
Business Administration and Engineering (distance learning)	Friedberg	Master of Business Administration and Engineering/Certificate
Business Mathematics	Friedberg	Bachelor of Science

Foreign students at the TH Mittelhessen*

Total	824
Cameroon	218
Morocco	140
Turkey	52
Tunesia	42
Bulgaria	28
Iran	28
Russian Federation	23
Lebanon	16
People's Republic of China	16

as per winter semester 2009/2010

* = Students that have not obtained their higher education entry qualification in Germany

sponds to a five percent increase compared to the previous year. The increase was similar in Hessen, where in autumn 2010 19,200 men and women were enrolled, according to the State Statistics Office. Even more than demonstrated in the federal and state trend, the total number of students at our UAS has increased from autumn 2009 (11,788) to 12,613 in the winter semester 2010/11, which means an increase of seven percent. Meanwhile the TH Mittelhessen is the fourth largest university of applied sciences in Germany.

It is politically beyond dispute that the qualification of young academics in sufficient numbers is of great significance for the future competitiveness of Germany. In the field of technology, one of the key specialisations in our economy, the constant supply with engineering professionals is deemed to be an indicator of the future

competitiveness of German businesses. In December 2010 the Association of German Engineers published an alarming situation analysis of this problem. According to this, the shortfall of engineers in this country has become more acute in December 2010. As per the "VDI/IW Ingenieurmonitor" about 49,800 engineers are needed. There are 72,000 job openings for engineers with a decreased number of 23,200 engineers registered unemployed. Compared to December 2009 the shortfall of engineers is more than double. An alarming development, especially since we cannot assume that the situation will ease in the next years", determined VDI Director Dr. Willi Fuchs.

A lasting approach consists in the adequate financial strength of the universities educating the upcoming technologists. However, political practice often cannot keep up with the requirements of social and economic development. In view of the financial crisis, the Hessian Government demanded a "saving premium" of about 30 million euros per year in the negotiations of the Hochschulpakt 2011-15 (an agreement between the State Ministry and its universities). The criticism by those concerned varied in harshness and the means of transmission, but agreed all that the presiding committees, senates und the students' union executive committees must emphasise the significance of qualifying the next generation of young professionals for our society and economics, and reject budget cuts at the universities as the wrong course for the future. The extension of restricted admissions, a practice the presiding committee of this university considers fatal in terms of education, and economy, can only be a temporary emergency solution at best.

As the chairman of the Konferenz Hessischer Fachhochschulpräsidien, (KHF) – the Conference of the Hessian Presiding Offices of the Universities of Applied Sciences – Dr. Günther Grabatin, President of the TH Mittelhessen, made the consequences of these cuts clear to the Minister of Higher Education, Research and the Arts as well as to the Minister of Finances. In

Fachhochschulen sehen Existenz gefährdet

Scharfe Kritik an Kürzungsplänen des Landes – Gespräche

GIESSEN (rst). Die Konferenz hessischer Fachhochschulpräsidien (KHF) sieht durch die Kürzungspläne der Landesregierung ernsthafte Störungen des Lehrbetriebs auf sich zukommen. Die hessische Ministerin für Wissenschaft und Kunst Eva Kühne-Hörmann (CDU) hatte bekannt gegeben, dass das jährliche Budget der Hochschulen des Landes ab 2011 bei weiterhin niedrigen Steuereinnahmen um 30 Millionen reduziert werden soll.

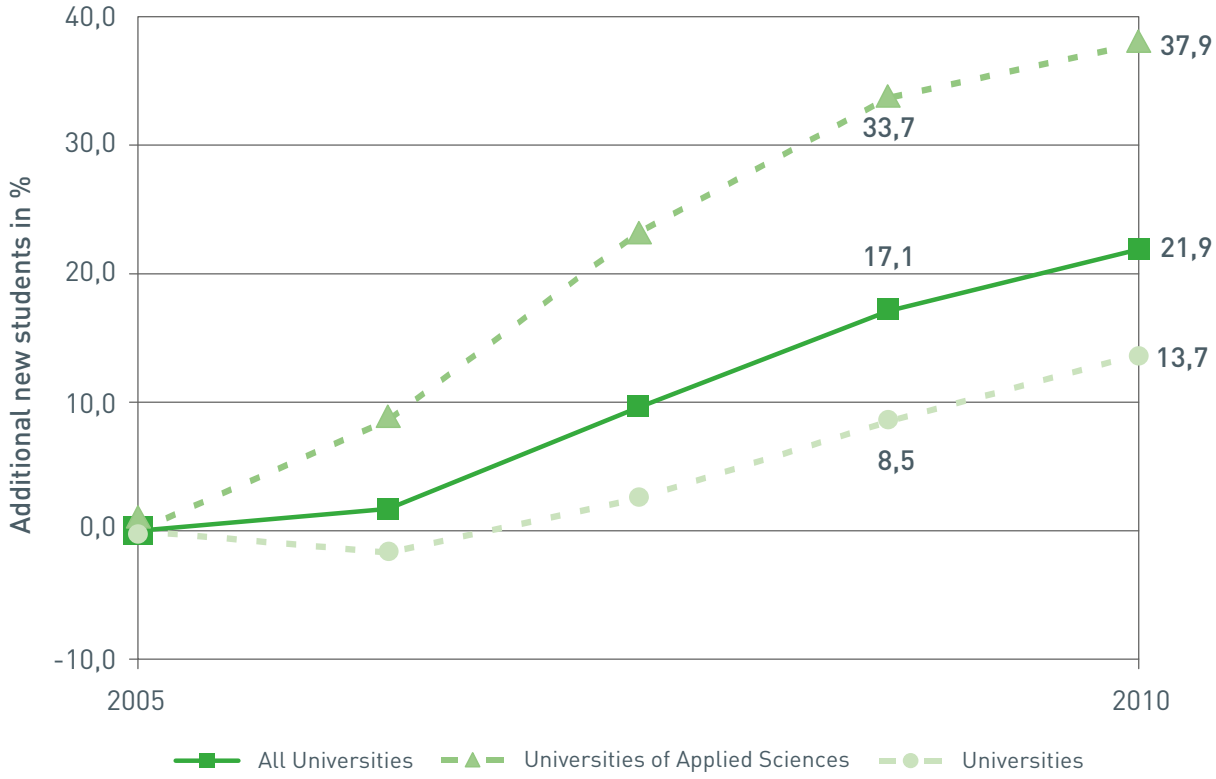
Damit werde von dem politischen Grundsatz abgewichen, den Bildungssektor von Haushaltskürzungen auszunehmen, sagte der KHF-Vorsitzende Prof. Günther Grabatin, Präsident der Fachhochschule Gießen-Friedberg. Für die Fachhochschulen bedeute dies, dass sie ihren Weg der stetigen Verbesserung der Lehre nicht wie geplant weiter gehen könnten. Einzelne Fachhochschulen sähen sich sogar in ihrer Grundsubstanz unmittelbar gefährdet. Grabatin verwies zudem auf die seit Jahren steigenden Studierendenzahlen an den anwendungsorientierten Fachhochschulen in Hessen. „Mit einem sinkenden Budget werden wir auch der großen Zahl der Studienanfänger, die wir vor allem wegen der doppelten Abiturjahrgänge in den nächsten Jahren erwarten, keine angemessenen Studienbedingungen bieten können. Wir brauchen die bestmögliche akademische Ausbildung auch deshalb, weil die deutsche Wirtschaft auf hochqualifizierte Fachkräfte angewiesen ist, wenn sie im Wettbewerb bestehen will", sagte Grabatin.

Der KHF-Vorsitzende kündigte an, um eine angemessene finanzielle Ausstattung der Hochschulen kämpfen zu wollen. „Die hessischen Fachhochschulen werden das Gespräch mit der Ministerin suchen und im Sinne unserer Studierenden alles daran setzen, dass die Kürzungen nicht Wirklichkeit werden", so Grabatin.

In der Konferenz hessischer Fachhochschulpräsidien sind die fünf staatlichen Fachhochschulen (Hochschule Darmstadt, Fachhochschule Frankfurt, Hochschule Fulda, Fachhochschule Gießen-Friedberg, Hochschule Rhein-Main) vertreten.

Giessener Anzeiger, 30 March 2010

Development of numbers of first-year students since 2005 in percent



The graphic is based on data of the Federal Statistics Office and publications of the Joint Science Conference.

the name of the KHF he criticised that the deviation from political principles in not excluding the education sector from economic cuts and explained: "With a decreasing budget we will not be able to provide the large number of first-year students we are expecting in the next years, particularly because of the double graduation year, with an appropriate place to study."

According to nationwide forecasts the problems of capacity overload in universities will intensify. The decision to terminate compulsory military service made in 2010 will be instrumental in this. Margret Wintermantel, President of the German Rectors' Conference/Hochschulrektorenkonferenz (HRK) warned in public statements that up to 40.000 additional new students must be reckoned with and appealed to policymakers for better financial support of universities. The HRK demanded that the Federal Government and Federal States considerably increase the funds promised in the Hochschulpakt 2020, to be able to react to the new situation and to provide the pre-requisites so that the universities can deal with the increased influx of prospective students. In March 2011 the Ministers of Higher Education, Research and the Arts of the Federal Government and States decided to finance an additional 45,000 to 59,000 university places within the scope of the Hochschulpakt to allow for the suspension of the compulsory military services.

For many years now the University of Applied Sciences welcomes new students at the congress hall because no lecture hall is big enough to place the large crowd.

The choice of high-quality Master programmes and the scientific demands that accompany the move towards a Technical University require us to accelerate and expand the research. The TH Mittelhessen has the goal of making its mark regionally as well as nationally as a UAS with a strong research potential. Thus it was expedient to create the management role of a vice president for research – as happened in 2010.

While in 2006 the value of subsidies was between four to five million, it is now roughly three times as high. In 2010, the UAS also acquired a considerable amount of external funding for practice-related research projects. In particular, those applications for subsidies by state and federal ministries were successful.

Landesoffensive Loewe (Hessian initiative for scientific and economic excellence)

In the field of research the UAS is still benefiting institutionally, organisationally as well as professionally from the stimulus resulting from the successful application during the "Landesoffensive zur Entwicklung wissenschaftlich-ökonomischer Exzellenz (Loewe). In summer 2008, the research project "Biomedical Engineering" received the commitment for subsidies in the amount of 4.2 million euros. The TH-Institutes for Biopharmaceutical Technologies as well as the Institute for Medical Physics and Radiation Protection – represented by professors Dr. Peter Czermak, Dr. Martin Fiebich, Dr. Frank Runkel, und Dr. Klemens Zink- cooperated with the Universitätsklinik Marburg in the key aspect of the Loewe. The vision is the integration of biopharmaceutical progress development with physics imaging modalities.

The project grant, expiring June 2011, has also led to the development of the research infrastructure in the fields of Biotechnology and Medical Equipment Engineering and has meant that additional projects could be started in those disciplines. The UAS has submitted an application to extend the grant until June 2013. The result of an evaluation by a representative of the Hessian Ministry of Higher Education, Science and the Arts, and external assessors is not yet final.

Scientists of the THM are also participating in a key area of the Loewe third round of grants, which started on 01 January 2011. As one of four partners an IBPT team is cooperating with other teams in the "Insect Biotechnology" project of the Justus-Liebig University Giessen.

With its own project ("Loewe 3") the State is supporting joint research projects in research and development that are being carried out by small and medium sized enterprises as well as universities and non-university research institutions. The goal is the introduction of marketable innovative products and processes. Our UAS is involved in further cooperative processes, managed by industrial or university partners.

Projects

For a research project of the Centre for Blind and Visually Impaired Students our UAS has been granted funds in the amount of 1.4 million euros. The project for the development of an online learning platform for disabled students is predominantly funded by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and the Arts. Further financial backers are the Federal Ministry of Health, the Federal Agency for Labour, the Welfare Organisation of the State of Hessen and the Home Office. The duration is four and a half years.

The Federal Ministry for Economics and Technology supports a pharmacological network in which the THM is participating. Through the Central Innovation Programme for Small Sized Businesses the project partners – besides the THM Institute for Biopharmaceutical Technology they are Marburg sterna biologicals GmbH & Co KG, the TransMIT Center for Immune Modulation and a research team of the Dermatological Clinic of the Medical University Hannover – received a government grant totalling 530,000 euros. The goal is to develop a medication for the treatment of chronic inflammatory diseases of the skin.

In the application for sponsorship of research through the joint initiative of the Federal Ministry for Research and the Federation of Industrial Research the UAS could build on the successes of the previous year. The financial support from this programme, which supports the universities in research and development in cooperation with small and medium sized businesses, enabled the start of eight projects in Giessen and Friedberg with a total subsidy amount of about 1.5 million euros in 2010. Topics are "Photocatalytic reaction systems", "Produced Water treatment", "DNAzym agent", "Concentration of anaesthetic gas", "Concentration of radon", "Deammonification" and "Specification of SIL-3".

At the TH Mittelhessen teams from the Institute for Biopharmaceutical Technology, the Institute for Medical Physics and Radiation Protection and the Departments Electrical and Information Technology; Biomedical Engineering, Environmental and Biotechnology as well as Information Technology, Electrical Engineering and Mechatronics are involved in this project.

The German Research Foundation supports a project in the Department of Electrical and Information Technology with 210,000 euros. A team is dedicated to the development of analytical model equations for the description of novel transistors structures in seamlessly integrated circuits.

From the programme "Research for Practice" of the Hessian Ministry for Higher Education, Science and the Arts the UAS received two single and one combined project for about 100,000 euros. The subjects are: „Safety potentials in narrow country road curves" (Department of Civil Engineering), the "Enhancement of Dosimetrie for Stereotactic Radiosurgery" (IMPS) and the "Cell immobilization via Protein Cross linking by Transglutaminase" (IBPT), in cooperation with the Department of Chemistry and Biotechnology of the UAS Darmstadt.

Centre of excellence

Coordinated and supported by the Centre for Research and Transfer eight centres of excellence, in which members of the various departments have collaborated on interdisciplinary research, are working at the TH Mittelhessen. They are involved with the specialities:

- Biotechnology and Biomedical Physics
- Energy and Environmental Systems Technology
- Building Services Engineering Management
- Nanotechnology and Photonics
- Optical Technologies and Systems
- Biomedical Engineering
- Mobility – Traffic – Automotive
- Materials Science und Materials Testing.

With the establishment of these units the UAS has created an infrastructure for application-oriented research, achieved synergistic effects and has strengthened the academic environment especially in regard to the Master's degree. The associated research expertise can make the acquisition of larger projects easier. It also serves to increase engagement in advanced education, which the UAS operating its own Centre of Continuing Education, views as its function. Just as in the practice-oriented research, where we are cooperating with small and medium sized businesses to contribute to the economic development of Middle Hessen, we are working cooperatively and regionally in the field of the continuing education. An up-to-date example of the cooperation in the Middle Hessen area was a symposium for water pollution prevention in February 2011, with which the THM, together with the Regional Administrative Authority, created a forum that enabled 170 experts to exchange on questions about the modernisation of wastewater treatment plants.

An initiative of the Presiding Committee, aiming at the systematic conception and marketing of continuing education, led in 2007 to the establishment of the Hochschulzentrum für Weiterbildung (HZW), a Centre for Continuing Education. The continuing education has been deeply anchored in the guiding principles as a third pillar together with teaching as well as research and development.

The HZW has the following responsibilities:
– to support members of the UAS with the planning and organisation of continuing education events,
– to offer its own continuing education courses,
– to pursue learning-related research.

The centre has regional networks and cooperates with many partners that are drawing on the services of the TH Mittelhessen in the continuing academic education of their employees.

The cooperative Master's Programme MEDIAN (Approach and Methods in the Applied Sciences), which is attached to the HZW as an advanced education programme, started in the winter semester 2010/11. In addition, for the first time an academic education programme for members of the health care system (such as emergency medical assistants, midwives, physical therapists, and nurses) has been established. The centre also enables those interested to further qualify themselves as consultants for energy development projects.

With the Management Circle AG, an enterprise that provides managers in the German-speaking area with a wide range of advanced education, the HZW cooperates in the field of E-Learning. Here participants are using the centre's Moodle platform. There is also cooperation in the leadership development between with the Administrative District Giessen, and the County's Adult Education Centre.

The current budget for advanced education related research projects is about 800,000 euros. Sponsoring institutions are the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Economics of the State of Hessen. A joint research project with the universities in Middle Hessen in the area of continuing education is planned to begin in autumn 2011.

The validity of the five-year period agreed on between the State of Hessen and its universities ended in the year 2010. During negotiations for the follow-up contract for the years 2011-15, the State Government imposed an annual saving premium of a total 30 million euros on the universities. Although they did not succeed to preventing cuts, all the presidents finally signed the new agreement.

The reason for this was above all, the planning security for the timeframe 2011-15 gained by the contract. However, in an attached note of protest, eight universities, among them the TH Mittelhessen, set out their criticism in writing.

The cuts are affecting the universities differently. The THM is in a relatively favourable position because we

Budget of the Technische Hochschule Mittelhessen

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Budget	37,885,975	39,817,848	43,803,882	43,966,082	45,804,581
State Budget grants	36,632,200	38,322,400	41,794,200	42,917,822	43,761,923
other funds [1]	1,253,775	1,495,448	2,009,682	1,048,260	2,042,658
budgeted payroll costs [2]	28,227,365	29,069,910	31,361,162	32,530,882	32,927,592
budgeted material costs	9,658,610	10,747,938	12,442,720	11,435,200	12,876,989
funds for the improvement of the quality of conditions of studying and teaching [3]	0	2,897,241	6,506,737	6,082,478	6,140,377

[1] i.e. administrative fees and revenues, reserves etc.; [2] starting 2008 incl. payments to the pension fund of the state of Hessen
[3] budget amount for winter semester 07/08: 2008: budget amount for winter semester 08/09

Staff of the Technischen Hochschule Mittelhessen

	Employees in the Departments				Administration	Total
Refe-rence Date	Professors	Research assistants	Administrativ-technical employees	Total Employees in Departments		
01.10.04	223	132	54	409	193	602
01.10.05	220	137	52	409	186	595
01.10.06	214	142	62	418	191	609
01.10.07	210	142	67	419	184	603
01.10.08	205	179	68	452	234	686
02.10.09	196	205	77	478	256	734
03.10.10	203	233	82	518	265	783

Indicated is the number of persons, not the position in full time equivalents!

Development of the main usable area of the Technische Hochschule Mittelhessen

Campus/Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Giessen	28,840	28,840	31,853	32,982	33,702	34,679	35,121
Friedberg	11,839	11,839	15,364	15,615	15,615	15,406	18,406
THM total	**40,679**	**40,679**	**47,217**	**48,597**	**49,317**	**50,085**	**53,527**

were finally able to convince the Hessian Ministry for Higher Education, Research and the Arts to draw the "performance number" which is based on the number of students studying within the standard course length, from more recent data. In real terms our UAS has a lot of catching up to do with regard to budgeting for the development in student numbers. The more current basis of assessment has led to an increase in the basic budget so that in 2011 the TH Mittelhessen budget estimated at a total value of about 52 million euros (including the funds to improve the quality of studying conditions and teaching) a slight surplus instead of a deficit. However, without the imposed "saving premium" the increase would have been about 1 million euros higher.

In October 2010 the UAS had a total of 783 employees, 203 of them professors.

Structural expansion ranks very highly on the presiding committee's priority list. This applies to the future design of the campus within the scope of a large-scale urban development concept as well as to the creation of additional rooms needed for teaching and research, advanced education, and administrative purposes.

The new building in Friedberg, which was inaugurated in 2009, brought considerable progress in the provision of rooms. The State of Hessen has invested 18.4 million euros into the new building which hosts the Multimedia Engineering, Business Administration and Engineering, Facility Management programmes as well as the Centre for Distance Learning at the Friedberg campus. "With the additional building we have created a noticeable improvement to the infrastructure and thus conditions for studying," said the Hessian Minister of Higher Education, Research and the Arts during the official handover of the keys. "With the demand-oriented courses offered and the cutting-edge applied research, the University of Applied Science is exemplary. The impressively increasing number of students in the past years is proof of that."

The purchase of an 8,300 square meter plot of the former Housing Area opened new perspectives for the construction of laboratory buildings in Friedberg. The purchase for 2 million euros was contractually completed in December 2010.

The THM "Application Centre for Bioengineering", which had its "topping out" ceremony in August 2010,

will improve the general conditions. The building, costing 8.46 million euros, has a main usable area of 1,333 square metres and should be ready for occupancy in the summer semester 2011. The Hessian "University Development, Expansion and Renovation Program" HEUREKA, the European regional development fund (ERDF) and original subsidies of the Hessian Ministry for Economics, Transport, Urban and Regional Development have contributed to the funding.

With the lease of the "Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians" building in Giessen (Eichgärtenallee 6) the TH Mittelhessen has gained additional space for more seminar rooms as well as for the Centre of Quality Development and the Centre for Continuing Education.

Since April 2010 the UAS has the buildings in Moltkestrasse 11 and 11A (former YMCA) at its disposal. The refurbishment completed in the meantime, has allowed the interim use of parts of the space. The building will be included in the plans for future structural development.

After the acquisition of the Administrative District Authority building by the State of Hessen in 2010, the redevelopment of the future Headquarters of the TH Administration in Ostanlage, funded through the stimulus package II, began. A new connecting section has been largely completed. The conversion and energy-saving redevelopment of the existing buildings is progressing. The completion is scheduled for summer 2011.

Also funded by the stimulus package II, the development of Building M in the Südanlage (Department of Civil Engineering) could be carried out. Supported with EU funds the remodelling of Building H into a "family house", where among other things the toddler group that is run by a cooperative club is being placed, was completed in the winter semester 2010/11.

The European-wide urban structural contest for the development of the campus Technische Hochschule in

Giessen was concluded in October 2010 with an award ceremony for the winner. The jury, which included Giessen's lord mayor Dietlind Grabe-Bolz and TH president Prof. Günther Grabatin, awarded the first place of 25,000 euros to the Frankfurt based office schneider + schumacher. Besides a convincing concept for the main campus in Wiesenstrasse, which offers a high amenity value and identification with the surrounding city as well as fulfilling the UAS room requirements, the winning draft offers an approach for more prominence of the THM with its different campus areas and for their integration into the urban environment.

"Federal Minister for Education and Research Annette Schavan is in favour of giving universities of applied sciences the right to award doctorates. For outstanding UAS institutions this right is conceivable, said the politician of the Christian Democratic Union during a visit at the University of Applied Sciences Giessen-Friedberg."
(Giessener Allgemeine, 19 August 2009)

The step from a university of applied sciences to a technical university manifests itself not only in increased achievement potential in teaching, research and continuing learning but also in the claim to further structural development. The term "University of a new type", as coined by the Science Council, points the way ahead. In addition to the teaching positions, which universities of applied sciences were limited to in the past; research becomes an obligatory field of activity. Further elements of the profile are a strong relevance to practice, scientific method, an active exchange between university and economy, a strong integration into the region through networking in innovative study models and research projects and the functional orientation to the European university system.

With its high development dynamics the UAS Giessen-Friedberg has fulfilled the performance requirements connected with this type of university in the recent past and with the choice of the name "TH Mittelhessen" it has expressed its qualitative and quantitative growth.

In the developmental planning we see it as an important goal and an expansive area to be able to increasingly perceive our role as a technological impetus for the entire region. It will be essential to further develop our achievements in user-related research. This requires improvement to the architectural infrastructure and additional human resources. The construction of a building to create additional space for research and development laboratories on the site in Gutfleischstrasse in Giessen is in the planning phase. The purchase of land in the Friedberg "Housing Area" serves the same purpose.

If we want to create the basic prerequisites to be able to position ourselves more successfully in the competition for funding of large-scale research projects, a clear increase in the academic, non-professorial

teaching staff is needed. This can only be realised through high increases in the budget, so we are dependent upon political support.

The THM – only provider of academic qualifications in the field of engineering science in Middle Hessen – is pursuing the goal of opening up access to doctoral studies for qualified graduates. The cooperation contract with the universities in Giessen and Marburg, which we have renewed in February 2011, can offer a perspective in this regard. In practise, a regular uncomplicated, feasible way of attaining an advanced scientific education with a doctoral degree is not only a significant step in the progression of our UAS. It would also have far-reaching consequences for the economic areas of Giessen, Lahn-Dill, Wetterau, and Vogelsberg that should not be underestimated.

The region is still suffering from the emigration of ambitious young employees in the technical engineering and scientific specialisations. If the Technische Hochschule Mittelhessen supports a broad range of academic qualifications that, in addition to the Bachelor and Master degrees, include the doctoral degree, this will not only have a binding effect on the best in-house graduates but also increase the appeal to those interested in coming from other regions. Since the regional economy will also benefit from this, the challenge now is to win over the responsible policymakers as well as local universities as potential partners in finding cooperative solutions.

According to nationwide prognoses, the capacity overload at universities will increase considerably starting 2011. Reasons are the suspension of the compulsory military service and – in Hessen it is expected to start in 2013 – the double A-level classes that are a result of the implementation of the final examination after twelve instead of thirteen years. For a long period of time, Germany has suffered from a low proportion of students of the appropriate age and with this quota has done poorly in international comparison.

Many current analyses are criticising that the lack of academic young professionals is endangering the economic development of Germany. In view of this, it is socio-politically and economically indefensible, that universities are forced to apply restricted admissions, reluctantly keeping students from commencing their studies. In fact these demands, which, among others, have been made by the University Rector's Conference, have led to the announcements by policymakers that additional places will be financed. It is debatable whether the planned capacity will be sufficient to deal with the actual extent of the influx.

With about 12,500 students – almost 9,000 of those within the standard course length – the Technische Hochschule Mittelhessen has nearly reached the announced target numbers for 2015. The presiding committee generally advocates keeping the universities as open as possible to be able to meet the future needs for qualified graduates in the region as well as nationwide. Since the THM has approved the "Principles of Good Teaching" as well as binding criteria for the quality of teaching and studying, our standpoint regarding the

State of Hessen can only be to petition for an increase in our budget so that "good teaching" can be financed for a higher number of students. Should the Technische Hochschule Mittelhessen not receive the budgetary funds, the continuation of admission limitations to contain the number of students will be the last resort (*ultima ratio*).

In the target agreements for 2011-2015, which our UAS is currently negotiating with the Hessian Ministry for Higher Education, Research and the Arts the following positions have a high rating:

- research in a view to building and expanding profile-building key aspects as well as the regional and nationwide networking,
- the future streamlining of available courses in the scope of proceeding with the Bologna Reforms,
- quality management in teaching, research and administration,
- expansion of the dual studies,
- increasing the advancement of the young graduates with an institutional access to doctoral degrees,
- enforced internationalisation,
- expansion of continuing education courses,
- women and family advancement,
- as well as the structural development of the university within the scope of a master plan.

IMPRINT

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THM
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UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES


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